

The Marmot



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MILE HIGH NEWS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON



Ride, Slide, Glide or Stride!

NEWS, ACCOMMODATIONS GUIDE, MAPS, REAL ESTATE LISTINGS & MORE

Tubing at Mount Washington Alpine Resort has a new place and a new face this winter.

The Tube Park has been moved closer to the Alpine Lodge, and it has expanded” Resort President Peter Gibson said.

The new location gives tubers easier access to the Park, two additional lanes and a new Magic Carpet to get back up the hill instead of a handle tow.

One of the main reasons to move and expand the tube park was its popularity, Gibson said. “At peak times the lineups have been very long. This project will give value to those wanting to go tubing.”

The old lift handled 250 tubes per hour. The new Magic Carpet will take 2,000, he said. There will be five lanes for tubers so there shouldn't be a bottleneck at the top.

The new run uses more of a natural stop at the bottom, so the Resort hopes to do away with the hay.

Earthwork on the new tubing lanes was completed in late October. The lights and speakers had already been installed by then, and the Magic Carpet was in the

final stages of assembly before Halloween.

The Resort didn't have to wait too long for the first snowfall to test out the new lanes, as snow was flying in earnest well before Remembrance Day.

“Everything went well,” Gibson said of construction. “One of the other positive results is the old tube park is now a beginner run,” he added.

Both the old and new tube park areas have both been re-seeded as part of the Resort's environmental plan as well.

The tube park move, just one phase of

the Green Zone plan the Resort implemented three years ago, cost approximately \$750,000.

“The most common question we got at the ticket kiosk was ‘where is the tube park’,” Gibson said. “Now it's in a more convenient location.”

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Photo courtesy of Mount Washington Alpine Resort and Rick Gibson

Cathy Saflin

IN PROFILE

Finding a short definition of her job title as Accommodation Manager at Slopeside Accommodations at Bear and Deer Lodge draws Cathy Saflin up short.

For the veteran of the hotel industry, it's different working with property owned by individuals at both lodges, located near the Alpine lodge at Mount Washington Alpine Resort. The lodges are not quite in a classic rental pool, not quite a traditional hotel, and in an alpine atmosphere featuring unique weather patterns in the winter.

Suites at Deer and Bear Lodge are rented privately, sometimes in a combination of use by the owners, or else not rented out at all.

"I try to accommodate each individual owner's requirements," says Saflin, who is working her sixth winter at Mount Washington. "That's a big part of it, and acting in their best interests."

The lodges operate similar to a hotel in that there are check-ins, checkouts and reservations made through the Resort's central booking call centre.

Saflin works with the individual owners in each building, puts together packages to ensure guests receive the best value for their holidays, and finds ways to attract new visitors.

She has been involved in the community with a former seat on Tourism Mount Washington, works closely with the Resort's human resources committee and sits on an informal strategic planning



From the Hotel Grande Pacific to Deer Lodge, Cathy Saflin is very accommodating.

community too.

"When I took on (Slopeside Accommodations) it was so different than hotels because I have all of these owners I have to be accountable to; at the same time the guests' experience and how to make it work for everybody," she recalls.

"It was pretty overwhelming at first to get my head around the difference from corporate hotels in Victoria."

Saflin grew up in Comox and graduated from Highland Secondary School. After graduating she ended up in Banff, Alberta working her way up in the housekeeping department of a hotel in Banff National Park.

When she returned to Vancouver Island she settled in Victoria and worked in half a dozen resorts "doing everything from front desk to reservations, account-

ing, sales. Basically everything except kitchen or maintenance," she says.

She worked at the Hotel Grand Pacific, Laurel Pointe Inn, Chateau Victoria and Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites, where she was in charge of booking conferences for organizations around the Pacific Northwest.

Saflin and her husband returned to the Comox Valley when she was pregnant with twins. She thought she would be a stay-at-home mother, but before the twins were two, she spotted an ad for the job at Mount Washington. She is able to work flexible hours, working on location Thursday through Sunday and telecommuting whenever she is not on site.

Saflin has always loved Mount Washington Alpine Resort, and she still skis when she can. Her office at Deer

Lodge looks out at the Coaster run,

"I've had a connection to Mount Washington, and I have a passion for it," she says, gazing out her office window and up at the snow-covered Coaster run. "I believe in the potential of the mountain."

When Saflin is not working at Deer and Bear Lodges, she is a full-on mom who sneaks in quiet time when she can. "I am supportive of all my kids' activities," she says. "Something that I realize I need is solitude. I do enjoy reading (but) I also like being active."

She runs and works out in the gym, two places she can reflect and take some adult time. She plays slo-pitch in the summer and loves to camp. "It's actually 'glamping' because we have a 31-foot trailer," she adds, laughing.

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RECENT REAL ESTATE SALES* ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

*Source: Vancouver Island Real Estate Board



Other Realtors



Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell	Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell
Cruikshank Ridge	850		\$84,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	312	3	\$249,000	🏠	🏠
Paradise Ridge	503	3	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	216	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	102	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	202	2	\$159,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	301	2	\$149,000	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	205	2	\$224,900	🏠	🏠
Paradise Ridge	308	3	\$184,900	🏠	🏠	Clinton Wood	915	4	\$284,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	214		\$192,500	🏠	🏠	1236 Fosters Place		6	\$585,000	🏠	🏠
Deer Lodge	207	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	Creekside	101	3	\$199,900	🏠	🏠
Blueberry Hill	303	2	\$189,900	🏠	🏠	Ptarmigan Ridge	302	1	\$134,900	🏠	🏠
Ptarmigan Ridge	304	1	\$114,000	🏠	🏠	Deer Lodge	212	3	\$249,900	🏠	🏠
695 Castle Craig	203	2	\$127,900	🏠	🏠	Snowbird	7	3	\$164,900	🏠	🏠
Blueberry Hill	108	3	\$159,900	🏠	🏠	Ptarmigan Ridge	305	1	\$127,500	🏠	🏠
Creekside	201	3	\$224,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	201	3	\$224,995	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	208	1	\$149,900	🏠	🏠	969 Beaufort Heights			\$99,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	310	2	\$219,900	🏠	🏠	959 Beaufort Heights			\$99,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	210	2	\$214,900	🏠	🏠	691 Castle Craig	12	2	\$139,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	105	2	\$219,900	🏠	🏠	Paradise Ridge	302	3	\$149,900	🏠	🏠
Bear Lodge	201	2	\$189,900	🏠	🏠	Blueberry Hill	103	2	\$176,500	🏠	🏠
Deer Lodge	201	2	\$144,900	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	413	2	\$249,900	🏠	🏠
Ptarmigan Ridge	204	1	\$122,900	🏠	🏠	Creekside	303	2	\$179,900	🏠	🏠
931 Clinton Wood	B	3	\$439,900	🏠	🏠	Bear Lodge	301	2	\$149,900	🏠	🏠

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From Wax to Fax to Macs

Neil Havers carves out a successful graphic arts career.

The Marmot Newspaper began in the early 1990s, when Comox Valley Realtor Rick Gibson wanted to get the word out about recreational real estate opportunities at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

And while Gibson has kept the news of Mount Washington in the forefront of prospective buyers and residents alike, graphic designer Neil Havers has been in the background making sure The Marmot made it to print.

With this issue of the Marmot Newspaper, Havers has also taken on the sales job. Bayne Mann and Deb Nolan, who took over for Wendy Woodley when she retired, are now busy with a humanitarian endeavor, the Mexican Schools Project. (*Through the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club, Mann and Nolan volunteered to drive as part of a convoy taking supplies to a shrine in Cabo Corrientes, Mexico.*)

Havers started his graphic design career after attending college, freelancing and working for design firms in Edmonton for three years, then three more in Victoria.

He moved to the Comox Valley in 1983 "for skiing and the ocean" and opened Havers Design. He has worked for himself ever since, with a diverse list of clients from the resource to tourism industries.

"My first project was a poster for the original Renaissance Faire," says Havers. His first substantial clients included

Strathcona Park Lodge and Mount Washington - business relationships that lasted well over 15 years.

Havers began designing and taking care of The Marmot's printing in 1993, when the publication was a four-page, full-colour brochure. "Like The Marmot now, it was a mixture of news and real estate listings. The first few issues took three to four hours to assemble compared to 30 or 40 hours now," says Neil.

The Winter/Spring 2013/14 edition of The Marmot marks the first time Havers has sold advertising on behalf of a client.

"I've always focused on design, so for me this is a first. I've never taken on a sales contract in all the years I've been in business," he says.

"One of the main reasons I decided to take this on is because it fits within my focus on offering comprehensive services to a select group of clients."

He has kept some of his longtime clients, and has amassed a list of diverse clients, such as The Marmot, T-Mar Industries (logging equipment manufacturer), Shelter Point Distillery, Get West Adventures, MusicFest, Vancouver Island MRI and Surgical Centre, to name a few.

"Ideally, I'd like six to twelve clients I do the majority of my work for, in addition to the relationships I've fostered over 30 years of business in the Comox Valley."

Over the years Havers Design has evolved from a print-based to web-based business, and Neil has witnessed the incredible leap in technology.

"In the early days (1984) when designing an ad or brochure I would have to mail a letter to typesetters in Nanaimo



Photo: Susie Quinn

since fax machines weren't available yet. The letter would include my ad or brochure copy and typesetting instructions - font, size, leading, style, etc. The typesetter would bus back a typeset galley. Inevitably, I would find typos and phone them to reset and resend on the bus," Havers said. "A day later I would pick up my galleys at the bus depot in Courtenay. That would be the amount of work required for one ad or brochure."

Back then all artwork was assembled on art boards, heated waxers were used to adhere typesetting and images to the artboards."

With the advent of Macintosh computers,

he converted to the digital age, and has never looked back.

"The advent of web-based marketing has revolutionized advertising once again. It is constantly changing and a fun challenge to keep up with. Having said that, marketing fundamentals have not changed. You still need to brand your product or service and deliver a cohesive, memorable message and image to break through the clutter of advertising that surrounds us all.

"Print is absolutely miniscule compared to 10 years ago," he says. "But you still can't beat reading something in print... particularly the Marmot Newspaper!"



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2013... The Summer of Sunshine

Summer was a good season for Mount Washington Alpine Resort as more people enjoyed a mile high experience. Chairlift rides were up slightly over the previous year, which wasn't a surprise.

"Weather wise was really good," said Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations and Marketing. "There were only three days in July and August that we lost because of rain."

Annual events liked Tapped and the Alpine Wine Festival were well received. The Bearclaw Invitational slopestyle cycling event drew about 2,000 spectators and the BC Cup event had 140

entries, "which was pretty darned good," Sharpe said.

For the first time ever the Resort hosted a Mudd, Sweat and Tears event and that was well received.

Weddings were as popular as ever, the Resort hosts at least 15 weddings every year.

"On the September long weekend we hosted three; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, back to back. Tim Defert and his food and beverage crew are adept at catering large events and turn-around from day to day went smoothly," Sharp said.

"Weddings are great for us. People eat up here, stay up here and recreate up here. We've already sold most Saturdays at Raven Lodge for next summer," he added.

"Although Saturdays are always booked first, we can do weddings any day of the week," Sharpe said, "and the Whiskey Jack Room is available if Raven Lodge is booked," he added.

"It's a beautiful venue," he says of the Whiskey Jack Room. "It's been completely remodeled."

Summer also saw construction begin on the new tube park, which has been expanded and relocated closer to the Alpine Lodge.

Earthwork was delayed until the end of July because the snow melt meant the ground was too wet, Resort President Peter Gibson said. However, construction was on track after that and both the new area and the old Ozone Park - now reclaimed as a beginner run as part of Easy Acres - were re-seeded before the snow started flying again.

The trails in Paradise Meadows are enjoyed by many of the visitors to Mount Washington in the summer.



Reinventing Sliding... Again!

The big news this winter at Mount Washington Alpine Resort is the opening of the expanded tube park. (see cover story)

But a successful Rookie Year and the addition of backcountry guides are close seconds, says Snow School Director Mike Manara.

Besides offering better access, more tubing lanes and faster transportation via a new Magic Carpet people mover, the tube park gives the Resort some programming flexibility, Manara says.

Tube to Tube Program

A new program called Tube to Tube allows people to use the Magic Carpet "tube" for tubing or to learn to ski or snowboard.

Tubers will be given a coupon that will give them a discount on the Discover Skiing introduction package.

Slide & Glide Option

The Slide and Glide "is designed to give kids the best of both worlds," Manara says. This full-day program offers a ski or snowboard lesson in the morning, lunch and tubing in the afternoon.

Another new program is the upgrade; for \$10 alpine skiers can upgrade their ticket and have unlimited tubing until the park closes at 9 p.m. Alpine skiers can also upgrade to night skiing for \$10.

"It's a great way to stick around the hill if you're having a good day," Manara said.

Also new this year is the one-ride ticket



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Resort

for the tube park, at \$8 for a single tube ride. The best deal though is the two-hour family pass: \$56 for two adults and two children.

"The tube park is adding a new dimension to the things the snow school can offer," Resort Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said. "It's extremely convenient."

Successful Rookie Year Program heads into Sophomore Season

What do you do when your inaugural Rookie Year program is nominated for Best New Beginner Skier Program in North America, and attracts nearly 150 kids? You follow it up with a Graduate Program, says Manara.

The National Ski Areas Association nominated Mount Washington's Rookie Year program for a prestigious.

Continued on page 21

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Rick Morson

Part of the team behind the VIMSS dream

Rick Morson's epiphany came while accompanying his children, then 12 and 14 years old, to a race in Pemberton, B.C.

Morson, Vice-President of CIBC Wood Gundy in Courtenay during the week and competitive skier on the weekend, stayed with the Strathcona Nordics' Cross-Country Ski Team in an outdoor centre at the interior ski resort. The experience got Morson thinking: such a centre would be perfect for Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Two winters ago, Morson saw his dream realized as the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport and Education Centre opened its doors to the alpine community.

Skiing has been an integral part of Morson's life since he was growing up north of Toronto, when he began competitive skiing at age 14. He was a member of the southern Ontario ski team while in high school (he graduated in 1976).

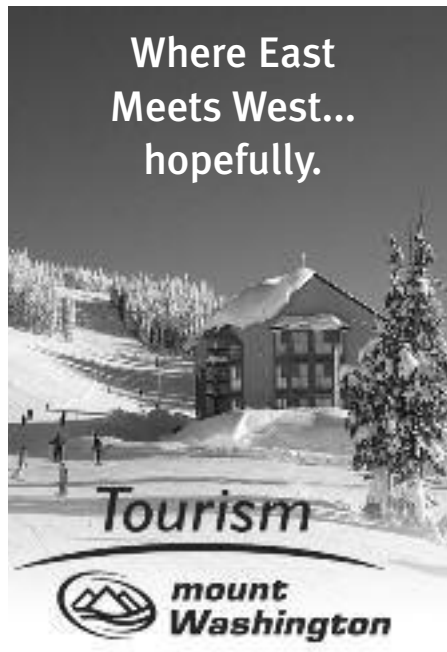
Over the past 10 years he and CIBC Wood Gundy have supported the Learn to Ski program at Mount Washington, putting 800 Grade 4 - 5 Comox Valley students per year through the cross-country ski program.

If a simple reason is needed to explain why Morson has been so dedicated to the Mountain Sports Centre, it can be found in one word: payback.

As a young racer he learned dedication, persistence and insight - three traits that have served him well over the years, he says.

"I always felt I wanted to contribute something back to the sport." He had two opportunities: for six years he served on the executive of the National Cross-country Ski Association, at a time when Becky Scott earned a gold medal at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics in 2002.

Continued on page 23



Where East Meets West... hopefully.

Photo: Rick Gibson

Mount Washington Alpine Resort's reputation as a destination ski resort continues to solidify, thanks to the efforts of Tourism Mount Washington.

As membership remains on par with 2012-13, destination marketing activities continue, Manager Sarah Nicholson said.

Nicholson attended a ski show in Edmonton and was joined at the Toronto Snow Show by Tourism Mount Washington chair Tobin Leopkey, who said the Ontario show generated a lot of interest for the Vancouver Island ski resort.

"I came to the realization while we were there that the Ontario market could be a really good one for us to fill beds midweek," said Leopkey.

"They love to ski out east, but all their hills are tiny and consist in large part of artificially made snow. We have great terrain at Mount Washington, tonnes of all natural snow and with direct flights to

Comox we are really easy to get to.

"Everyone seems to write off the Island because it's perceived as being isolated, but in reality it's probably easier to get to than Whistler or most other resorts in BC"

Leopkey was re-elected as Chair of Tourism Mount Washington for a second term. He is committed to helping the community grow "and become a more exciting place to ski and raise my family," he said.

In addition to the snow shows, Tourism Mount Washington has partnered with Mount Washington Alpine Resort again on initiatives such as the Global TV snow report and a contest offering a seven-day package that offered the winners a taste of Vancouver Island, with trips to the West Coast and Comox Valley in addition to Mount Washington.

The association is again focusing on the gateways to Mount Washington through advertising on BC Ferries and in airline in-flight magazines such as SOAR (Pacific Coastal), Up! (WestJet) and Northern Routes (Central Mountain Air), Nicholson said.

While Tourism Mount Washington continues to market the Resort to the rest of BC and Canada, the organization is also moving forward on the home front.

One of the ways TMW is hoping to engage members of the resort association is with the formation of three working committees, Nicholson said.

Members will have the opportunity to sit on the marketing, web, and community events and resort enhancement committees.

Having them engaged in the committees will also give Tourism Mount Washington some important feedback as to what the resort community is looking for, she added.

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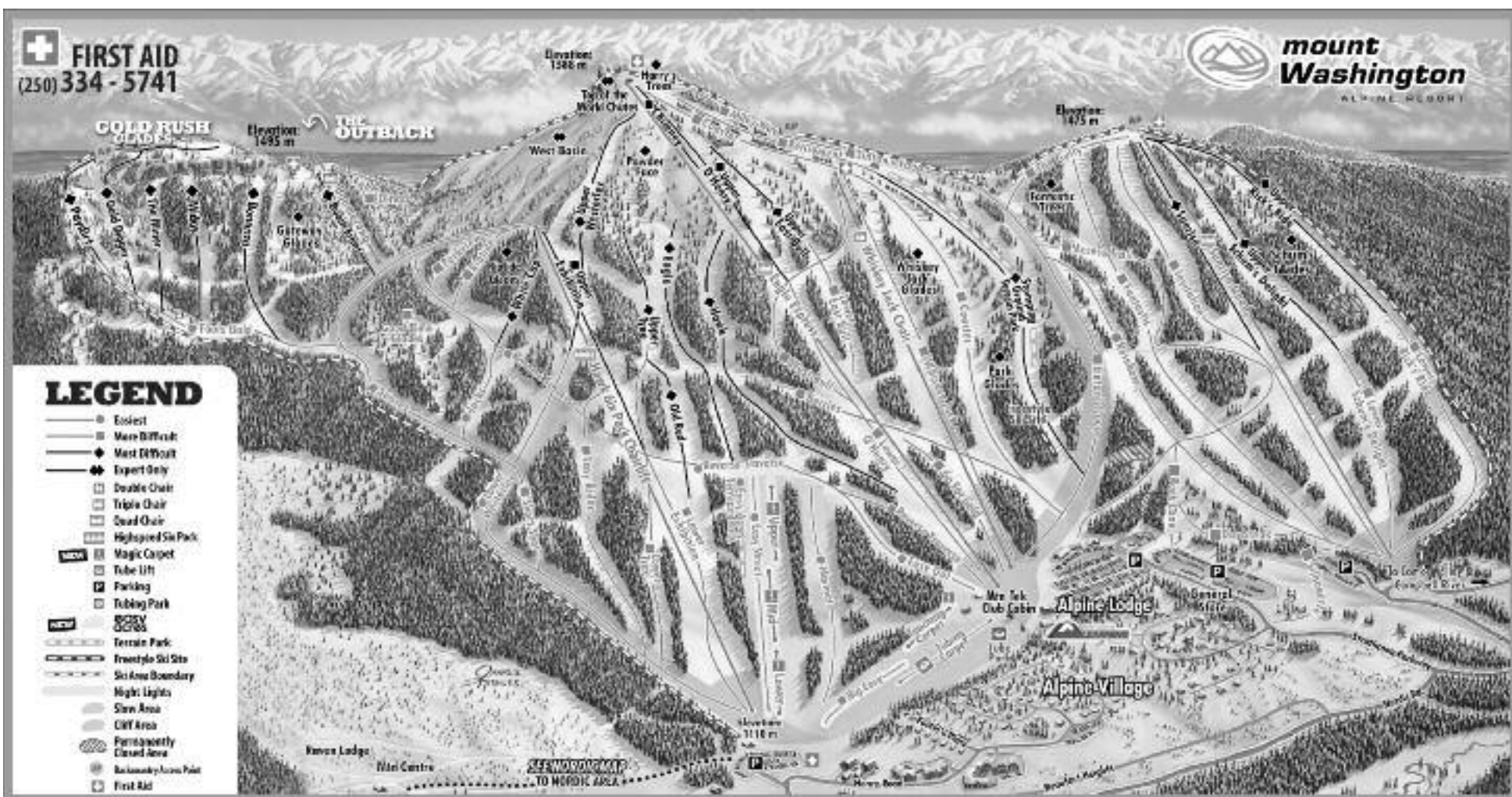
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Miracle Day Fund supports Learn to Ski Program.

With contributions exceeding \$40,000 over 10 years, more than 1,000 Comox Valley students in Grades 4 - 6 have been offered ski lessons thanks to Rick Morson and the CIBC Wood Gundy Miracle Day Fund.

In cooperation with Mount Washington's Nordic ski program, these students were given the opportunity to leave their classrooms and get outdoors, strap on a pair of skis and experience some of what the Resort has to offer.

Morson said he has talked to teachers who also look forward to bringing their students to the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre for outdoor educational opportunities in an alpine setting.

With Raven Lodge, the Mountain Centre, Strathcona Wilderness Institute's Visitors' Centre and the trailhead into Strathcona Provincial Park all situated in one area, a new focal point is well established at the Resort.

"It's exceeded what I thought it would be," says Morson (shown right).



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- West Passage - 1hr
- ◆ Grind - 2.5hr
- ◆ Lake Trail - 0.5hr
- ◆ Legacy View - 2.5hr
- ◆ Lower West - 1hr
- ◆ Raven's Revenge - 1hr
- ◆ Sprint Loop - 2hr
- ◆ Upper West - 3hr
- ◆ World Cup - 1hr

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Mountain Centre Opens it's doors to a surprising array of users.

The Vancouver Island Mountain Centre continues to attract groups for both winter and summer.

"But full and part-time residents at Mount Washington can also make use of the Centre's many services," says Manager Andrew Scherck.

"There are a ton of great options for mountain residents again this year," he said. The gym is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There are monthly passes available for regular visitors as well as 10-visit punch cards that are affordable, can be shared and don't expire.

"They end up being a great value at \$3.50 to \$4.50 per drop-in," he said.

Gold Pass holders at the Resort can find a three-free visit pass in the coupon section. Tourism Mount Washington members can also receive free punch cards with their TMW cards.

"This allows (residents) to try out the gym for free before deciding if they want to buy a 10-punch card or monthly pass."

VIMC offers free fitness centre access to Mount Washington Alpine Resort staff and volunteers throughout the month of December as a thank you.

"Jenn, our masseuse, is back for another season and will be providing pre-booked massages from December through March,



User at the Mountain Centre include quilters, yoga enthusiasts and arts practitioners.

with the possibility of extending her offerings through April," Scherck said.

She is also the resident yoga instructor and will offer drop-in and private classes.

A number of coaching and athlete development clinics are lined up for the winter months. *Continued on page 9*

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Mount Washington Alpine Resort is on the market - if the right deal comes along.

After 25 years, the ownership group is ready to hand over the reins to someone ready to move forward with the Resort.

I think it is really great news and a natural transition to take the Resort to the next level. The current owners would like to sell, as they wish to retire. So - it is time to find a new investor that will take us to the next level.

The existing ownership group needs to be applauded as they have invested more than \$60 million in capital investments to the Resort.

They have overseen the renovation of the Alpine Lodge; construction of the Bradley Centre and Raven Lodge; the installation of all new chairlifts starting with the Sunrise Quad and including replacement of the Green, Red, Whiskey Jack and Blue chairlifts and expansion to

the Outback.

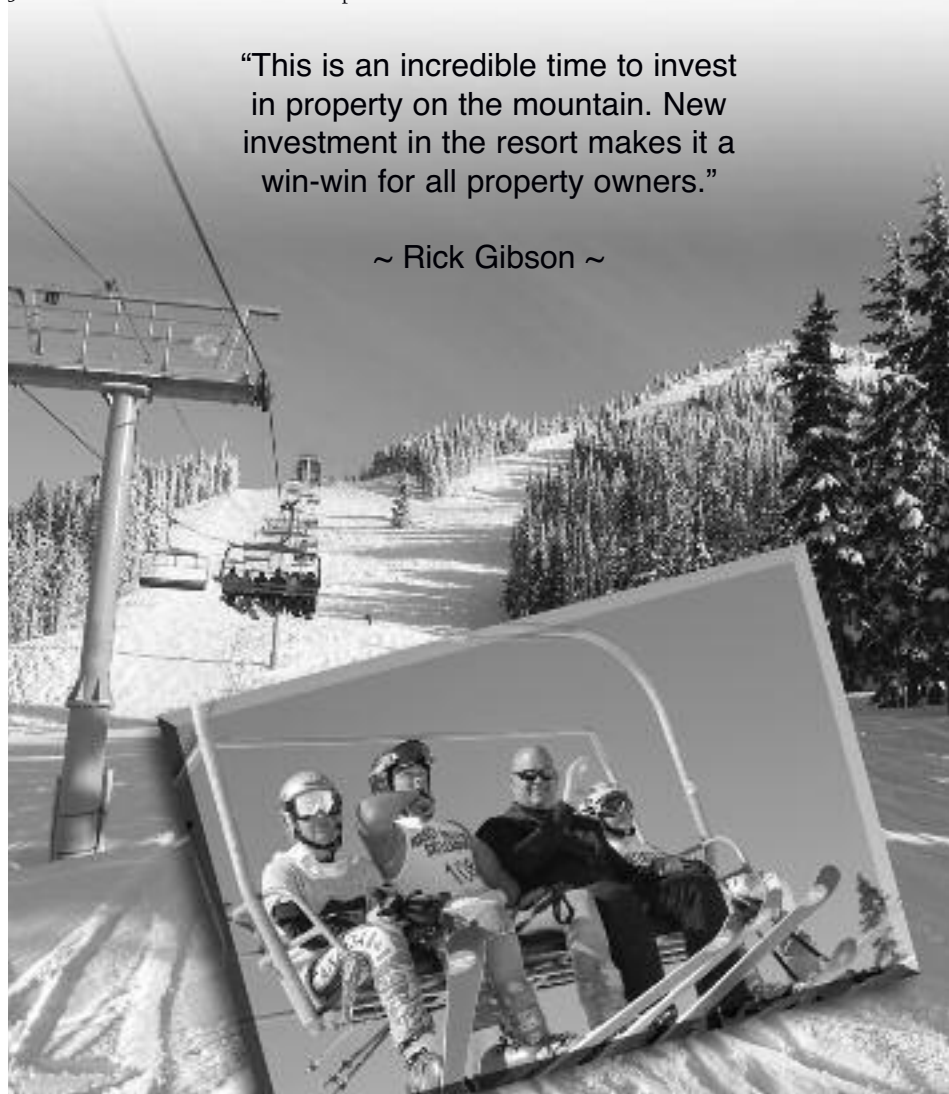
A state-of-the-art sewage treatment centre was also built several years ago to handle a growing resort, and myriad other improvements and additions have been undertaken in the past 24 years.

A potential future sale of the Resort is nothing but good news for all of the stakeholders at the resort as is will let the dream of the property owners, skiers and investors of the mountain continue to the next level.

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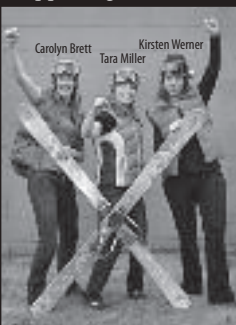


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MOUNTAIN CENTRE
Continued from Page 7

“Diverse groups are booked for every weekend in winter - 36 groups this year and three already booked for next winter. Business also continued to improve over summer,” Scherck said.

“We saw some growth in our summer business, however we are always shooting to improve,” he said.

The one huge surprise this year was the popularity of their shoulder season, October and November. October ended up being our busiest month with five groups staying at the centre for a combined 21 days.

“Quilters were the big winners in the off-season,” Scherck added. “There were four guilds visiting for an average of five days per group. They have all re-booked

for multiple dates in 2014.”

“It’s the type of facility that lends itself to people that are creative,” Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society Chairman Rick Morson said. “It’s cost effective. It’s for people from all age groups.”

He praised Scherck for the work he has done to promote the Centre with groups outside the snow season. “That’s one of the goals of the Society is to have (the Centre) used all the time.”

Morson also discovered quite by accident that the Centre is ideal for musical groups too. He brought his mother for a tour of the building and a choral group was staying there. “They were singing at the time and I didn’t realize the acoustics were that good!”

Spring Skiing with Podium of Life

Last Spring, the Podium of Life Snow Sports Academy did something different: instructors Shane and Corey Harle took their students to Whistler Mountain for the Spring.

Students attended classes and skied from April 15 to May 27, making 2012-13 the longest year for the Academy since its inception. It was a gamble that paid off royally, Shane Harle said.

“The coolest thing about the Whistler experience was the lack of lineups and the cheap time to ski, and the festive spring. It was good weather and people were happy.”

Harle worked it out that because students skied so much, it cost them approximately \$5 per day. But the time was invaluable, he said. “We were able to ski with Provincial Teams and watch them.”

There were international teams from Russia and Australia practicing during the same time period. “It was great exposure for everyone,” Harle said.

Podium of Life combines students’ passion for skiing and snowboarding with academic excellence. Students spend the morning in class and the afternoon skiing, snowboarding or taking sessions with guest speakers on topics ranging from avalanche safety and snowshoeing to biathlon or science experiments in the snow.

“Spending a few weeks in Whistler worked out so well that Podium of Life



Podium of Life student, Erin Sketchley, getting an education while travelling.



will move back there in the spring of 2014, once the ski season has closed at Mount Washington Alpine Resort,” Harle said.

Podium of Life returns this year to the former Nordic ski lodge (pre-dating Raven Lodge), which worked out well last year.

The academy kicked off the beginning of the 2013-14 season with approximately 17 students - 12 full time and five part time (varying from two or three weeks to two months in duration). “Last year we had an international student from Chile who come for two weeks and we’re looking forward to that again,” Harle said.

The academy has drawn interest from people in China, Germany and Australia, so more international students may be in the offing. “If it happens it’s just a bonus,” Harle said.

Continued on page 21



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Powder Magazine Spotlight - Mount Washington Alpine Resort earned some attention from Powder Magazine in the pre-season, during the Ski Town Throwdown, a contest pitting ski resorts from across North America against each other.

"It was an interesting process for us," said Brent Curtain, Resort Director of Public Relations. "This was a huge social media push for us."

Mount Washington won their first round against Kicking Horse Resort, located near Golden, B.C. But it was their second round, against Eaglecrest in Alaska that drew a lot of attention.

"For both of our resorts to get nearly 4,000 votes was unreal," Curtain said. Most resorts in other throwdowns were getting 600 votes at the most.

Despite a last-minute surge, Mount Washington lost by about 130 votes to Eaglecrest.

Curtain said Mount Washington received a lot of social media attention via Facebook and Twitter, as well as exposure with Powder Magazine.

"We did get some phenomenal exposure making it to the second round, especially with our local people. It got them talking about the upcoming snow season."

...

Tom Leopkey of Section 8 Snowsports Institute travelled to the Hintertux Glacier Resort in the Austrian Tyrol in October for a mini reunion of Section 8 graduates (shown above).

"There is skiing and snowboarding here 365 days a year on the glacier so a

few years back we decided to run a pre-season performance camp here as a sort of reunion for Section 8's European graduates," Leopkey wrote in an e-mail to the Marmot.

The event has changed since its inception and is now open to anyone wanting to improve their skiing or riding before the winter season truly begins.

Leopkey stayed for 18 days and was to film the first installment of a new instructional video series the institute is developing. Further videos will be filmed at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, Leopkey said.

...

Shane Harle of Life Ski Academy, meanwhile, was in Calgary in October attending a freestyle coaching clinic and meeting up with a student on board with the academy for winter 2013-14.

...

The **Vancouver Island Mountain Centre** received a grant from ViaSport last summer to develop a new orienteering course in the sub-alpine.

Two new courses were created and used in the summer, and VIMC Manager Andrew Scherck said they have supplies and plans in place to work with Raven Lodge and their team to develop an add-on course for orienteering on snowshoes in winter.

"The biggest challenge with the summer orienteering course was the mapping involved," Scherck said. "We created custom maps based off of the winter maps used during the ski season then made multiple changes to improve their accuracy."

...

The **Vancouver Island Mountain Centre** has created a camping site adjacent to the main facility in order to accommodate tenters.

...

Mount Washington has added two new Snow Cats to its grooming fleet, which will enable the Mountain Operations Team to improve grooming over more terrain while consuming less fuel, Director of Public Relations Brent Curtain said.

New grooming patterns will be used, and that will translate into more vertical skiing and riding and less time traversing runs.

Vancouver Island Mountain Centre



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Strathcona Nordics Junior racing Team attend a race camp in September, 2013.
Photo: Andrea Stapff



Freestyler Mia Pond shows off her Bronze Medal

MOUNT WASHINGTON SNOW SPORT CLUBS

Go to page 12 for the beginning of this feature article.



SNOW SPORT CLUBS

Continued from page 17

Ruecker may be with the Provincial Snowboard Cross Team but he still sits as a Director on the VI Riders Board as Club Treasurer. And Dustin Heise, also a former coach, is now Director of Sport Development with Canada Snowboard.

Vancouver Island Biathlon Club

Members of the Vancouver Island Biathlon Club have been practicing shooting since November, and preparing for their first event of the season that was to be held in mid-December.

Some club members switched up their

off-season training by taking up mountain biking last spring, according to the group's Facebook page.

This year the club is running a pair of programs: Biathlon Bears for kids aged 10 to 14 years, which follows Biathlon Canada's program of introducing youth to the sport of biathlon; and an adults / masters / youth program for those 15 years and older. This year the adults / masters / youth program will run monthly instead of weekly, but members with a valid PAL firearm certificate may come up during the off weeks and practice.

Mount Washington Freestyle Club

Mount Washington Freestyle Club is starting the new season with a new President, Lee Pond, who takes over from Sue Walker.

Head coach Ian McFadgen and Competitive Coach Tanya Callon lead the charge of returning coaches, who also include two former BC Team members

returning to coach, Pond said. Bilingual (French and English) coaching will also be available this year to accommodate athletes whose parents are transferred into 19 Wing Comox, as well as others who are more comfortable learning in French.

The Freestyle Club has three members on the BC Team and BC Regional Team this year: Mei Pond, Teal Harle and Todd Heard.

Club members - including Pond and Harle - spent part of the off-season at Whistler in the summer, skiing the glacier, practicing on the water ramps and headed back to the snow in December.

The Club has a Try Freestyle Camp planned for Dec. 28-29, and the regular program begins Jan. 4, 2014 and running every weekend until April 27.

For athletes wanting to compete in freestyle, Pond says there are four Timber Tour competitions around the Province with Mount Washington slated to host the finale in April 2014.

The Freestyle Club runs between 50 and 75 members each year, and coaching staff like to run with higher numbers to keep all the age categories healthy. They also encourage former racers to come back as coaches.



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MOUNT WASHINGTON SNOW SPORT CLUBS

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is home to six snow sport clubs that spend their seasons practicing and competing on their “home” hill.

Mount Washington Ski Club

The Mount Washington Ski Club had another busy summer both on and off snow.

Head Coach John Trimmer said, “Our U16/U18 and FIS athletes worked hard on fitness from June on, spending much more time in the weight room than in years past.”

Club members hit the snow for one, eight-day camp, at Mt. Hood in Oregon at the end of August. “We were joined by

several of our U12 group, making this our biggest summer camp in history,” Trimmer said.

“We did a great fun team-building and fitness camp at the Outdoor Education Centre on Hornby Island in September - you have to love the high ropes course and Leap of Faith.”

A small group of the U16s also took part in the first-ever Coast Zone U16 fitness challenge in Vancouver in October.

Kole Harle came second and Liam Gilchrist came eighth for boys, while Keegan McCooley and Maja Nymann came in third and fourth respectively for

the girls.

The Ski Club has a variety of programs for skiers aged four and up. The Nancy Greene (U10 and U12) program teaches young skiers the “FUNdamentals” of downhill skiing from December to April with CSIA or CSCF-certified coaches, small group sizes, progress reports and year-end awards.

There is also a program for older athletes who want to ski competitively, or who want increased training and the fun and challenge of gates and skier cross, Trimmer said.

The club is family-oriented and has a



Mount Washington Freestyle Club's Todd Heard.

cabin with full kitchen facilities for families to use.

On the competition front, team member Mathieu Leduc is training with the National Ski Cross team and hopes to qualify for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Continued on page 17

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Overlooking Strathcona Prov. Park

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Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

MileHigh
2013-14
ACCOMMODATIONS
GUIDE

Possible Sasquatch Midden Unearthed at site of expanded Tube Park!

Summer grounds crews at Mount Washington Alpine Resort have uncovered more possible evidence that a family of sasquatch has been expanding on the grounds at the Resort for generations.

Grounds crews spent the summer creating a new and expanded tube park in front of the Alpine Lodge, by the Learning Centre. When the earthmovers were in to restore the old Ozone Tube Park to a ski run, they dug up what cryptozoologists think is a sasquatch midden.

A worker, who did not want to be named, scooped up some dirt that was filled with detritus that cryptozoologist Bili Ufiti, surmises is garbage and old tools.

A midden is an archaeological term meaning a mound containing shells, animal bones or other refuse.

Oyster shells were found in this particular midden, suggesting the Salish Sea was quite a bit higher at one time or that the Sasquatch were very good hikers.

Ufiti had the items in the midden verified by an expert who said they were not used by homo sapiens. The tooth marks on the oyster shells suggest a larger primate bite pattern.

He hopes that one day the items will be considered artifacts and can be put on display, however, they are being kept in a safe place for further analysis. Ufiti did not want to delay construction of the tube park any longer than necessary, so only a quick testing was done.

Continued from page 23




Sasquatch may have developed a taste for oysters when they came down to the Oyster River to feed on migrating salmon.



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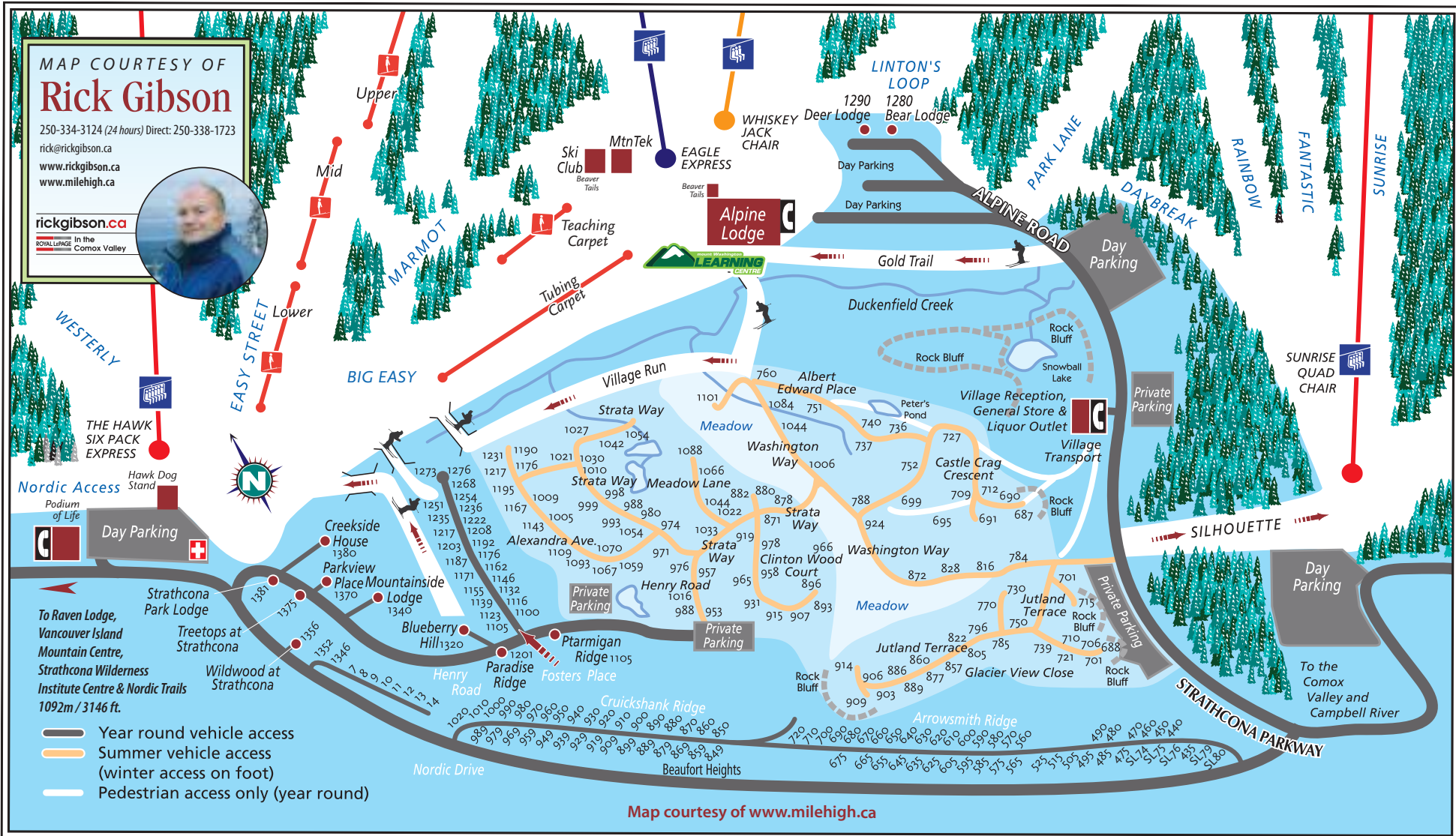
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691 - 5 Castle Crag Crescent	110	140	180	75	8	2	1	Y	N	N	1	1	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Colin Green	250-477-3907	colin.green1@shaw.ca	
691 - 11 Castle Crag Crescent	100	165	225	75	8	2	1	Y	N	N	1	1	1	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Deborah Nostdal	250-537-9618	dnostdal@shaw.ca	
691 - 12 Castle Crag Crescent	120	160	180	75	7	2	1	Y	N	N	1	0	1	C	Y	Y	W	N	N	N	P	Y	Y	Gabrielle or Brian Grady	250-592-4271	condo@briangrady.com	
695 - 307 Castle Crag Crescent	100	150	180	60	6	2	2	Y	N	Y	2	2	1	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	Justin White	250-207-0341	justin.white@pntmail.com	
788 - 102 Castle Crag Crescent	85	150	185	60	8	2	2	Y	N	Y	1	1	1	N	Y	Y	W	N	N	N	P	Y	Y	Lisa Petty	N/A ~ email	mt.washingtoncondo@shaw.ca	
784 - 8 Washington Way "Snowbird"	100	170	220	75	8	3	2	Y	N	Y	2	2	1	C	Y	Y	E	N	N	N	P	Y	Y	Josie Laslo	250-828-3682	jo.laslo@sd72.bc.ca	
828A Washington Way "Sunrise Chateau" prices + HST	275	375	Call	175	12	5	3	Y	Y	N	5	5	1	S	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	P	N	N	Stan & Nancy Fry	250-474-3008	frycement@pacificcoast.net	
1044 - 3 Washington Way	100	160	200	75	8	3	2	N	Y	N	2	1	1	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	O	P	N	N	Joan Scheunhage	250-723-4881	N/A ~ please call	
1084 - 9 Washington Way "Westview Inn"	100	150	190	75	5	3	2	Y	N	Y	1	0	1	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Fred & Bernice	250-655-8827	millsfb@gmail.com	
BEAR LODGE 1280 ALPINE ROAD DRIVE TO SLOPESIDE LOCATION WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND HOT TUB																											
101	150	195	275	100	4	1	1	Y	Y	N	Y	2	1	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	Doug Yelland	250-744-9214	www.bearlodgecondos.com	
102	150	225	325	100	6	2	2	Y	N	Y	1	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	F	Y	N	N	N	Charlotte & Pierre Kouba	250-474-0905	c_mursell@hotmail.com	
210	175	250	325	129	9	2	2	Y	N	N	Y	2	N	2	C	Y	N	P	N	N	O	P	N	Leigh Unickow	250-667-4801	www.stayalpine.com	
307	150	220	325	150	8	2	2	Y	N	Y	2	0	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	P	N	N	John Cooper	N/A ~ email	mdaccommodations@shaw.ca	
309	150	220	320	100	6	2	2	Y	N	Y	2	0	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	N	Cheryl Adebar	250-339-3150	cheryladebar@gmail.com	
401	170	240	340	Call	6	2	2	Y	N	Y	2	N	Y	Y	N	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	N	Ken Heinrich	250-792-3424	www.307blueberryhill.ca	
406	185	260	325	135	6	2	2	Y	N	N	3	0	1	C	N	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	N	Louise Walker	250-287-8821	louisewalker@telus.net	
409 "Bear Escape"	160	250	325	Call	6	2	2	Y	N	Y	2	1	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	N	Keith & Cathy Larsen	250-338-0972	bearescape@shaw.ca	
412	265	350	450	Call	9	3	2	Y	N	Y	3	0	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	F	P	N	N	Richard & Laurel Cronk	250-204-0560	412bearlodge@gmail.com	
BLUEBERRY HILL 1320 HENRY ROAD DRIVE TO WITH UNDER BUILDING PARKING, AND SAUNA																											
106	125	175	225	85	6	2	2	Y	Y	N	2	2	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	P	N	N	Michele or Jeff	250-714-0542	N/A ~ please call	
110	125	175	250	100	8	3	2	Y	Y	Y	1	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	F	N	N	N	N	Sharan Sekhon-Doman	250-715-8454	sdoman@telus.net	
117	145	195	220	95	7	3	2	Y	Y	Y	1	1	1	C	Y	Y	P	N	N	O	P	N	N	Sharon Hadden	250-702-1317	s.hadden@shaw.ca	
204	125	175	225	100	8	2	2	Y	Y	Y	2	1	1														



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SNOW SPORT CLUBS

Continued from page 12

Strathcona Nordics

The **Strathcona Nordics** will focus this year on winning the BC Championships in Kelowna, Feb. 28 - March 2. Dr. Andreas Conradi from the Comox Valley is sponsoring a bus to take more than 60 athletes and coaches to the event.

The Nordics will also have a large contingent at the BC Midget Championships Feb. 8 - 9. "We will be bringing this event to Mount Washington in 2015," Club President Len Apedaile said.

The Nordic season ends with the Vancouver Island Loppet on March 29.

The Nordics have started a new youth recreational program this year called SNAP (Strathcona Nordics Adventure Program), introducing youth to a variety of sports in the Nordic family, like cross-country skiing, biathlon or snowshoeing, club spokesperson Barb Kelly said.

The Nordics have also seen strong growth to its masters programs (recreational and racing programs for adults).

Five of the club's teen racers have been named to BC Provincial Teams: Avalon Wasteneys on the BC Ski Team, Alex Stapff and Morgan Meckert on the BC Development Team, and Tallon Noble and Ross Lamon on the BC Talent Squad Team.

Three club members are headed to the World Universiade Games in Trentino, Italy in early 2014. Andrea Lee qualified and will be skiing for Canada and for the club. Head coach Dave Battison has been appointed Head Coach of the Canadian Team, and President Len Apedaile has been appointed by the Federation International de Ski (FIS) the Technical



Strathcona Nordics Junior and Midget Boys racing around a corner on Mount Washington in the spring of 2013 Photo: Larry Reynolds

Delegate for cross-country skiing.

Apedaile has been selected as the Technical Delegate of the International Paralympic Committee for the Nordic Skiing events at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. He will also be the Technical Delegate at an IPC World Cup event in Vuokatti, Finland in January.

"The Club is very lucky to have as its president a highly esteemed international race official," Kelly said.

Battison was not only named Head Coach for the National University Team, but he also received a national coaching award in October for his work as a community builder in the cross-country ski community.

Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Sports

This winter the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports

(VISAS) will hold its Learn to Ski/Snowboard Winter Sports Festival from Sunday, Jan. 5 to Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014 at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

"Anyone with a disability is welcome to apply," said Rose Kerr, Festival Chairperson.

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

VISA provides free instruction, lift passes, equipment, two banquets, daily transportation from Courtenay to the mountain and a great time," she added.

The Winter Sports Festival is limited to 35 students and is open to anyone over the age of six

years who has some ability to learn. Priority is given to first-time participants, Kerr said.

"We have had people from as far away as Great Britain who have participated in the Festival."

In its 22nd year, VISAS will see more than 80 volunteers providing instruction to people with a physical or mental disability who want to learn to downhill ski, snowboard or cross country ski.

Vancouver Island Riders

The VI Riders freestyle snowboarding club begins the 2013-14 winter season with a new president as **Mary-Ellen Bergvinson** takes over from **Linden Ruecker**.

Linda is now head coach of the BC Snowboard Cross team. Bergvinson was secretary last year and has four boys who snowboard, so is no stranger to the club.

The VI Riders are gearing up to host a BC Snowboard Association Slopestyle competition Jan. 11-12, 2014.

A pair of VI Riders graduates are making names for themselves this year: Darcy Sharpe was once a member of the VI Riders and is now a member of the National Slopestyle Team with a chance of competing at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Thomas Bergvinson, 14, is a member of the BC Development Team that trains at Mt. Seymour.

While developing athletes is a focus for the VI Riders, the seven-year-old club is also adept at grooming coaches for higher goals. Dane Kaechele was once a coach for the VI Riders and is now head coach of the BC Snowboard Team.



Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 19

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THE GROTTTO is a licensed cafe open for breakfast, lunch and tapas, seven days a week. Local seafood, steaks, burgers, and pastas, with a contemporary, urban flare and a full gluten free menu! All available in The Grill or The Grotto, full service or counter service. unionstreetgrill.ca

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Enjoy authentic Greek cuisine at **YIAMAS GREEK TAVERNA** in downtown Courtenay at 275 8th Street. Open for lunch or dinner (7 days a week) Yiamas has all the traditional favourites including lamb souvlaki, fire-grilled rack of ribs, spanakopita, moussaka, keftedes, humous and baklava! 250-871-8552 avalanchebar.ca/yiamas/index

ZOCALO CAFÉ & BISTRO is a family friendly café that is open 7 days a week from 8am serving breakfast, lunch and dinner... and the best coffee in town! Drop in for live music and dinner or tapas in the evenings. 250-331-0933 www.zocalocafe.ca



Good food and drink are always stalwarts of a successful vacation. The Comox Valley is bountiful in this respect, and proof can be seen at the popular year-round Farmers Market.

The **Saturday Farmers Market** moves indoors in the winter months at the Native Sons Hall on Cliffe Avenue and Fourth Street, near the Courtenay Museum, and is open from 9 a.m. to noon. The Market takes a break between Christmas and New Year's (this year from Dec. 21 until Jan. 12), but otherwise is a great source of fresh winter vegetables, eggs, cheese, honey, yogurt, meat, poultry, fresh baked goods and more.

Now that you've found yourself all the pieces you need for a gourmet feast, why not pair it with some locally sourced wine? The Comox Valley is quickly gaining a reputation for its wine, and skiers can easily plan a wine-tasting tour during their stay at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Beaufort Vinyard & Estate Winery offers award-winning red and white wines. Sample their wine in their tasting room.

Coastal Black Estate Winery features fruit wines and mead from its winery, as well as a summer patio bistro and wood-fired pizza oven.

Blue Moon Winery is part of a trio of delights: the boutique winery, Blue Moon Kitchen and Natures Way Organic Farm.

The 24-acre **40 Knot Winery** is located in Comox on the way to the Powell River ferry terminal and produces distinct wines including their signature Spindrift Brut.

If you're headed north towards the Campbell River area, **Southend Farm & Vineyards** is located on Quadra Island.

If you're headed south, Denman and Hornby Islands feature **Chateau Beaufort Noble Wines, Carbreau Vineyard & Winery** and **Hornby Island Winery**.

Not a wine drinker? Check out **Shelter Point Distillery** halfway between Courtenay and Campbell River and learn their "field to flask" story. They are distilling single malt whisky and now offer triple-distilled **Still Master Vodka**.

Island Spirits Distillery on Hornby Island produces "Phrog" premium gin, available at their distillery



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REINVENTING SLIDING

Continued from page 4

Even better, the program offered parents an opportunity to get kids involved in skiing at a reduced rate.

Rookie Year was designed as an introduction to the snowsports in the hopes of instilling a lifelong passion to the sports, Manara says.

The Rookie Year saw kids get a season pass and season rental pass as well as unlimited afternoon group lessons from the Snow School. "It allowed kids to come up and have as many lessons as they could," he said. Those 150 kids registered in Rookie Year took an incredible 1,000 lessons.

The Graduate Program offers a discounted season's pass with unlimited use of rentals. The Snow School also offers seasonal coaching programs for 10 weeks, with consistent coaching - athletes will be assigned to the same coach each week for approximately 60 hours of coaching.

"It has a pretty significant impact in their progress," Manara said of consistent coaching. "If you have the same coach or

instructor, it makes it a lot more beneficial... because you're getting the same message."

The programs offered at Snow School are Tots, Mighty Tots and Free Ride for five- to 13-year-olds. There is also a Friday Night Free Ride program for teenagers who ski or snowboard at the intermediate level or higher.

Back Country Adventures

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has teamed up with Island Alpine Guides to provide backcountry skiing adventures under the experienced tutelage of certified ACMG guides.

"People will be able to access our backcountry terrain through our backcountry gates and ski safely with our Island Alpine Guides," Manara said.

This half-day introductory program is designed for skiers who might have the skiing or snowboarding skills but not the knowledge to competently go into the backcountry.

"The program focuses on teaching individuals how to use the equipment and learning some basics on backcountry travel.

"For a lot of skiers that's the ultimate dream. It's the epitome of the sport, to be able to ski in 30 - 40 centimetres of untouched snow," he said.

This program will be based on current conditions. If there is a high avalanche hazard and those areas are considered closed, the program won't run.

Island Alpine Guides, which Jan Neuspiel owns and operates, has partnered with Mount Washington in the past to offer avalanche courses; Jan Neuspiel is also the lead forecaster for the Island Avalanche Bulletin.

Backcountry guided trips can be booked through the Snow School. Neuspiel provides the safety gear. Equipment options can be discussed at Mtn Tek.

Rentals Gets A Facelift

Did you know that Mount Washington Alpine Resort spends approximately \$200,000 per year on new gear in its rental pool?

"We do that because we want people running on top-notch stuff," says Manara. Equipment is waxed before it is rented out.

Resort guests can rent their equipment online, and there are also seasonal rentals available as well as savings programs for frequent rentals.

As for the recycled equipment, the Resort supports smaller ski resorts through a donation program with the Canada West Ski Areas Association.



PODIUM OF LIFE
SNOW SPORTS ACADEMY

PODIUM OF LIFE

Continued from page 9

One of the full time students signed up for the 2013-14 year is Sofia Tchernetsky, 11, of Calgary, who is ranked near the top 100 in freestyle skiing in the world. Harle met with her during a trip to Calgary in October, when he attended a freestyle coaching clinic.

The new season also brings change for the Harles: for the first time since they opened the academy, Shane and Corey will not be returning to their regular jobs when Podium of Life finishes for the season - they moved up to the Resort in December with their sons Kole and Teal as they usually do, but decided to devote all their time to the academy this year.

"It's going to be an excellent, exciting year coming up, full of new things," Harle said.

EDUCATION ABROAD

Podium of Life Snowsports Academy student, Erin Sketchley, continues her education while traveling abroad. After completing the school program on the mountain, Erin is now completing her grade 8 year while traveling throughout Southeast Asia.

There are so many options for education nowadays. And Erin is one of the lucky ones to be combining school with life experiences.

In the winter she attended school on Mount Washington, and now is combining school with worldwide travel. The Campbell River school district's eBlend program helps students realize their dreams and potentials by providing a program built around the passion of the students.

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

If you are looking for more information, wish to advertise, or want to submit information in future issues please refer to these contacts:

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Sales & Circulation: Neil Havers

250-792-3107 or

info@haversdesign.com

Design/Production: Havers Design

Printed in Canada

To read past issues of The Marmot go to

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Photos courtesy of Jared Hobbs

A Return Engagement For The Vancouver Island Marmot!

Canada's endangered marmot is continuing to make progress on its road to recovery. The birth of 75-80 pups in the wild this spring shows our tenacious little marmot has the potential for a full recovery

But the fact that the majority of those pups were born in one region on Vancouver Island also tells us there is important work left to do. Increasing the marmots' distribution across more of their historic range is a vital part of the recovery strategy to protect them.

So it's also very good news that the marmots are making progress in more of their historic range as well. Three of the litters born this year were on mountains that have not had recorded breeding on them in over a decade. Two of the sites were extinct much longer than that.



Adopt a Marmot

This is a great way to help this endangered species as well as an opportunity for you to learn more about these interesting creatures

When you join the **Adopt-a-Marmot Club**, you help protect the endangered Vancouver Island marmot every day of the year. Pre-arranged monthly gifts are a convenient way to help save this beautiful and special creature from extinction. Your gift supports the field research and captive-breeding that's so critical to marmot survival. For instance, your contribution will help fund ear-tagging of wild marmots, which is the only way in which we can identify and track individual marmots and the success of recovery efforts in future years.

When you Adopt-a-Marmot you'll receive:

- Your personalized marmot adoption certificate
- Your full-color poster of a Vancouver Island Marmot
- Your official recovery project newsletter (The Marmoteer)
- Your special year-end report about individual marmots

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

A successful litter on Castlecrag Mountain in Strathcona Park is particularly encouraging because of its proximity to Mount Washington. As the only continuously surviving colony north of Alberni Inlet, the Mount Washington colony had been showing negative signs of inbreeding before captive-born recruits were introduced there as part of the Recovery Strategy.

Castlecrag is one of a handful of nearby fledgling colonies that, once reestab-

lished, would provide a natural recruitment of wild-born marmots to guard against the risk factors of an isolated population. That would be a huge step forward for the marmots in this region.

There are now ten fledgling sites in Mount Washington/Strathcona Park area where marmots are struggling to establish breeding pairs and rebuild the colonies. It will take a few more years of artificial recruitment, by way of organized releases, to establish enough marmots in this region for natural dispersal processes to take over.

Whether the marmots make it or not is largely up to us Canadians. Although we have rescued them from the imminent threat of extinction, they are not yet able to complete their recovery on their own.

But if we can continue to support them for another few years it's highly likely they will reach the final Recovery Goal - a sustainable population distributed in three distinct regions on Vancouver Island.

For information about how you can help the Vancouver Island marmots go to www.marmots.org



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RICK MORSON

Continued from page 5

He also spent a number of years as marketing director for the Strathcona Nordics, and remains a competitive skier.

When the opportunity arose to get involved with the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society (VIMSS), he jumped. "It was the sort of organization that was best suited to take on the challenge of the mountain centre development," he said.

"Fundraising began in 2006, but planning really began in earnest in the summer of 2008," he said, when VIMSS received the first commitment for funding from the North Island Coastal Economic Trust. "I can remember saying at that time, 'now the real work begins'," Morson recalls. "I didn't think at that time I actually knew how hard that work would be."

He thanks his staff at CIBC Wood Gundy, specifically Heidi Sherman and Maia Winter, for their support. "It's the type of work that if something happens and I get called away, they've supported my clients and the practice. The whole CIBC Wood Gundy office over the years has been tremendously supportive," he said.

The Mountain Centre has exceeded Morson's expectations.

The mountain community has taken the centre on as their own, and even Comox Valley municipal officials ask him whenever they see him how things are going with the Centre.

"Just to see people get excited about it is gratifying. It's not something when you're building it that you can visualize it," he says.

When he looks back on the moment in Pemberton when he thought Mount Washington should have a similar centre, he says it's difficult to compare the two facilities.

"Ours is modern now; it's brand new. It's different architecturally. I think it's one of the nicest buildings on the Island from that perspective, and adds to the uniqueness of Mount Washington."

"The fact that the Centre is being used by a diverse amount of groups is also gratifying," he adds.

Morson had the opportunity to share his pride in the Mountain Centre last summer when he hosted a CIBC Wood Gundy client event, which included a cooking demonstration with Kathy Jerritt of Tria Culinary Studio and a guided walk through Paradise Meadows with Steve Smith from the Strathcona Wilderness Institute. "We had enthusiastic feedback on it," he said.

Now that the Centre has been up and running for a couple of years, Morson isn't rushing to change the status quo. A camping facility was built beside the Centre in the summer so people will be able to camp next summer.

As for future winter plans? "I would personally like to see us build an ice hotel beside the facility, like they do in Quebec," he said.



SASQUATCH SEAFOOD?

WkiLeaks released this photo of a suspected Sasquatch midden to the Marmot.

SASQUATCH MIDDEN DISCOVERED

Continued from page 13

A hardcore tube park fan, who was at the Resort to watch the construction and witnessed the unearthing of the midden, was excited to think that she had been tubing over a piece of history for the past eight years.

"Very cool," she said, declining to give her name. "Just think: that means sasquatch have probably been inhabiting Mount Washington long before the first chairlift was ever installed, and the first ski run ever developed... Gnarly!"

Calamity hits Rhodesian cryptozoologist's Sasquatch findings.

Calamity has hit a Rhodesian cryptozoologist who reported a sasquatch sighting at Mount Washington Alpine Resort a year ago.

As the Marmot Newspaper reported in its Spring/Summer 2013 edition, Khodu Modumo had stumbled upon what he suspected was a sasquatch helping guard a den of marmots just below the ridge near the Outback. He was able to recover a handful of hair near the mouth of the den and shipped it back to his brother's lab in Africa to test its DNA.

Modumo was at his brother's lab last winter preparing to test the DNA when an explosion occurred in the lab next door, contaminating Modumo's sample with alcindoromycine, a rare anthracycline antibiotic agent.

Modumo said he and his brother will return to Mount Washington Alpine Resort once the snow melts in 2014 in an attempt to recover a new sample for examination.

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2 bedroom condo in the Alpine Village of Mount Washington. Well cared for unit with upgrades. 2 bathrooms and loads of storage. The building is in very good condition with a live in caretaker. Located in the heart of the Village with easy access to slopes and parking.

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Corner Unit with Natural Light!

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

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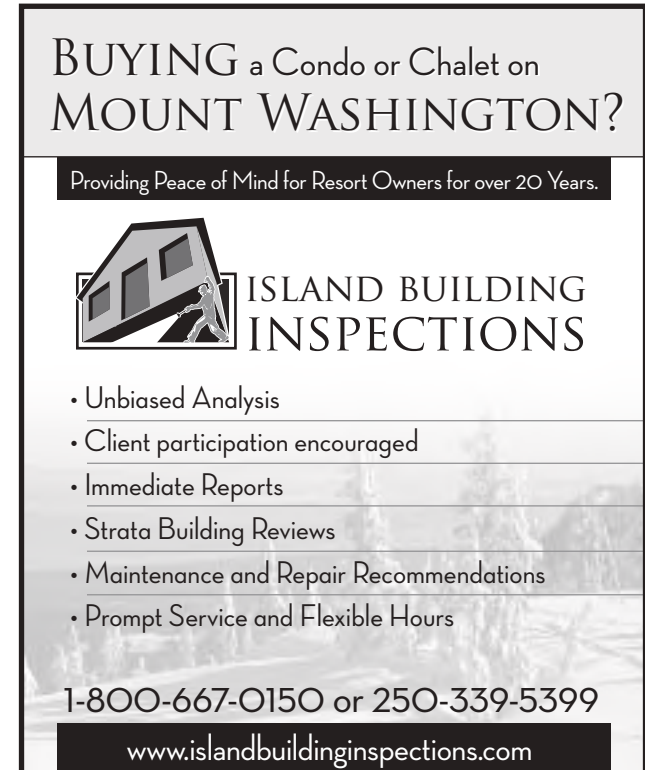
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- 410** Top Floor 2 Bdrm 879 Sq Ft Slopeside **FREEHOLD** **\$199,900**
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- 113** 2 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park **FREEHOLD** **\$149,900**
- 214** 4 Bedroom, spacious park view Suite **\$199,900**
- 306** 3 Bedroom facing ski runs **FREEHOLD** **\$174,900**
- 407** 2 Bedroom **FREEHOLD** facing ski runs and Strathcona Park **\$199,900**
- 501** 3 Bedroom Penthouse suite **FREEHOLD** **\$264,900**
- 506** 3 Bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park and ski runs **\$199,900**



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Features Include:

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- 210** 2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside **FREEHOLD** **\$184,900**
- 212** 3 Bedroom corner suite (no GST) **FREEHOLD** **\$294,900**
- 215** 2 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park **FREEHOLD** **\$149,900**
- 305** 2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside **FREEHOLD** **\$205,000**
- 312** 3 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park **FREEHOLD** **\$249,900**
- 313** 2 Bedroom Lock-off facing Strathcona Park **FREEHOLD** **\$179,900**
- 408** 1 Bedroom top floor, slopeside **\$99,900**



- 110** 3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park **\$179,900**



Features Include:

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- 202** 3 Bedroom facing ski runs and park **FREEHOLD** **\$179,900** **WOW View**
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Top Floor Unit Promises Mountain Views!

The suite has a comfortable layout with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and two extra built in bunks. There is a sunken living room with wood burning fireplace, a dining area, good sized kitchen, a laundry room and a large entrance. There is a deck off this top floor corner unit overlooking the mountains in Strathcona Park and sunrise and sunsets. Monthly fees include taxes, cable, internet, insurance, water and sewer. Great value and ambience in this family sized condo! **\$139,900**

Skier Friendly Floor Plan!

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



Two Bedroom Freehold Condo

This two bedroom mountain home is centrally located in Mount Washington's Alpine Village. With two decks you get to view much of the area around the village. Converted to Freehold, this suite has loads of storage, 2 bathrooms, sauna and much much more. With a 5 minute stroll to the Alpine Lodge and virtually ski in and out, this is a location second to none. **#201 - \$149,999**



South Facing Townhouse

Snowbird Townhome for sale! This south facing mountain home offers easy access to parking and skiing. Basement is undeveloped for additional usage. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Propane fireplace for the cool winter nights. Quiet location and great building! **\$169,900**



Corner Unit Close To Day Lodge!

Townhouse style condo located very close to the Day Lodge. Corner unit, sunny, nicely furnished and clean. Balcony runs along 2 upstairs bedrooms and provides mountain views. Ski in and out from the door! Sunset views and easy access. **\$174,900**



Furnished Corner Unit has New Roof!

3 bedroom townhome - close to the Alpine Lodge. Corner suite for added privacy with views to the mountains and sunsets! Very open plan with 3 bedrooms up. Home has been lovingly cared for with new windows and upgrades. Brand new roof summer 2013. Suite comes with all furnishings and is ready to go! **\$179,900**





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. **\$179,900**



Large Loft with Skylights

Spacious 3 bedroom condo townhouse with 3 levels of living space. Large loft area with skylights provide ample sleeping space, shared common area with laundry, ping pong and storage. This is a wonderful family oriented complex located centrally on Mount Washington **\$184,900**



Mountainside at Mount Washington

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



Franchise Opportunity.

The numbers work! Here is your opportunity to purchase a money making business with potential to grow on or off the Mountain. **Beavertails Canada** has been delighting pastry lovers with their unique products since 1978! A Canadian culinary icon, they operate shops in Canada's premiere recreational and tourist locations. Innovation is ongoing as they create increasingly tasty ways to satisfy customers. They are in an expansion drive across Canada. **\$224,900**



Location! Location! Location!

Cozy chalet close to parking and ski lifts. Ski in and out from this energy efficient chalet and then curl up by the woodstove and enjoy the ambience. Large loft area and basement storage. **\$299,900**



Welcome to our Cabin!

The perfect smaller mountain home that is not set up to sleep 30! Very open bright design that is easy access to skiing in winter and the park in summer. Southern exposure off either of the two sun drenched decks. Vaulted ceilings and well thought out floor plan. A bathroom on each level, sauna in basement, loads of storage - just the perfect family retreat. And it is Freehold! **\$324,900**



Chairlift Friendly

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

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



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 Hawk Chairlift, so is about as ski in and out friendly as you can get. Easy access to Nordic and Strathcona Park.

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



Once in a Lifetime!

This legal duplex on Mount Washington has it all. What you get is two legal titles and the two units share a common area. Within the common area is a third suite! Each side has 2 bedrooms and spacious plans. The common area which includes a large family room, sauna, kitchen, bathroom & bedroom. Ideal for 2 or more families with spectacular views. Buy the package and then sell one of the off, or keep the other. WOW - this one has many options. **\$398,800**



Perched on a Ridge!

3 bedroom executive townhome with stunning spectacular views of Strathcona Park. The Master suite encompasses the entire top floor and the Living room is vaulted almost up the roof of the entire building. Common area includes, hot tub on it's own private deck and sauna. What more to say than "WOW!" Suite C **\$399,900**



The Ultimate Ski Chalet!

Your own log cabin perched high on a ridge with incredible views of Strathcona Park. The mountain home is separated into a lower 2 bedroom suite and the main upper 3 bedroom suite. The living area has a cathedral ceiling and an open wood burning fireplace. Many special features such as stained glass, hand carved mantel and very cozy touches. This has been a very popular rental with strong repeat business. **\$399,900**



Perched on a Knoll...

This Alpine Village chalet is perfectly set up for a large family or those wanting a great rental property. Easy access to parking, ski in and out. Three distinct living areas; a lower 2 bedroom sunny owner's suite, main floor 5 bedroom suite with huge entertainment friendly kitchen and living area and an upper bachelor suite. Meticulously maintained with new hardiplank siding on the exterior. Loads of storage, well thought out design. Wood fireplace in the upper main suite and electric fireplace in the owners suite. **\$674,900**



Three Decks!

Looking for something different? Your front door opens onto Strathcona Park while your back door opens onto Hawk chairlift. 3 bedrooms plus lofts with above average finishing including maple flooring, tile in bathrooms, fir doors, wood blinds and more. Sauna and roughed-in for hot tub. Loads of storage and 3 decks! Skylights, vaulted ceilings in main area and 10 ft ceilings down. Wow! This is a must see! **\$424,900**



2700 Sq. Ft. of Luxury!

Never before has a home of this style and quality been available on the market. Over 2,700 square feet with 6 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. No expense has been spared from the silestone quartz kitchen, hardwood floors, solid cedar beams, log styled exterior to the open hearth style gas fireplace. All rooms are open and spacious. Fosters Place is Mount Washington's only drive-in, ski-out location. **\$799,900**



Large Family Chalet

Are you looking for that large family chalet on Mount Washington? You will get the sun all day from the gorgeous mountain home. Well built, 3 floors with 5 bedrooms and other sleeping areas. There is a cozy woodstove and fireplace for warming up. After a long day on the slopes enjoy the hot tub and sauna. The games room comes with shuffleboard, foosball and a projection TV. There is about 1000 sq. ft. of basement that could be further developed. Year round recreational area. New windows and metal siding. Converted to freehold. **\$499,900**



The Best of the Best!

Log home on Fosters Place. Over 3,000 sq.ft. 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. Views from the large deck over Strathcona Park. This is one of only a few properties on Mount Washington that are drive in and ski out and unobstructed views. **\$799,900**



Perched for Sunset Views

A GORGEOUS family home in the Alpine Village. FREEHOLD and 18 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. Beautiful west coast scenery with income opportunity. Meticulously maintained by its original owners. **\$499,900**



One of the Finest!

Take in the morning and afternoon sun less than 100 feet away from the slopes on Foster's Place. Custom built with insulated concrete walls with R50 insulation. Inside are two propane fireplaces, HRV system, Low E windows, 4 bathrooms, central vacuum, 2 hot water tanks, private concrete patios (both wired for hot tubs). The home has been split into two areas, the main part with 4 bedrooms and the owners suite with 2. **\$749,900**



Nestled in the Trees!

"Doug's Chalet" mountain home is lovingly maintained by the original family that built it. The home is surrounded by trees yet you can ski in and out to the lifts. Main area includes a towering floor to ceiling brick fireplace and vaulted ceilings. A cozy kitchen complements the living area. Sleeps 6 comfortably. A sauna and jetted tubs round out the upper suite. Spacious downstairs self-contained two bedroom suite. There is an area where a hot tub could be installed. **\$549,900**



On Arrowsmith Ridge!

Thought out design with 6 bedrooms. Two of the bedrooms have their own ensuites while the others are designed as family suites. Each family suite has two bedrooms and a shared bathroom. Open living area with grand gourmet kitchen and huge cathedral ceilings. Main floor offers a large deck with BBQ. Sauna, loads of storage, two garages, heated drive way, huge laundry area and more. If you have been looking for the ideal property for a larger family, or for joint family ownership, this is the one! **\$1,050,000**

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