

The Marmot

MOUNT WASHINGTON




THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE
SNOW
BUSINESS!

- What's new for this Winter on Mount Washington? [Page 3](#)
- How does a potential sale impact the 2014/15 Winter Season? [Page 5](#)
- Where to stay while visiting Mount Washington. [Page 13](#)
- What's up with our beloved Marmots ? [Page 22](#)

Cover photos courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Snowmaking looks feasible for Mount Washington

As Lower Mainland ski resorts make a big deal out of making snow, more people are asking whether snowmaking will be a reality at Mount Washington Alpine Resort anytime soon. The short answer, says Resort President Peter Gibson, is... "it's possible."

The issue gained traction at the Vancouver Island Resort last Winter after Mount Washington experienced an odd weather pattern, forcing a late opening and temporary mid-season closure before enough snow finally arrived to allow more consistent operation.

"The Resort was open for 82 snow days, where a regular season would be closer to 125-130, Resort Director of Business Development and Marketing," Don Sharpe said.

"The Resort has done some 'serious research' into snowmaking in the off-season, examining source water and other technical issues," Gibson said.

"We think we have answers that, going forward at some future date with new investors, we can be looking seriously at snowmaking. In the meantime, we spend time in summer grooming."

Snow is made by shooting cold water at high pressure into the air out of specialized 'snow cannons' and freezing temperatures turn the water into snow.

Wayne Pierce, Art Hunt and Dave Richey developed a snowmaking system in 1950 using a paint spray compressor, nozzle and some garden hose. (Pierce later patented the method.)

"The system needs water, and the equipment is not cheap," Sharpe said.

Grouse Mountain, on Vancouver's North Shore, first used snowmaking equipment in the mid-1970s.

Snow Making continued on page 17.

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New Tube Park location proves popular. [Page 3](#)



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In Profile: John Trimmer

This winter marks John Trimmer's 30th year as a Ski Coach, most of them spent at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, where he is Head Coach of the Alpine Ski Club.

"It's kind of crazy," said Trimmer of the milestone. "Mount Washington was my first job coaching. I did leave for a couple of years but I came back."

Trimmer grew up in the Comox Valley His father was in the Canadian Forces. The family moved from Cold Lake, Alberta to the Comox Valley when John was approximately 10 years old.

John played rep hockey. He was a forward after moving to Comox. He didn't start skiing until he was 13. He remembers strapping on some plastic skis for his first run, the rope tow at Forbidden Plateau (Mount Washington wasn't open when he started skiing).

"I fell in love with skiing. That was all I wanted to do after that."

After high school he went to coaching school at Malaspina University-College (now Vancouver Island University). He also took some ski instruction courses, and followed his brother Graham into ski instruction.

When John started at the Ski School, another coach, Stan Hanson needed someone to help him, so he grabbed

John. John worked with Stan and another coach for a couple of seasons but slowly began to take on more coaching responsibilities.

Mount Washington was his first job coaching. At first, his job would start in December and end in April. He spent a few years cooking in restaurants, including the Old House.

"I never stopped skiing," he said. But he did take some coaching courses on his own, and is now a full-time Level 3 Coach and Level 3 Instructor.

He left the Resort for a couple of years to coach the B.C. Women's Ski Team for two seasons then came back and has stayed ever since.

Ten years ago, John started taking groups of Ski Club members (aged 13 to 17 years old) to Austria and Germany for training in the Alps in the summer. The largest group he took was 17 athletes. "I usually do one or two camps in the summer as well," he said.

Ski students have more advantages to compete now than when he first began skiing. "I never really raced in the sense the kids I coach race. Back in the day there were always races around, whether it was the old Tequila Cup or Tom Harris GMGS."

John says he has stayed in the Comox Valley, working with Mount Washington Alpine Resort for the same reason a lot of people stay in the Valley.

John Trimmer, continued on page 17.

John Trimmer

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and today.



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Terrain Park Gets A Facelift

All eyes are on the Terrain Park at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this winter with a new partner and the addition of a 24-foot 'Super Tubby Tank'.

"The Terrain Park has been rebranded and revitalized," a Resort spokesperson said.

The team at Rockstar Energy Drink has been working with Mount Washington's Terrain Park crew over the last couple of months to give the Park a new look and new features.

The Tubby Tank, which isn't a tank at all, but a cigar-shaped steel feature, was designed by Snow Park Solutions and is used by skiers and boarders for a jib.

It's definitely going to be the most talked about feature of the Terrain Park this winter.

New Rockstar Park Events, additional rails and improved flow will all be a major focus for the Park this winter, and improvements will continue over the next three years.

Crews are always tweaking and sculpting the snowpack in the Terrain Park, so the Resort last year invested in a specific grooming Cat designed to push up snow features and build jumps.



Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

The Resort has also partnered with Vancouver Island Brewery to supply beer to the various eating establishments at Mount Washington, and create a new brew exclusively for the Resort.

"These new partnerships will increase the amount of promotions and events taking place at Mount Washington," explains Don Sharpe,

Director of Business Operations and Marketing.

"From new beer to a rebranded Terrain Park with new features, we're very excited to be working with these new partners."

Mountain staff is looking forward to another season with the Tubing Park in its new location.

The Tubing Park was relocated closer to the Alpine Lodge last season, the lanes increased from three to five and a covered Magic Carpet set up to move people from the bottom of the ride to the top.

The **Mountain Tek** building has been repurposed for the winter. One half of the building will be used for high-performance demos, boot fitting and ski and snowboard repair services.

The other half of the building will be the **Snow School Performance Centre**, where one can book intermediate or higher private or group lessons. Beginners and school groups will still use the Learning Centre and for rentals too.

The switch is designed to streamline services, especially when there are large groups going to the Learning Centre.

The higher-end product that had previously been available at Mountain Tek will be moved to Altitude Sport and Goods inside the Alpine Lodge.

New this year on the ticketing side is the \$10 upgrade, allowing people to upgrade their day pass to take advantage of the tube park or night skiing.

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Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort.



2014
Summer

Weddings & Events

Keep Mount Washington hopping in the Summer.

Warm, sunny weather made for a pleasant summer season for Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

It also made for some record-breaking wedding memories for close to 30 couples and their entourages.

"We hosted a record number of weddings," said Don Sharpe, Director of Business Development and Marketing at the Resort. "We're becoming known as a popular place for marriage celebrations."

Nearly 30 wedding parties took place in the summer, with both the



Alpine Lodge and Raven Lodge being used. As a result of such a busy year, Sharpe said the Resort will have a couple of dedicated photo locations for the summer of 2015.

All the summer events, such as Tapped, the Alpine Wine and Food Festival, Bearclaw Inv. Mountain Bike Event and Mudd, Sweat and Tears Adventure Race were sold out.

The Mile High Chairlift also saw increased business because of the weather.

"We'll look at doing some new things next year, stand by for what those will be," he said.

The Resort also spent \$200,000 on summer grooming to prepare runs for winter snow.

Raven Lodge has become a popular location to host a summer wedding or event.

Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Connectivity

Gets a big boost on Mount Washington.

Internet, cable and telephone services at Mount Washington Alpine Resort got a huge boost in October when Investel Capital Corp. announced it purchased a minority stake in Coastline Broadcasting Ltd. of Courtenay, which provides cable service to several hundred customers at the Resort.

The move, done through Investel's subsidiary Telephone Navigata-Westel Communication Inc., puts the company in position to expand nationally, all from the Comox Valley, says Eric Unrau, Vice-President, Marketing and Product Development for Telephone Navigata-Westel (TNW).

What this means is Coastline Broadcasting will be able to offer a broader range of service at Mount Washington, using TNW's state-of-the-art voice and data network, he said. New bundles soon to be offered at the Resort will include digital telephone, Internet and television services.

"Right now we're looking to expand our capabilities on Mount Washington

itself," Unrau said. "We're improving the network feed to the mountain, upgrading equipment... then we will be working on how we can expand our reach."

Most of the upgrade work comprises improving the data link between Mount Washington and Courtenay.

Coastline has a radio system that links the mountain to the Valley, but will upgrade its capacity to handle an expected increase in usage.

Royal LePage Realtor Rick Gibson, has used Coastline Broadcasting's new equipment for the past year.

"The new system promises to offer more channels with more reliable signal strength," said Gibson, who has his own channel on the current TV network.

"Their Internet promises to be stronger than what was available before and their phone system is affordable and works. I have been using their phone for almost a year and it is as good as Telus or Shaw."

Connectivity continued on page 17.



EXPERIENCE THE MOUNTAIN AT NIGHT!

- Night skiing on Easy Acres and the Whiskey Jack Chair
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- Check out our new Tube Park
- Snowshoe Fondue under the stars
- Night XC skiing
- Live music at Ted's Bar & Grill

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- December 11** Night Skiing begins
- December 19** Snowshoe Fondue begins
- December 26** Pepsi Torchlight Parade and Fireworks
- December 27** Live music/DJs begins at Ted's Saturday nights
- December 31** NYE parties
- Saturdays** Live music/DJs continues at Ted's Saturday nights
- March 7** VIB Afterdark Invitational

Give the gift of night with a **Mount Washington Gift Card!** They're good for tubing, lift tickets, accommodation and food and beverage at the mountain. Multiple denominations are available at: mountwashington.ca/mymw

*Event dates are subject to change.



Photo: Neil Havers

Business As Usual...

It's more than business as usual for Mount Washington Alpine Resort this winter, despite the "For Sale" sign still on the Resort.

The Resort went on the market last year, when the group of shareholders who currently own it decided it's time to retire.

"The mountain is still very much on the market," Resort President Peter Gibson said. "Any effort in terms of the sale will be delayed until the springtime. We want to be focused on getting open, being open and we'll pick up the task in the springtime."

Since the current owners bought the place in 1989 they've invested an estimated \$60 million or more in capital investments in the Resort.

Gibson emphasized this is not a fire sale. "We're in good shape financially, and this is not a sale to help us out.

It's a sale for the ownership group to move on. It's time to get to a new level."

While rumours abound that some potential buyers have visited the mountain numerous times, all Gibson would say was, "We have had visitation." He declined to give any details about who might be interested in Mount Washington's Resort.

"I've signed a document that says I can't say anything," he said. "Activities will pick up in the springtime."

In the meantime, Gibson said the Resort spent \$200,000 in the summer grooming runs to get them ready for winter, a sign the Resort ownership is still committed to operations until a buyer is announced.

Trailing Big Foot

John Bindernagel hopes young Biologists follow in his footsteps to unravel the mystery surrounding the Sasquatch conundrum.



John shown with a cast of the Sasquatch footprint he found on Mount Washington.

Photo: Susie Quinn

Fifteen minutes down the path there was another muddy spot, and this time five footprints.

"I wanted to go home and get Plaster of Paris and cast this track," Bindernagel related. "Joan said we have this trip commitment to stay with this group."

They spent the night and returned to their starting point via a different route. It was all Bindernagel could do to get back to the trail and see if the prints were still visible. Two days later they went back and were able to cast three prints of a human-like foot that dwarfs the biologist's own foot.

"The best one was stepped in with a hiking boot by another hiker."

So began a 27 year career for Bindernagel of studying sasquatch and their movements in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

At first, he was skeptical. He left the footprint casts on his desk at home, where they taunted him. "It became harder to avoid it," he said.

Now his study is cluttered with casts of footprints such as the ones he originally cast in 1987 as well as others people have sent him. This year he and Joan are headed to Indonesia to meet with a colleague there and learn about other tracks discovered in that country.

That willingness to study the tracks and other information is something Bindernagel does not see here in Canada. *Sasquatch continued on page 6.*

John Bindernagel was already an accomplished biologist with a healthy interest in sasquatch sightings when he saw his first sasquatch footprint.

The registered professional biologist and his wife Joan, both from Courtenay, were chaperoning an overnight high school hike with a class from Lake Trail Junior High back in 1987 when one of the students pointed out an unusual track in the mud.

The group had been hiking for about 90 minutes, on the way to Cirlet Lake near Mount Washington, and had approached a low area.

"Everyone stepped over it and the last girl said 'oh, my goodness, look at that track,'" Bindernagel said. "It was going in the same way we were going."



Look Before You Leap...

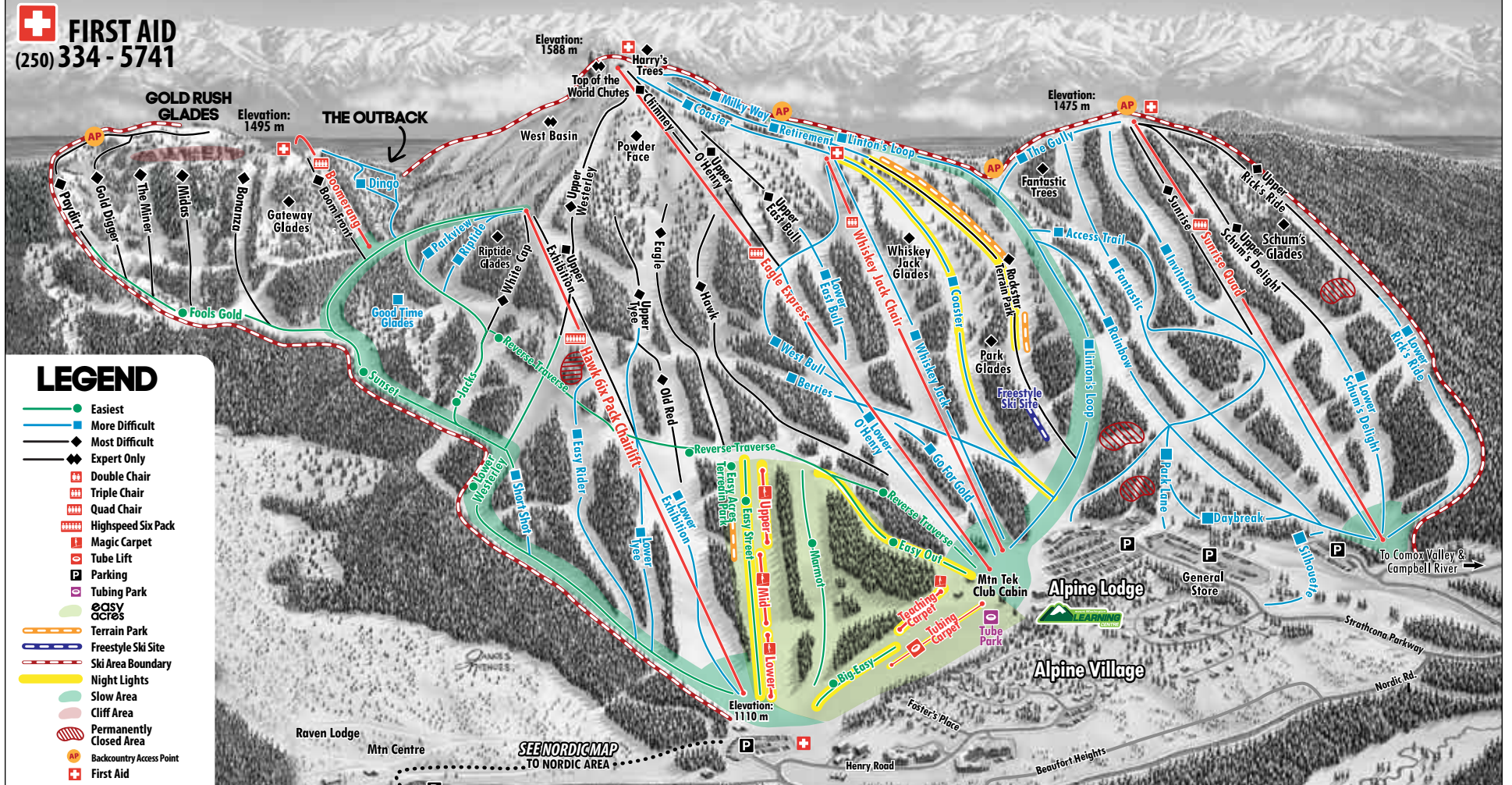
"This applies to ICBC too. If you're involved in a motor vehicle accident, talk to us before talking to ICBC about your personal injury claim."

Steve Allardice, newest member of the Acheson Whitley Sweeney Foley team of lawyers in the Courtenay office.





MOUNT WASHINGTON ALPINE TRAIL GUIDE



Sasquatch

continued from page 5.

After he cast his own prints in 1987 he was travelling while doing contract consulting with the United Nations.

"Every time I came back I thought some young biologist would have jumped on this, wanting to identify a new species. Nobody did."

While there is a plethora of supposition out there about sasquatches, scientists are reluctant to study the data that has been gathered. It's a conundrum that makes Bindernagel impatient, but driven to find that one definitive piece of proof.

"I'm working with a lot of amateur investigators," says Bindernagel. "They're sharing their stuff and I've become an advocate for them."

John put his bare foot up against a couple of casts he has of sasquatch prints. The whitest one is the cast he made at Mount Washington in 1987 and the brownish coloured one is from a cast from Sayward in 1993.

Photo: Susie Quinn



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- Trail Direction
- Ski Area Boundary
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- P Parking
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- P Permanently Closed Area
- Night Lit

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- Ponds - 3 km
- Far East - 4.5km
- Jack Rabbit Link - 2km
- Jutland - 3km
- Lake Approach - 1.5km
- Marmot Flats - 2.5km
- Paradise Meadows - 3km
- West Passage - 1km
- ◆ Grind - 2.5km
- ◆ Lake Trail - 9km
- ◆ Legacy View - 1.5km
- ◆ Lower West - 1km
- ◆ Raven's Revenge - 6km
- ◆ Sprint Loop - 2km
- ◆ Upper West - 3km
- ◆ World Cup - 5km

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- 2 Ski in indicated direction and obey all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails.
- 3 Always ski to right when meeting on-coming skiers and when skiing on double track.
- 4 Yield the track to faster skiers and skiers calling track.
- 5 Ski in control. On two-way trails descending skiers have the right-of-way.
- 6 Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible to others. Move off the track quickly if you fall or during rest stops.
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- 8 Report all accidents.

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Tourism mount Washington Update

Tourism Mount Washington continues to see some "firsts" as it grows and expands as a Resort Association at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Increased interest, active participation, representation and involvement from Resort Association members resulted in TMW's first election taking place at the 2014 AGM for the eight elected positions available on the Board.

Manager Sarah Nicholson hosted a familiarization tour with H.I.S. Japan in the summer, and that has resulted in Mount Washington being added to the Company's 2015 summer itinerary for inbound and domestic tours, she said.

Nicholson attended both the Toronto Snow Show and the Edmonton Ski &

Snowboard Show in the Fall, and negotiated to have Mount Washington represented in SKICAN's 2014-15 Ski Holiday Catalogue.

Tourism Mount Washington continues to position the Resort as one of B.C.'s 13 destination ski resorts, and by targeting corporate and group markets they are trying to reduce "seasonal" business to make Mount Washington a go-to place to visit year-round, Nicholson said.

The Board is hoping to strike a member events committee this year as well, because building a vibrant resort community isn't all about

business and no play.

The current board for Tourism Mount Washington includes elected members Tobin Leopkey (Section 8 Snowsports Institute), Karla Wikjord (freehold owner, Fosters Place), Wendy Woodley (freehold multi-unit Strata 799), Aileen Dougan (freehold owner, Strata 799), Tom Presnail (sub-lease owner, Deer Lodge), Ken Armour (freehold owner, Beaufort Heights), Leanne Webster (freehold owner, Mountainside Lodge), and Rick Gibson (service provider - Realtor, Royal LePage). Appointees from the Resort are Don Sharpe (Director of Business Operations and Marketing) and Tim Defert (Director of Hospitality).

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Rick Morson welcomes fellow CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisor Susan Carson to the CIBC Wood Gundy Courtenay Branch!

Having now both made the big move from the East to the West (Rick many years earlier), we had to ask... why did they do it?

Family, friends, community, weather and this amazing mountain! With a passion for winter sports, it's great to be able to reach your ski destination within 30 minutes!

	West (Mt. Washington)	East (Blue Mountain)
Days of sunshine	287	305
Average snowfall	1150 cm (37+ ft)	279 cm (9+ ft)
Artificial snow	Rarely	Always
Terrain	1700+ Acres	251 Acres
Runs	81	37
Summit elevation	1588 m (5,215 ft)	452 m (1,483 ft)

We welcome you to check out:
Susan's market report 8:04 a.m. and 4:04 p.m. Mon-Fri on 98.9FM The Goat Radio

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NEWS in Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.



CURTAIN CALL

After nearly 13 years serving as Mount Washington Alpine Resort's Director of Marketing, **Brent Curtain** is leaving. He has taken a position as Marketing Manager with Comox Valley Economic Development.

"I'm moving on to greener pastures," Curtain said. "It's a great professional opportunity. I'll be branching into other sectors as well." Among his duties he will be dealing with the ski sector, agri-business and Tourism Comox Valley.

And although he will no longer be a spokesperson for the Resort, he will still be a familiar face on the ski runs.

"I will be up here lots throughout the winter because skiing is a massive part of my life and always will be," he said.

"For me it was easy to promote Mount Washington because I love the mountain. But I also love the Comox Valley," said Curtain. "It's about promoting the place you're passionate about."

He admits being closer to his

family, including six-year-old son Ryder, weighed into his decision. So did the fact his new office will be five minutes away. "It's nice to buy that hour and change back into my life."

Curtain already has a little rivalry going with CVED Executive Director John Watson, who is a fellow hockey fan (both also have sons who play on the same initiation hockey team). Except Watson is a Winnipeg Jets fan and Curtain is a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. "I'm sure we'll be butting heads," Curtain said.

The Resort was looking to fill Curtain's position as the Marmot went to press.



A GREAT FELLOW

John Trimmer, Head Coach with the Mount Washington Ski Club, has been honoured with a Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellowship Award (please

see feature on John elsewhere in this edition of the Marmot). On Oct. 8, the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club presented the award to Trimmer, who has been a fixture at Mount Washington Alpine Resort for nearly 30 years.

Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club has made a donation to the Rotary Foundation in Trimmer's name, and he joins a group of more than one million Paul Harris Fellows worldwide: including Indira Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Prince Charles and Pope John Paul II.

MILE-HIGH BREW

Vancouver Island Brewery has created a new beer called Mile High Mountain Ale, in honour of a new partnership with Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Vancouver Island Brewery is now the corporate beer sponsor for the Resort, and will supply brew for Ted's Bar and Grill, Fresh, the cafeteria at the Alpine Lodge and Raven Lodge.

The new beer features a photo of a Mount Washington skier from the top of the mountain.

SKI TOWN THROWDOWN

Powder Magazine might think Mount Washington "came out of nowhere" to meet Aspen in the Ski Town Throwdown III finals, but it was no surprise to the thousands of people who kept voting for "Mount Washington" as they vaulted to the top. Unfortunately, Aspen took 60 per cent of the final vote, but Mount Washington still made its presence known.

Mount Washington was initially one of nine resorts competing for a wild-card spot in the Great White North



division. They took down Revelstoke, Nelson, Rossland and Schweitzer before facing Aspen in the final.

"The support from the Vancouver Island community has been overwhelming," said Resort spokesperson Brent Curtain. "There were a lot of eyes on our website, videos and social media sites during the event. We even received a special feature story on the Powder Magazine website."

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Steve Allardice, a longtime skier at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, has joined the Courtenay law office of Acheson Whitley Sweeney Foley. He will assist with the growing number of personal injury cases the firm is handling in the Comox Valley, Campbell River, North Vancouver Island and the West Coast.

Allardice is looking forward to spending as much time on the mountain as possible, he says. He also enjoys surfing and spending time outdoors whenever time permits.



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Cover photos courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort

CANCER UNIT EXPANSION

Since 2007, the Cancer Care Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital has seen a steadily increasing number of patients. The first year, 1,400 patient visits were recorded. Last year that number was an incredible 4,700.

Although acute care services will transfer to the new Island Health Comox Valley Hospital in 2017, there is a need to expand the Cancer Care Unit right now, in order to best serve patients until the transition to the new hospital. The Cancer Care Unit has proposed a modest renovation, at a cost of \$130,000 including equipment. Fundraising efforts have already begun.

"I cannot thank the Cancer Care team enough for helping in my wife Wendy's battle with cancer," says Rick Gibson, publisher of The Marmot Newspaper and Realtor with Royal LePage in the Comox Valley.

"Although the end result was not what we hoped, we know that the care she received contributed to her quality of life. Please support this quest to raise the funds needed to expand the Cancer Care Unit."

Donations can be made online at the following link: <http://www.cvhospitalfoundation.com/donations/expanding-cancer-care-at-st-josephs/>.

A HATRICK OF BREWERIES FOR THE COMOX VALLEY?

Microbreweries are becoming the new thing for the Comox Valley, as two are close to opening and another has made an application to open a brew lounge at a hotel in Courtenay.

Gladstone Brewing Co. has renovated a building at 244 Fourth St. in Courtenay and hopes to



Paula Moore



offer several different craft beers by the end of the year. Owners Daniel Sharratt and Alexandra Stephanson have an application before Courtenay City Council for endorsement of a brewery lounge.

Licences are approved through the B.C. Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, however must receive approval from respective municipal governments first.

Gladstone Brewing Co. will offer a lounge as well as a manufacturing facility. And because the building is right beside Mudsharks Coffee Bar, food will be available in the lounge.

"We love the culture, we love the outdoors, and feel that the Valley is ready to support a small scale brewery in the area," brewmaster Sharratt told the Comox Valley Echo.

The Cumberland Brewing Company has applied for a liquor licence to open a brewery lounge with outdoor patio on Dunsmuir Avenue at Third Street, and are in the process of installing machinery and renovating the building.

(There is also a new u-brew in Cumberland, Dodge City U-Brew, that opened this fall.)

Forbidden Brew Corp. has applied to the City of Courtenay to allow a brewery lounge inside the Westerly Hotel and Convention Centre. The proposal includes a craft brewery with indoor seating for up to 30 people.

The public input portion of the application closed on Oct. 2 but the application was set aside to allow the new council, elected Nov. 15, to deal with the issue.



NEW TERRAIN PARK SUPERVISOR

Paula Moore has spent a lot of time at the Terrain Park at Mount Washington Alpine Resort over the past few years.

A skier at heart, she is now taking over as the Rockstar Terrain Park Supervisor. And with a new partnership with Rockstar and a new super tubby tank for skiers and boarders to use as a jib, it's going to be an exciting season for her.

Moore is one of a couple of Resort employees who are moving around this season.

Eugene Chung is the new Social Media and Event Coordinator for the winter 2014 season.

Chung was the friendly face behind the Tube Park, and was also one of the Resort's bloggers in the past.

The Resort is also looking for a new "face of the mountain" to replace Brent Curtain, who has left to take a job with the Comox Valley Economic Development.

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MOUNT WASHINGTON SKI CLUB

The off-season was an exciting one for the Mount Washington Ski Club, which saw some members head to Oregon at the end of August for a snow camp on Mount Hood.

"The Club has had a great summer on and off the snow and we are excited for winter," Head Coach John Trimmer said. "The snow was great this year, there was more of it and we had several really solid freezes at night," he said of the Mount Hood trip. "We also took advantage of the many outdoor activities that the area offers."

Those included mountain biking a downhill track from the base of the mountain into town, and a hike to a local waterfall.

"The rest of the summer was full of fitness, time in the gym and on the bikes," Trimmer said. "We also did our annual trip to the Outdoor Education Centre on Hornby Island."

The Centre brings teams together through team building exercises and games, allows individuals to push their own limits "and it is a ton of fun," he added.

Trimmer has been taking groups of young skiers on trips to the United States and Europe for many years now, and has been coaching for three decades. Earlier this fall the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club honoured him for all the



Ski Club members enjoying a hike while training at Mt. Hood.

Mountain Resort in Hedley, B.C. in November to start the racing season.

There are numerous programs offered through the Ski Club for the competitive and non-competitive skier.

The Rio Tinto Nancy Greene Ski League (U10-U12) is the "FUNdamental" stage of ski racing for children aged four to 11 years. It introduces young skiers to basic techniques and skills.

For more information on the programs the Ski Club provides, go to www.mtwashingtonskiclub.com.



work he does with youth by granting Trimmer a Paul Harris Fellowship, one of the top awards in Rotary.

Competitive teams headed to Apex

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Kerrin Lee-Gatner Olympic Gold Medalist

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Photo: L. Johnston



STRATHCONA NORDICS DEVO TEAM brought home a wealth of medals from the Coastal Cup Race at Whistler Olympic Park.

STRATHCONA NORDICS

Strathcona Nordic Ski Club continues to see a rise in the popularity of its recreational and racing cross-country ski programs.

As a result of increasing demand, there are now beginner, intermediate and advanced recreational ski groups for adults in addition to two youth rec programs for tweens and teens to develop Nordic skiing skills.

"The school program also continues to be popular," Club Director of Communications Barb Kelly says. "This past winter, in spite of very challenging weather, the school program took local elementary students cross-country skiing 2,139 times on Mount Washington."

The racing program enjoys continued, explosive growth for all three racing teams: Devo, Junior and Master, Kelly said. When the teams aren't training they are travelling to various races around the Province.

The Strathcona Nordics will host the Teck Midget Championships at Mount Washington Feb. 7-8, 2015. "The objective of the Teck Midget Championships is to bring young skiers together for a memorable and enjoyable weekend of competition and fun," she said.

The Club will also host annual races such as Coast Cup Nos. 4 & 5 (March 7-8, 2015) and the Vancouver Island Loppet (March 28, 2015).

The Club started its winter season without one of their most popular coaches. Dave Battison who passed away suddenly on June 15. There is a tribute page for Dave on the Strathcona Nordic website at strathconanordics.com. A celebration of his life was held in Campbell River on July 6 and another in his hometown of Sudbury, Ont., on June 27.

Photo: L. Johnston



Junior girls race in the Coast Cup in March 2014 at Mount Washington.

VI BIATHLON CLUB

The Vancouver Island Biathlon Club is made up of a wide mix of individuals, including cadets who practice biathlon as a component in a larger context

"While the cadets tend to practice biathlon solely for specific competitions, there are other members who train year round in some form," says club spokesperson Christoph Dettling.

Dettling, like others, prefers to tackle dryland training in the off-season. His training of choice? Roller skis.

"Roller skis are the No. 1 most important training tool for the Nordic sports," says Dettling. "Not only do they help keep you in top shape, they also help maintain a good relationship to the technique that is so critical in the sport."

"While professional Nordic athletes spend over 50 per cent of their time training on roller skis, even the casual citizen athlete will roller ski in the off-season to maintain fitness and technique."

Dettling, who lives in the Victoria area, roller skis on a 10-kilometre loop around Victoria International Airport to prepare for the winter season. "This path is very smooth, offers a modest hill or two, and is safe in that it is separate from vehicular traffic," he says.



Christoph Dettling roller skiing in Victoria. Photo: Gottfried Esch

Ski Clubs continued on page 12



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Ski Clubs *continued from page 11.*

VI BIATHLON CLUB *(continued)*

In preparation for the winter season, VI Biathlon is offering programming for both children and adults. For the kids, there is the Biathlon Bears, a structured program set up by biathlon's governing body, Biathlon Canada.

The club will host a Masters Clinic sometime in January, and several official "try biathlon" days where members of the public can try shooting rifles on the range near Raven Lodge.

"Individuals are also free to contact us at vibiathlonclub@gmail.com if they want to set something up."

VI RIDERS FREESTYLE CLUB

The VI Riders are offering a new 10-week freestyle snowboard training program, for either Saturday only or Saturday and Sunday.

Riders must be comfortable turning both ways, have boarded on all types of terrain and be willing to spend some time in the Terrain Park. The club is always looking for volunteers.

For more information, please e-mail info@viriders.ca.

Photo: Oscar Grubwieser



VISAS Racing Team at the Herb Bradley Annual Fundraiser.

VANCOUVER ISLAND SOCIETY FOR ADAPTIVE SNOWSPORTS

VISAS is preparing for its annual Winter Snowsports Festival Jan. 4-8, 2015 at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

The Festival is an annual event offered to people with disabilities who would like to expand their horizons and learn a new sport.

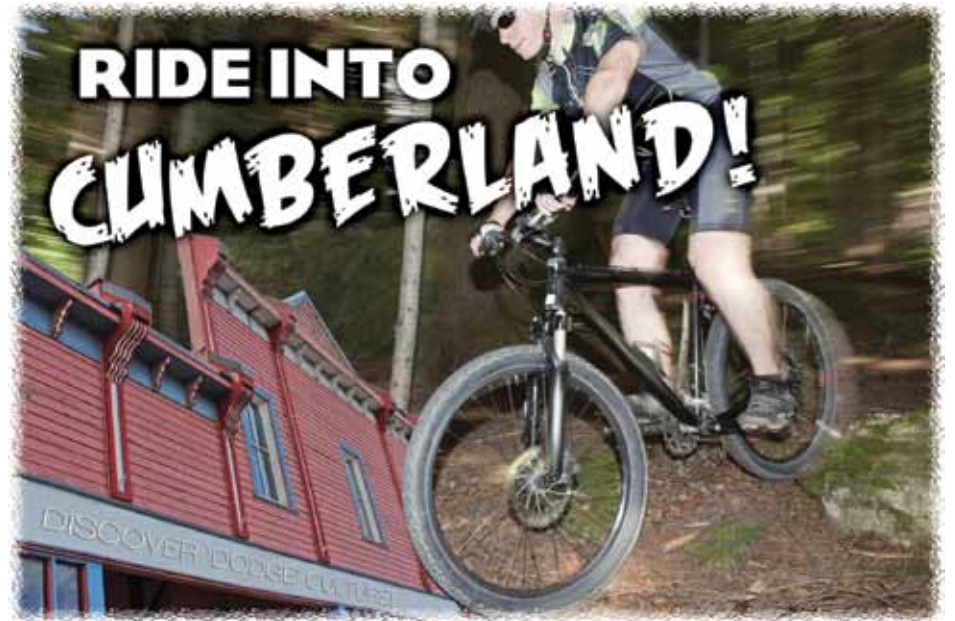
The Society also offers beginner lessons in downhill or cross country skiing and snowboarding as well as a "ski improvement" session for those with some experience.

The Society and the Resort also jointly host a week-long Canadian Forces Veterans Learn to Ski Clinic in February. The Clinic provides an opportunity for disabled members of the Canadian Forces to return to a sport they may once have enjoyed or to introduce them to a new winter sport.

The Club also hosts the annual Herb Bradley Pepsi Challenge, their main fundraising event, traditionally the second Sunday in February. The Event honours the late Herb Bradley, who brought skiing to generations of youth no matter their physical limitations.

Teams comprising two sponsor team members and one athlete with a disability compete on a course run on a gentle slope. The event concludes with a meal and awards.

For more information, check out the VISAS website at www.visasweb.ca.



Discovering Cumberland

Mount Washington Alpine Resort sits in the middle of several communities: Courtenay, Comox, Campbell River and some smaller burghs in between.

But it is Cumberland, nestled at the foot of the Beaufort Mountain Range a 20-minute drive from the Resort that has truly adopted Mount Washington as its own.

"The mountain crowd has certainly supported us," says Vig Schulman, who with his partner Melissa owns the entertainment business Cumberland Village Works.

"We have a lot of people who live in Cumberland that work on the mountain."

The Village has a lot to offer both employees and people who are looking for some variety during their ski holidays, says Kathryn West (Chung), owner and editor of Currently Cumberland, an online

newsletter detailing the goings on in the village.

For families with children there are two parks with new playground equipment, several eateries and numerous events and outdoor activities too.

"Even when you get beautiful blue bird days you don't want to be out skiing all the time," she said.

"You can ski in the morning and mountain bike in the afternoon."

Mount Washington's connection with outdoor adventure sports is like a match made in heaven.

"It's a ski town," she says. "Even if you show up on a Saturday and it snowed 15 or 20 centimetres the night before you're liable to see a sign on doors saying 'gone skiing'. And you can't get upset because we're a ski town."

The famous Auchterlonie's Bakery is still a draw, and the Waverly Hotel "is one of the best venues in the Comox Valley. They're really forward thinking as a pub."

Cumberland continued on page 17.



Cumberland is steeped in bike culture.

Photo: Neil Havers

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PRIVATE RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

Resort Associations, a BC Grown Solution

As Resort Communities around British Columbia gain traction, Organizations trying to balance the needs of business owners, retail and residential owners are gaining in profile.

Resort Associations were designed to bring all stakeholders to the table for a common cause: to encourage the development, maintenance and operation of a mountain resort area.

They are governed for the most part under the Mountain Resort Association Act, and collect fees from members to help pay for common marketing and advertising.

The first such Association was formed at Whistler in 1979 and is known as Tourism Whistler.

The non-profit, member-based marketing and sales organization was formed at the behest of the Provincial Government at the same time the Provincial Development Plan

called for Whistler to build a tourist resort village.

The Whistler Resort Association was formed to market and promote Whistler using monies garnered from members.

Although there are several Resort Associations around B.C. now, most are modeled after Whistler in some fashion, says Christopher Nicolson, president of Tourism Sun Peaks (Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Association).

Founded in 1996, Tourism Sun Peaks is a non-profit, member-based organization with 1,100 members representing accommodation, attractions, restaurants retail and homeowners. Running the Resort Association was one of Nicolson's

first roles at Sun Peaks, says the former Courtenay resident.

There are positives and negatives to operating a Resort Association, says Nicolson, because they represent diverse interests of their members. "It is a challenge to try and address individual ideas," he says. "The power of a Resort Association is if you can corral all those diverse interests and point them in one direction."

In the winter, the interests of the "lift company", how he refers to the Resort, and accommodation sectors are aligned because they both are successful at getting people up the mountain. Those interests diverge in the off-season, which makes summer more difficult to market.

"As a Destination Marketing Association our primary mandate is trying to drive tourism traffic to the destination, whereas that of the homeowner may be to drive services to the village."

"Strategic planning is critical," he

says. "We work from a strategic plan and an annual plan. We have a Board of Directors and a Marketing Committee" and they are in constant communication with each other in regards to priorities.

Karen Bonell, who was hired in 1998 as Marketing Director at Mount Washington, looked to Sun Peaks' model when she was tasked with putting Tourism Mount Washington together.

"It was on the books as an idea even before I started," said Bonell, who left Mount Washington in 2009 and now runs her own marketing consulting business.

"It was right around the time Deer and Bear Lodge were in the process of construction that it really started to be discussed.

They were talking about the whole village core idea with Deer and Bear Lodge and it was written into the purchase contracts that when there was a Resort Association (membership) would be required," she said.

Resort Associations continued on page 16.

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MOUNT WASHINGTON VILLAGE MAP

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Map courtesy of www.milehigh.ca

Resort Associations

continued from page 13.

That was one of the unique challenges Bonell faced when, around 2000, plans for a Resort Association at Mount Washington became more formalized.

There was no association at the time Deer and Bear Lodges were built, so owners paid little attention to the fine print.

"Because I was new and wanted to learn the ropes, we did a lot of

research. Sun Peaks was a model we looked at but we looked at others too," she said.

"The whole idea behind it was to enhance the marketing effort the Resort could do. Because the Resort really is looking after the operation, the facility for outdoor adventure.

"We wanted to look at something that would complement what the Resort could accomplish but look at it from a destination perspective so we could attract more visitors off-

season."

Bonell was all set to roll out Tourism Mount Washington in 2004, but then the weather didn't cooperate and the Resort didn't open that year. The plan was shelved for a couple of seasons, until everyone could recover.

Membership aside from Deer and Bear Lodges and Beaufort Heights was voluntary at first.

When the freehold changeover was offered to owners a few years ago, one of the stipulations was that the

owners must become a member of Tourism Mount Washington, which has helped boost membership.

Although no longer involved with the Resort except as a customer and Chair of the Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society, Bonell said she still feels the Resort Association was the right direction to go. "I think it's really important to have Resort Associations because Resorts are so unique as a product."

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John Trimmer

continued from page 2.

"It's a great place to live and it's a great Club to work with. There's a lot of great people, it's a great organization. It's really family oriented and a lot of fun."

John says he lost count of how many kids he has coached a long time ago, but that a lot of kids have become a second family.

"There have been so many kids. One cool thing about being in this place for so long, I'll have people ski by that I coached 15 or 20 years ago, or parents I've known for so long."

John finds working with the athletes who join the Mount Washington Ski Club rewarding, not just because of the work they put into their sport, but because of how their experiences with the Ski Club have shaped their lives.

When he is not coaching, mentoring, booking ski club events, liaising with Mount Washington, volunteering

as a director with Vancouver Island Mountain Sport Society, or taking care of Club sponsorships, John can be found on his mountain bike or his road bike, increasingly (in the summer anyway) on the golf course or (in winter) back in the hockey rink, where he picked up his boyhood sport again and plays recreationally.

In October 2014, the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club honoured John with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

"I was very shocked to receive the award," Trimmer said. "I have been lucky to work with kids all these years. They are some of my favourite people; they have a freedom and genuineness about them that seems to be missing in most adults."

While Trimmer is humble about receiving his award, others say it is well deserved.

"I have known John for most of his coaching years, in fact he coached my kids," Ralph Sorensen said. "He has always been giving of himself. He exemplifies the Paul Harris Fellowship."

Cumberland

continued from page 12.

Schulman and his partner book the live music at the Waverly and have worked hard over the last decade to make Cumberland a go-to venue for musicians. He sees a shift in the kind of people the village appeals to.

"It has been attracting a younger base for the last decade or so," Schulman said.

The Waverley Hotel was named one of the Best Apres Ski bars by Ski Canada magazine in 2009. "Fab live music mecca," the judges noted.

The hotel is also known for its good eats. The Bluegrass Brunches on Sundays are popular, offering delectable brunch with live music.

Right across the street from the Waverly is the Riding Fool Hostel, in a fully restored 1895 heritage building. The Riding Fool has been an integral cog in the development of Cumberland as ski central for lifties and other staffers at Mount Washington.

At the front of the same building, Dodge City Cycles does a brisk business of mountain bike sales and rentals.

This kind of symbiotic relationship is another way Cumberland has built its reputation, says Schulman. "We work with a lot of the other businesses in the community and with the village itself. I think that's why Cumberland has that unique flavour for people that go to the mountain."

Snow Making

continued from page 1.

Snow guns at Whistler and Cypress mountains are part of those resorts' legacies from the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, held at Whistler and Vancouver, he added.

"Over the years we have looked at snow making a couple of times. It requires significant investment. We have to weigh that investment into the fact we've only needed snowmaking a few times in the course of our history," Sharpe said.

"We need to review and make a decision whether snowmaking is something we want to do and whether it's something we can do. Everything we've looked at in the last six to eight months shows we can make snow and we do have the water for it."

The irony with more customers wanting snowmaking is it is usually used to have a guaranteed opening date.

"It's not for making snow only when you don't have it," Gibson said. "Our average opening day over 35 years is the middle of December. Two years ago, three years ago we had a November opening and that was completely out of the norm." Gibson added.

"Expectations need to be clear on what advantages snowmaking can give a resort, and what it cannot deliver," Sharpe said.

"Snowmaking doesn't get you from Sunrise all the way to the Hawk Chairlift. By putting snowmaking in you're giving people the opportunity to ski, but it's limited terrain, most likely one run."



Connectivity

continued from page 4.

While Investel has roots in Vancouver, Coastline Broadcasting was attractive because it's compact, Unrau said.

"The consumer market is really expecting bundles. When you order services into your home, when you buy from any other candidate, you buy Internet, phone and cable. We want to be in that space as well," he said.

"The easiest way to become competent in how cable television and broadcasting works is to buy a company that does it. The most affordable way to do that is to buy a small company," he explained.

"We're going to work to make this the largest independent television service provider," Benoit Laliberté, Managing Director of Investel Capital Corporation, told the Comox Valley Echo. Laliberté's vision is to bring services into Courtenay and Comox, Victoria and Vancouver in the spring of 2015, then nationally.

Telephone Navigata-Westel already services Panorama Mountain Village in southeastern B.C. with Internet, infrastructure and telephone services through a partner, Unrau said. "We do intend to launch triple-play services in various markets across Canada," he added.

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STAYPLAYSHOPDINE

Continued from page 19.



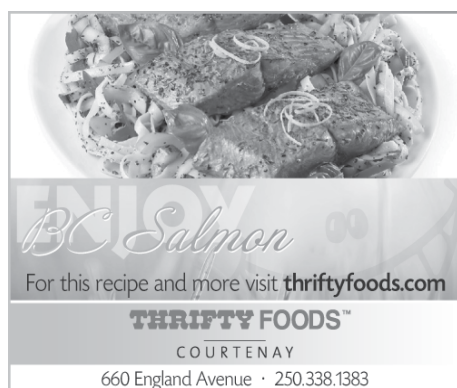
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In Profile: Susan Quinn

A writer's perspective on Mount Washington and the Marmot newspaper.

The realization hit Susan with the Spring/ Summer 2014 edition of the Marmot, when she visited with Luke DeBoer and his family at Paradise Ridge. His father was the first caretaker of Paradise Ridge, when it first opened 19 years ago.

Susan started writing for the Marmot 20 years ago, before Paradise Ridge opened, and Luke wasn't a teenager yet!

It was sometime in 1994, following the closure of the Comox District Free Press, when Rick Gibson asked her if she would be available to write news articles for the Marmot, his newsletter about Mount Washington.

At the time it was a full-colour brochure-style publication that came out several times a year. Over time it transitioned to a tabloid-style

newspaper, which now comes out twice a year.

In her own voice...

Quinn's Personal Marmot Milestones

- I have written articles for 43 issues of the Marmot.
- I have written about every chairlift replacement and improvement.
- I have seen the Resort expand from a single Day Lodge to include the Bradley Development Centre, Raven Lodge, world-class biathlon range, and a lot of residential development.
- When I first started writing for the Marmot the road was still gravel.
- I once interviewed a resident cat in one of the units, and made another cat jealous.



Susan Quinn (left) receiving the Gzowski Award from son John Gzowski.

- I've never seen a marmot in the wild, only during a tour of the Marmot Breeding Centre.
- I've outlasted three (or is it four?) Directors of Public Relations.

- I've retained my passion for Mount Washington since I first learned to ski with the other Trimmer (Graham, not John) in 1988.

Quinn continued on page 21



Enjoy the alpine and nordic snow sports at Mount Washington this winter!

JOHN DUNCAN MP
 Vancouver Island North
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Committed to Serving the Vancouver Island North Constituents

published by March 2015. This fellowship is awarded to one Canadian journalist per year, and she is honoured to receive it this year.

Writing for the Marmot continues to be a passion for Susan.

"I have always been a mediocre skier at best, and after having surgery on both knees over the years I admit I am no longer confident enough to get back on the downhill slopes. I enjoy snowshoeing and keep meaning to try Nordic skiing again." she added.

"I've been to the Outback on the Boomerang Chair, and it really was a Boomerang: it took me down the face and right back up again. I went with my camera right before the chairlift opened."

In 1998 Susan earned her private pilots' licence, after spending a decade flying in the back seat of military aircraft like the Snowbirds and a CF-18 fighter jet.

"My favourite view of Mount Washington is from the cockpit of a Cessna-172 airplane, on one of those infamous blue sky days, when the peak is cloaked in a shimmering coat of white, the air is calm and I can see all the way to the Coastal Range Mountains on the mainland." mused Susan.

"Aside from the scenery, I love the people at Mount Washington."

Every issue she looks forward to meeting interesting people; those who work on the mountain in all sorts of capacities, people who live there year-round, people who have been involved in the Resort since the beginning, or who have skied, lived, stayed there for more than a decade.

"I appreciate those who willingly open their office doors and their homes to me, and who spend time speaking with me on the telephone when I call about a story. My life is so much richer for this experience."

PUBLISHER NOTE - We have been extremely fortunate to have 'Susie' be a part of our Marmot family. It is us that are the benefactors of her commitment! Here's to 43 more issues, better yet, lets shoot for a hundred! Thanks!!! - Rick Gibson

Snowshoeing at Croteau Lake
 Photo: Tim Penny



Quinn continued from page 20.

As well as writing articles for the Marmot twice a year, Susan is also a community newspaper journalist.

"When I started working with the Comox Valley Record in 1995, I told them I was committed to a freelance project called the Marmot, and that I would still be writing for that publication. They said OK," quipped Quinn.

She has since moved on to the Nanaimo News Bulletin for a year, then the Alberni Valley News, where she has been editor since 2006.

In that time, Susan has won numerous writing, photography and layout awards, culminating with a national journalism award in September.

Susan is the worthy recipient of the 2014 recipient of the Peter Gzowski Life Literacy Fellowship.

She will be working on a series of adult literacy stories that will be

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- Look Out - 500m
- Tree Beard's Trail - 1.5k
- Snow Paws - 1.5km
- Crooked Creek - 2km
- Finger Glades - 4km
- ◆ Great Big View - 3km
- ◆ Rossiter's Rise - 3km

SNOWSHOE RESPONSIBILITY CODE

THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF RISK THAT COMMON SENSE AND PERSONAL AWARENESS CAN HELP REDUCE. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU DECIDE TO USE THE TRAILS, ALWAYS SHOW COURTESY TO OTHERS. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE CODE LISTED BELOW AND SHARE WITH OTHERS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SAFE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE.

1 Always check posted trail conditions.	5 Do not remove or move trail markers.
2 Please obey all posted signs, stay off closed areas.	6 Check both ways before crossing a trail.
3 Please DO NOT tread on the grass tracks or in the middle of the main line. Snowshoe on the outside of ski trails.	7 Do not litter. Take out what you pack in. Respect all property.
4 Display trail pass for marked trails.	8 Report all accidents.

Know the code - Be Safety Conscious It is your Responsibility



LEAVING EXTINCTION BEHIND

Ten short years ago the extinction of the Vancouver Island marmot in the wild seemed imminent.



Vancouver Island marmots were already extinct in more than 70% of their former range, and fewer than 30 marmots were known to remain in the wild.

The last survivors were on only four mountains, in the Nanaimo Lakes region just west of Nanaimo, and at one isolated colony at Mt Washington. Uniquely Canadian, found only on Vancouver Island, the Vancouver Island marmot was all but a memory in

the wild.

Fifty-five marmots had been brought into captivity from 1997-2002 for their protection, and as a preservation measure for the species.

A captive breeding program began with the hope that we had acted in time to rescue the wild population using captive-born marmots as recruits. It was a frightening process.

An entire species, held on by a thread. It was a slow start. The first

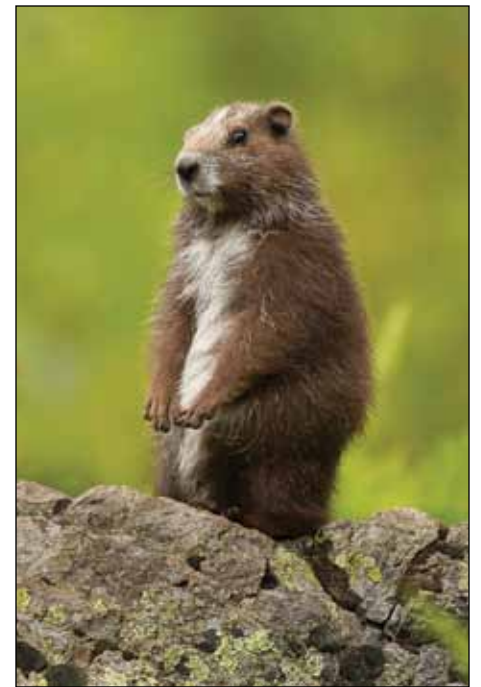
release of four captive-bred marmots was unsuccessful. But we did not give up!

The next season nine marmots were released, and following that, fourteen marmots were released. And a wonderful thing happened.

As more marmots became established, their successes increased. More pups were born, fledgling colonies turned into functional colonies and the marmots were able to compensate for the natural predation occurrences, and they began to thrive.

Since then, the number of marmots in the Nanaimo Lakes region has climbed from less than fifteen marmots to an estimated 150-200 marmots, allowing the marmot crew to focus recovery efforts on rebuilding the extinct colonies in Strathcona Park.

This was also a slow and sometimes frustrating process. It seemed as soon as a breeding aged pair became established, our hopes of a litter would be dashed when one of them would be lost to a predator.



But, as we experienced in the south, the more released marmots that became successfully established, the greater the odds for their overall success.

There are now marmots on at least eight mountains at previously extinct colony sites in Strathcona Park, in addition to Mt Washington. And this spring, litters were born at three new breeding sites in the Park at Flower Ridge, Marble Meadows and Sunrise Lake!

Another first was a marmot sighting called into us this summer by Walter Moar, who spotted two Vancouver

ADOPT A MARMOT!

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.

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Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

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Island marmots on Mt. Frink in Strathcona Park. That is the first time marmots have been spotted at Mt. Frink since the collapse of the colonies in that region decades ago. When you go hiking in Strathcona Park next summer, be sure to keep your eye out for one of Canada's most endangered and rare mammals, the Vancouver Island marmot.

You may become one of the very few people in the world to have actually spotted our elusive Canadian marmot in the wild.

If you are less adventurous but would still like to see one of our rare Canadian marmots, the best place to spot one in the wild is at Mt Washington Resort, where they are often seen frequenting the boulders at Hawk, Invitation and Rick's Ride.

Or if you are only on the Island for a quick visit, drop by the Visitors Centre in Courtenay (just off exit 117 of the Inland Island Hwy.) where there is a taxidermied Vancouver Island marmot and full mock-up of a marmot burrow the kids can climb inside. Then you too can say, "I saw a Vancouver Island marmot!"

Story: Victoria Jackson
Marmot Images: Jared Hobbs

If you would like to help to recover our endangered Canadian marmot visit www.marmots.org and join the Adopt-a-Marmot Club.



Don McRae, MLA
Comox Valley



Constituency Office:
437 5th Street, Courtenay, BC V9N 1J7
Tel: 250-703-2422
Fax: 250-703-2425
Email: don.mcrae.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.donmmcraemla.bc.ca

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

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

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

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

Underground burrows provide shelter from the elements and protection from predators. Typically 30-45 cms across, burrows range in size and purpose. Small, simple burrows may be used for a quick escape from a predator and larger more complex burrows are used for hibernation and birthing and may have numerous passages and exits. One excavated hibernation burrow measured five meters in length with the sleeping chamber located one meter underground.



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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:**

Information: rick@themarmot.ca
Editorial: Susan Quinn
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- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished, 6 appliances
- Rainscreen Technology
- Live-in Caretaker
- Underbuilding Parking
- Common Hot Tub
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom, some w/Lock-offs

212	3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner	\$319,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
304	3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner Slopeside	\$299,900
411	3 Bdrm 1013 Sq. Ft. Corner Top Floor	\$399,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	



Ptarmigan Ridge

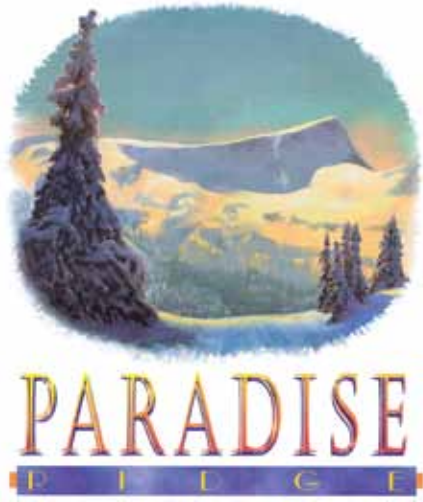


Features Include:

- 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

209	One bdrm, facing ski runs	\$99,900
301	Top floor Corner Unit Facing ski runs	\$118,500
305	Top floor, facing ski runs	\$132,500
309	Top floor, facing ski runs	\$109,900
312	Corner unit <i>FREEHOLD</i> Facing Strathcona Park	\$149,900



Features Include:

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

109	4 Bedroom 1299 Sq Ft Corner Park View	\$292,500
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
110	2 Bedroom Facing Strathcona Park	\$157,500
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
111	3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	\$249,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
214	4 Bedroom, spacious Park View Suite	\$199,900
407	2 Bedroom Facing ski runs and Strathcona Park	\$199,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
506	3 Bedroom Penthouse facing Strathcona Park and ski runs	\$179,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	



DEER LODGE

AT MT. WASHINGTON

Features Include:

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

103	3 Bedroom, deluxe suite	\$289,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
305	2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside	\$205,000
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
306	2 Bedroom lockoff, slopeside	\$149,900
312	3 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park	\$249,900
403	3 Bedroom Penthouse Corner	\$424,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	



Features Include:

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

111	3 Bedroom slopeside view	\$220,000
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
202	3 Bedroom facing ski runs and park	\$239,900
	<i>FREEHOLD WOW View!</i>	
214	2 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	\$189,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
302	3 Bedroom, 1600 sq ft Penthouse, slopeside	\$269,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	
308	3 Bedroom, facing ski runs	\$239,900
	<i>FREEHOLD</i>	



Top Floor 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 - \$139,999



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



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



MOUNT WASHINGTON PROPERTIES FOR SALE

CHALETS • CONDOMINIUMS • TOWNHOUSES • BUILDING LOTS



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. **\$159,000**



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**



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**



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 **\$324,900**
Four Bedroom Freehold **\$424,900**



Special Family Retreat!

Looking for that special family retreat on Vancouver Island? Perched on the benchlands directly overlooking Strathcona Park is this 3 bedroom west coast custom built home. Enjoy the spacious bright living room with vaulted ceilings and real hardwood flooring. Concept kitchen includes granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Relax in the 6' jet tub in the large master suite. This home is built on a larger than average lot with lots of room for parking on the paved driveway. Less than a 15 minute drive to the Island Highway means easy access to either the Comox Valley or Campbell River. All this and it is located at Mount Washington Alpine Resort where you have access to countless winter activities and endless summer biking and hiking trails. **\$289,900**



A Rare Opportunity!

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

301 Top Floor, 3 bedroom **\$374,900**
Sunny slopeside **FREEHOLD**
306 Top Floor, 3 bedroom **\$289,900**
Strathcona Park view



Excellent 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**



Two for the price of one!

Located in the Alpine Village a few minutes stroll from parking and easy access to the slopes. The upper suite offers 3 bedrooms and sleeps 11 while the lower suite sleeps 7. Or open the adjoining door and share the whole space for your friends and family! This is a semi detached chalet and the location is very quiet. Keep one suite for yourself and rent the other out? Basement area also available for storage. **\$349,900**



For over 25 years Rick Gibson has sold close to 90% of all real estate on Mount Washington. That's because he knows the market better than anyone else.



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**

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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 repeat rental business. **\$399,000**



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! **\$424,900**



Large Family Chalet!

Looking for that large family chalet on Mount Washington? Enjoy 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**



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**



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**



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**



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**



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**



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 driveway, 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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*Source: Vancouver Island Real Estate Board

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Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell	Location	Unit #	Bdrms	List Price	List	Sell
910 Cruikshank Ridge		Lot	\$75,900			Snowbird	4	3	\$149,900		
Cruikshank Ridge	850	Lot	\$84,900			Bear Lodge	202	2	\$159,900		
Beaufort Heights	969	Lot	\$99,900			Blueberry Hill	108	3	\$159,900		
Beaufort Heights	959	Lot	\$99,900			Mountainside Lodge	402	2	\$169,900		
Deer Lodge	215	2	\$105,900			Deer Lodge	410	2	\$179,900		
Ptarmigan Ridge	304	1	\$114,000			Paradise Ridge	308	3	\$184,900		
Paradise Ridge	305	3	\$119,000			Bear Lodge	201	2	\$189,900		
11 Nordic Road		Lot	\$119,900			Blueberry Hill	303	2	\$189,900		
Ptarmigan Ridge	204	1	\$122,900			Bear Lodge	214	2	\$192,500		
Ptarmigan Ridge	305	1	\$127,500			Bear Lodge	402	2	\$199,900		
695 Castle Craig	203	2	\$127,900			Creekside	101	3	\$199,900		
Ptarmigan Ridge	302	1	\$134,900			Bear Lodge	210	2	\$214,900		
691 Castle Craig	12	2	\$139,900			Bear Lodge	105	2	\$219,900		
Deer Lodge	201	2	\$144,900			Bear Lodge	310	2	\$219,900		
Deer Lodge	313	2	\$144,900			Bear Lodge	205	2	\$224,900		
Paradise Ridge	113	2	\$144,900			Creekside House	102	3	\$224,900		
Bear Lodge	102	2	\$149,900			Creekside	201	3	\$224,900		
Bear Lodge	208	1	\$149,900			Blueberry Hill	201	3	\$224,995		
Bear Lodge	301	2	\$149,900			Blueberry Hill	312	3	\$249,000		
Blueberry Hill	216	2	\$149,900			Paradise Ridge	501	3	\$264,900		
Deer Lodge	207	2	\$149,900			Clinton Wood	915	4	\$284,900		
Deer Lodge	210	2	\$149,900			1088 Meadow Lane		4	\$285,000		
Paradise Ridge	302	3	\$149,900			931 Clinton Wood	B	3	\$439,900		