

The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot



Mountain Biking is Back!

Trails re-opening on Mount Washington

Mike Manara is excited about mountain biking returning to Mount Washington Alpine Resort this summer.

Manara, the Resort's Snow School Director, is in charge of the mountain bike trails while Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations and Marketing, is looking after the operational side of mountain biking. The trails are due to open in mid-July.

Manara is also a mountain biker. It has been a way of life for Manara since he lived and worked in Jasper in the late 1990s. "I started riding over 20 years ago. Like a lot of people, I'm a real recreational enthusiast. I'm not a competitive rider. I just really like riding my bike."

Manara moved to Cumberland in 2001 because of its reputation for mountain biking.

"There was already a small community of people riding bikes, maybe 10 to 12," he said. As President of United Riders of Cumberland (UROC) for the past seven years, Manara said his mountain biking experience in the Comox Valley was gained "through the school of hard knocks."

He learned a lot about the village, the sport, trail building and community building. "One

of the proudest accomplishments I've had in mountain biking is to be involved in so many world-class events," both in Cumberland and at Mount Washington, he said.

He is also proud of the work that went into signing a land access agreement with Timber-West Forest Corporation on Jan. 31 this year, which allows legal access to the trails around Cumberland. The agreement is key to promoting Cumberland as a mountain biking destination, and it provides an opportunity to market the region in a broader sense.

"The Comox Valley is one of the few regions that would rival a place like Whistler where you have some lift access riding [at Mount Washington], you've got Cumberland, Forbidden Plateau, Hornby Island, Campbell River. You've got all this riding within 45 minutes of your door-step."

Development of mountain biking at Mount Washington will take place over the next three years. The first year will be to assess what the trails are like after four years of dormancy, and getting four or five of the previous eight in shape for a mid-July opening.

Some of the best trail makers in Cumberland have been hired by the Resort to work on

Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



Mike Minara, an avid biker, couldn't be happier seeing mountain biking returning to Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Mount Washington's trails, he said. "Everybody we've hired has built trail in the local area. I think people when they start to see the product and see there's been lots of mountain bikers involved in the design, they'll be happy."

Continued on page 15

VALHALLA PURE
OUTFITTERS

**JOIN THE
ADVENTURE**

THE BEST BRANDS. THE BEST PRICES

2885 CLIFFE AVE, COURTENAY
250-871-3963 | **VPO.CA**

f

**Local
Photographers'
Perspectives**
See Page 3



INSIDE...

Pacific Group's Long Range Plans for Mount Washington	2
Summer 2016 Expectations	2
Photographer's Views	3
Winter 2015/16 In Review	4
Snowmaking Expansion	4
In Profile: Rod Raycroft	5
Saving Cumberland Forest	5
Mount Washington Hiking Trail Map	6
In Profile: Strathcona Wilderness Institute	7
In Profile: Brian Scott	7
Strathcona Park Trail Map	8-9
Stay, Play, Shop & Dine	10-11
Accommodation Guide	12-13
Mount Washington Village Map	14
News In Brief	16-17
"New Hope" Marmots	18
Flores Island: Seaside Home For Sasquatch?	19
Mount Washington Fire Protection Planning	19
Mount Washington Real Estate Guide	20-23





Photo: Neil Havers



Pacific Group's Four Season Plans

Mount Washington Alpine Resort has weathered a solid winter under new ownership with Pacific Group Resorts Inc., and is making small steps toward turning the Resort into a full four-season facility.

Pacific Group Resorts is a large company that likes to operate on the local level. They operate four ski and snowboard resorts and four golf courses in the United States. They are an affiliate of Pacific Group, known for their planned

base facilities and villages in numerous resort communities, including Whistler.

One only has to look at Wintergreen Resort, one of PGRI's newest American properties in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to see the

possibilities of PGRI's vision.

When PGRI bought Wintergreen Resort in Virginia (Feb. 2015), seller James C. Justice II expressed confidence in both the Company and its real estate arm, EPR Properties.

"EPR and Pacific Group Resorts are experts in the ski business," said Justice II, President and CEO for James C. Justice Companies. "They are going to be able to execute the long-term vision for property owners, members and guests of Wintergreen. We're excited about our partnership and the future development possibilities of Grassy Ridge."

Grassy Ridge is a 400-acre site beside the ski resort that Justice retained in the sale. Wintergreen is an 11,000-acre, four-season resort located 45 minutes southwest of Charlottesville, Virginia

Wintergreen continues to strengthen its four-season reputation under new ownership. "I've been in the industry for over 30 years and I've

known the leadership of Pacific Group Resorts for over 20 years," Wintergreen's General Manager Hank Thiess said at the time of the purchase. "They have tons of experience in this industry at some of the most iconic resorts in the West. My management team and I are excited for the possibilities this partnership could bring to our members and guests."

At Mount Washington, PGRI has left day-to-day operation of the Resort to the management team already in place. They've made a few changes, like re-opening the Mountain Bike Park for July 2016, and making changes to the food and beverage facilities.

More announcements can be expected for the winter, says Don Sharpe, Director of Business Operations and Marketing. Until then, one only has to look at the possibilities to see what's in store for Mount Washington.

Photo: Neil Havers



TOP-NOTCH CUSTOMER SERVICE

Whether you are in need of a new GM vehicle or Parts & Service for your current vehicle, we're here to assist you with any of your automotive needs!



Welcome to Our Family



DL8379

www.brianmclean.ca
2145 Cliffe Avenue • Courtenay
250-334-2425

The Mountain Bike Park will reopen at Mount Washington Alpine Resort this summer, and that's good news to the Resort and the mountain biking community alike.

"Our new ownership played a part in encouraging us to look at all the things we should be doing up here," Resort Director of Business Operations Don Sharpe said.

"Biking was on their list of things we should be doing, and we're happy to be doing that. There's a lot of people up here excited that it's back."

After a heavy snow winter, work didn't begin on the trails until early June, but Sharpe said opening day would be sometime in mid-July. Chairlift access will be available on the Hawk for trail access.

"It's going to be up to Mother Nature and how much work needs to be done." Sharpe said 2016 is year one of a three-year bike trail development plan.

The Bike Park will be open full time from mid-July until Labour Day, then weekends until the third week in September.

The other major change visitors to Mount Washington Alpine Resort will see this summer is a swap between Fresh and Altitude in the Alpine Lodge. Fresh will be moving across the foyer to where the Altitude Retail Store is right now, and a new food and beverage facility will open in the fall of 2016.

A new retail shop will open before winter in the space where Fresh has been, Sharpe said.

The chairlift will open for scenic mile-high rides, including special Ride and Dine and Sunset Ride and Dine features this summer.

Other activities available at the Resort include disc golf, mini-golf, the bungee trampoline and swing sets. There will be a bike shop and retail shop open, and Ted's will be open for post-activity food and libations.

Popular events like Tapped (beer, food and music, July 15) and the Alpine Wine Festival (Aug. 12) are also returning, and families will want to check out Canada Day, the Family Scavenger Hunt and the Inukshuk Building Contest.

The Resort continues to be a popular spot for weddings when the weather warms up, with 27 booked for the summer season, Sharpe said.

Raven Lodge is used exclusively for weddings in the summer, and the Resort has created several spots around the Alpine Lodge that are suitable for ceremonies and photos too.

The Vancouver Island Mountain Centre is open for groups, and is often a choice for wedding parties. It has become a popular place for quilting, yoga and other retreats at well. It features stunning views of Strathcona Provincial Park and the mountains beyond, as well as an indoor gymnasium.

There are a number of rental options surrounding Mount Washington for people looking for a summer getaway to the Comox Valley and Campbell River. "Rent is cheaper here than in the Comox Valley so we're a good hub spot for people to stay and do other activities," Sharpe said.

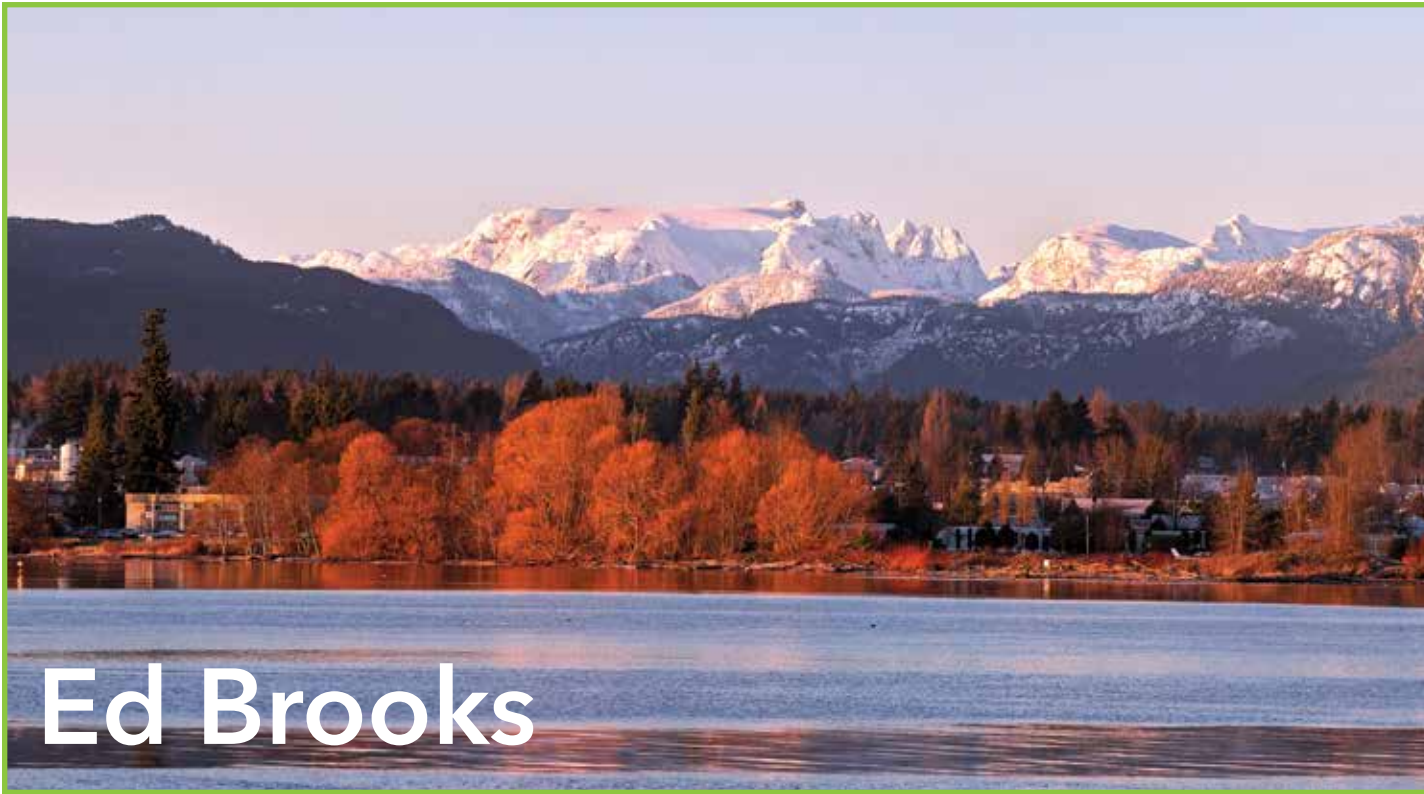


Photo: Ed Brooks

Photographers Interpret the Comox Valley.

Ed Brooks

It could be said that for Ed Brooks, photography is all about opportunity.

When Brooks was a teenager in the early 1960s in Prince George, he was writing a column for the high school newspaper when someone handed him a camera and asked him to take photos at school events. That led him to the Prince George Progress, which ran his column when he was a senior. "I did spend a fair bit of time in the darkroom because I was out of the way. I began helping out there," he said.

Continued on page 15



Photo: Kerry Dawson

Kerry Dawson

Kerry Dawson is a tutor. Trained as a biologist (she has a Masters in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University), she shares her passion for science with her students at Comox Academic Tutoring during the day.

Once she punches the clock to end her workday, however, Dawson focuses on the natural beauty around her: always with a camera in hand.

Dawson has been photographing stunning landscapes and wildlife photography since she worked with BC Parks and then as a grizzly bear tour guide on the mainland coast in the late 1990s.

"I've always loved nature, wildlife, scenery. Lately I've been getting into conceptual portraiture," she said.

Continued on page 15

Stay & Explore in the Comox Valley

Adventure packages starting at:

only \$109/night*

Visit our website to view all our packages

*price is per person, based on double occupancy, some restriction apply

follow

**OLD
HOUSE
HOTEL & SPA**

Book your getaway today!
1 888-703-0202
www.OldHouseVillage.com



Photo: Neil Havers



Forecast: Snowmaking

Snowmaking will be in Mount Washington Alpine Resort's future, after a successful test run in 2015-16.

Pacific Group Resorts Inc. is considered a snowmaking industry leader in the United States. Its Wintergreen Resort, located in central Virginia, for example, has a state-of-the-art computerized snowmaking system that can cover 100% of its terrain, using 400 snow guns and 45 weather stations. One snowmaker can control all the snowguns in a computerized system using one computer terminal.

Mount Washington tested two different types of snowguns from different companies over the winter. They were both placed near the Alpine Lodge and their efficacy monitored. "It proved it could be done," said Don Sharpe, Resort Director of Business Operations.

Mount Washington will start setting up

a system next year, Sharpe said. "It's going to stage in over the next five or six years. We'll put pipes in the ground this summer and it will start somewhere in the beginner terrain this winter."

The Resort will test some other areas midway up the slopes as well, something like the Coaster, to gauge performance at different elevations.

"As it grows we'll give it significant coverage. We want to make sure we're doing it right before we actually go ahead."

One thing needed to make snow early in the season is water, as manufactured snow is made from water mixed with compressed air. Mount Washington has plenty of water, says Sharpe.

"We have licences for water use, and that's another thing that will grow. We have more than enough water to service us right now."

The Resort was in negotiations with its preferred company to supply more snowguns for next season as the Marmot went to press.

Photo courtesy Mount Washington Alpine Resort



Winter 2015/16 in Review

Mount Washington Alpine Resort's first winter under new ownership couldn't have gone better.

"We were really pleased to have a good winter," said Resort Director of Business Operations Don Sharpe. "We opened on time, we closed on time and had good snow throughout the year. It was perfect: we couldn't have asked for better."

Once Pacific Group Resorts Inc.'s purchase was announced last November, the Company left day-to-day operations to the Management Team already in place at the Resort. "Pacific Group provided us with an opportunity to find out what their expectations are," Sharpe said. The new owners visited Mount Washington several times as the winter season progressed, he added.

"It was really good to get back in the groove of things and not have to worry about if it's going to snow. The last 10 days of the season were epic spring-style conditions with good events going on. It was a good way to end the season." The double diamond Outback opened for the first time in three years, the Boomerang Chairlift getting a good workout all season. "It was awesome to have that back again," Sharpe

said. "It gave our high-end skiers some great terrain to use."

Attendance overall was above average, he added. The growing interest in snowshoeing was just one aspect that contributed to solid numbers. "Snowshoeing was a huge growth area for us and it continues to grow every year," Sharpe said.

While the interest in snowshoeing is growing, Sharpe said the Resort is set for terrain to handle more people on the trails. "We still have to manage it. We groom and put up signs to make it safe. Right now we're at 25 kilometres of terrain, so we've got lots of space for people."

Mount Washington again arranged reciprocal agreements with other resorts like Apex, Revelstoke, Manning Park and Seymour in Vancouver, and saw some brisk trade business this winter. "The biggest users were from Seymour," Sharpe said. "We also know many of our season's pass users went to other locations because they told us."

Although the Resort concluded the winter season in April, and summer started near the end of June, employees weren't just waiting for the snow to melt. The Resort hosted some spring weddings, and made plans to reopen the bike park.

Since 1971
Capital
GLASS

Old Fashioned Service

Accredited Modern Facility

- Lifetime Guarantee on windshield installs
- ICBC and All Private Insurance Claims
- We do all the paperwork for you!



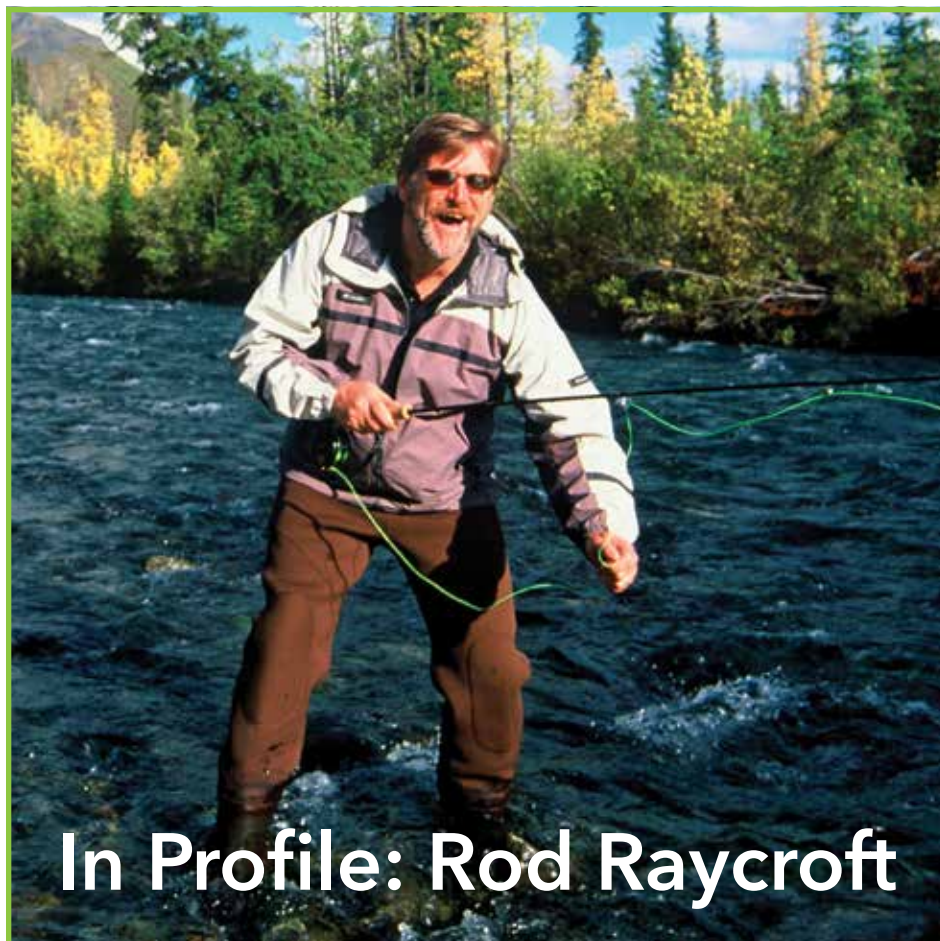
call 24 hrs

250-338-6914

www.capitalglasscourtenay.com - 2760 Moray Ave Courtenay



Photo: Sara Kempner



In Profile: Rod Raycroft

Tourism Mount Washington has hired global tourism professional Rod Raycroft as its new manager.

"Rod stood out as the best choice after a lengthy search spanning the tourism industry," said Ken Armour, President of Tourism Mount Washington.

"We chose Rod because of his demonstrated leadership capabilities and marketing expertise. He is a great fit with our organization and has a deep understanding of both the tourism industry as well as community development," Armour said.

"We are happy that Rod will lead the Association into the future and build the Resort Community into one of the great four-season experiences on Vancouver Island."

Raycroft, a professional photographer and travel destination manager, was working in Germany when he applied for the Tourism Mount Washington job. Although previous jobs had brought him from Yukon Territory to

Vancouver and Victoria, he had never been to Mount Washington before, so flew to the Island to meet with the Board at his own expense.

Raycroft has a background in tourism marketing and destination management. "The other part of my history is with the Federal Government and economic opportunities," he said.

He worked in Yukon Territory developing communication strategies for Yukon Land Claim Agreements, crisis communication for environmental issues, and implemented marketing campaigns in seven countries (including two Yukon Tourism brands).

He has hands-on experience marketing a tourism destination along with individual businesses, trade, airlines and third party partners.

"I have a sense of what it takes to create an economy," he said, and to help a community move forward. It's something he says he will focus on with TMW.

Continued on page 6



Cumberland, nestled at the base of the Beaufort Mountain Range on the east side of Vancouver Island, defines itself as the "Village in the Forest".

The community is surrounded by a coastal Douglas Fir forest rife with flora and fauna, and a system of trails long ago established by both wildlife and outdoor recreational enthusiasts.

However, there is a shadow looming over this idyllic scene: all the unprotected forest is slated for logging.

"The Cumberland Forest is privately owned as part of the legacy of the E&N Railway land transfer from the 1870s that saw over two million acres of land on east Vancouver Island transfer into private hands in exchange for building a railway," says Meaghan Cursons, project coordinator for the Cumberland Community Forest Society.

When logging became a real threat in 2000, community members formed the Society with the intent of buying the land back and returning it to the community for recreational use and

preservation.

"The Cumberland Forest is important to the local community and the broader Comox Valley for many reasons," says Cursons. "It forms part of two watershed systems, both the Trent River and Comox Lake/Puntledge system, the latter of which is the drinking water source for the Comox Valley."

The Cumberland Community Forest Society in 2005 purchased 72 hectares of forest on the south side of the Village of Cumberland for \$1.2 million. The society is trying to buy the forest parcel by parcel.

"The community would like to see this forest have the opportunity to 'retire' from its service as a working forest," says Cursons.

It is an important habitat corridor and home to diverse plant and animals species including blue list species like Red-legged frogs, Small Eared bats and Roosevelt Elk.

"In fact it is worth far more to the community standing than cut, with a vibrant eco-tourism scene on the rise in the Village that draws visitors from near and far."

Continued on page 15

WHALE WATCHING SCUBA DIVING MARINE TOURS SNORKELING

BIG ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

FREE GIFT

BRING THIS COUPON AT TIME OF BOOKING

CAMPBELL RIVER / COURTENAY / COMOX

1-877-800-3483

WE OFFER
ENCOUNTERS
ALL YEAR
ROUND!



MOUNT WASHINGTON ALPINE TRAIL GUIDE



HIKING LEGEND

- VIEW POINT**
- MILE HIGH CHAIRLIFT**
- SERVICE ROAD**
- LODGE/RETAIL**
- PARKING**
- FIRST AID**

Easiest trails

- 1. MEMORY LANE - .07 km** This short trail has a series of benches to honour the lives of staff, family and friends.
- 2. TOP OF THE WORLD - 1.0 km** Enjoy this spectacular sea to sky panorama from the peak of the mountain. This trail is a must do!

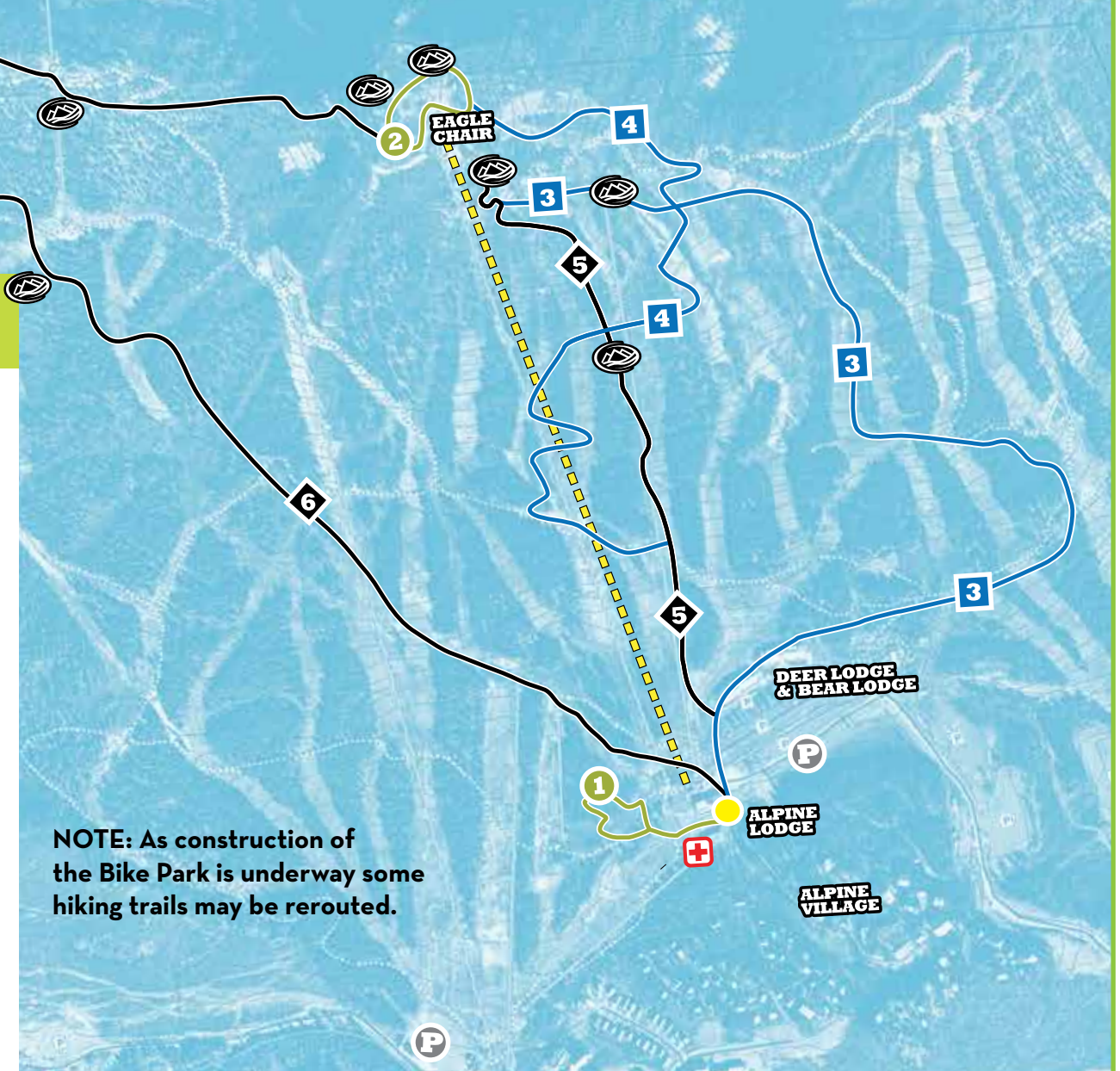
Intermediate trails

- 3. LINTON'S TRAIL - 2.1 km** Following the famous ski run, Linton's Trail provides great awe-inspiring views of Strathcona Provincial Park and Mt. Albert Edwards.
- 4. SEAVIEW - 1.3 km** What was once a bike trail has now become one of the more formidable hikes on the mountain.

Advanced trails

- 5. GIV'ER - 1.1 km** It's steep up and steep down. The most challenging way to get to the peak!
- 6. WEST SUMMIT RIDGE - 4.3 km** This trail winds through the West Basin and then peaks at little Mount Washington before descending through alpine meadows.

NOTE: As construction of the Bike Park is underway some hiking trails may be rerouted.



Rod Raycroft

Continued from page 5

"Mount Washington has a community here. It needs to move forward into a managed approach not only as a destination market but as an economy, and the Board wants to move that way," he said. "I think Mount Washington has great potential. It's an absolutely gorgeous

area."

Working with the Resort to avoid duplication of marketing services will be key to moving forward, he said, "so we can spend our money on other things like community development."

Raycroft operates out of the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre, sharing office space with VIMC manager Bridget Orsetti. He is living on the mountain, and managed to enjoy winter skiing despite starting with Tourism Mount Washington on February 22. "I did experience some of the best skiing I've had in probably a decade," he said. "Europe in the last

couple of years, there was hardly any snow anywhere. Coming here, seeing the 'ghosts' at the top, was absolutely a dream."

Rod is looking forward to the summer season, and what kind of experiences the warm weather will bring. "I'm really hopeful the new owners (Pacific Group Resorts Inc.) will start making some announcements. News about the Bike Park opening was most exciting. I think they're taking a strategic approach to how they develop the mountain. "As a community organization or Resort Association we should be able to step up and help them achieve some of their objectives."

SUMMER FESTIVAL ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES



TAPPED - Craft Beer Festival | July 15

Sample a variety of local and international brews while enjoying live music and a pig roast. Package includes festival, accommodation and Saturday breakfast basket. **\$89* per person**

ALPINE WINE FESTIVAL | August 12

Wine sampling, a delicious gourmet BBQ, live music and stunning mountain views. Package includes festival, accommodation and Saturday breakfast basket. **\$89* per person**

*prices are per person based on four people sharing a two bedroom condo, taxes extra.



For details and booking: 1 (888) 231-1499 | www.mountwashington.ca



HAVERS DESIGN
BRANDING WEB PRINT

250-334-2844 www.haversdesign.com
info@haversdesign.com Courtenay, BC



Photo: Krista Kaptein



Welcome To The Wilderness

Strathcona Wilderness Institute has spent more than 20 years providing interpretive programs and information services in Strathcona Provincial Park.

The SWI celebrated its platinum anniversary in 2015 with a host of interpretive programs, and even though there were still a couple feet of snow on some of the circle trails in early June, SWI volunteers were already planning an encore for 2016.

The park is 245,000 hectares of alpine wilderness in the Island Mountain Range mountains between the Comox Valley and Campbell River. The SWI provides information and interpretive services to the estimated 20,000 summer visitors who come to enjoy the beauty of Paradise Meadows.

The non-profit society might be 20 years old, but it is still pertinent to park preservation and education.

"I think it's more relevant than ever before," said Steve Smith, who recently retired from the SWI Board after serving as a director since its inception in the mid-1990s. "There's less money in parks. The pressure is on the Park from industry, from tourism and there's more park as well."

The dynamics of the Park have varied since it was established in 1911: there was a mine at one time, and logging, and a dam. "Now sensitivities have changed, people are really appreciating the wild areas," Smith said.

"We get people in that little Visitor Centre from all over the world."

The Strathcona Wilderness Institute formed in 1995, and they began with a small hut near the entrance to the Park at Paradise Meadows.

Since 2010 they have had a proper building that shares a parking lot with Raven Lodge at Mount Washington, and they easily see 100 people a day during the height of the summer season (about 10,000 people in a typical summer). There is also a visitors' hut at the Buttle Lake entrance to the park.

The SWI's members are all volunteers; passion for Strathcona Provincial Park and preservation of the alpine meadows drive them from year to year.

Smith and his wife began their association with the Park with Friends of Strathcona, and that led to the formation of the Wilderness Institute. The Friends organized a conference at Strathcona Park Lodge north of Campbell River and invited BC Parks staff and government officials; they all discussed the best way to protect the Park.

"One of the things that came out of that conference was education," Smith said. "We decided we needed to start an education arm."

Strathcona Wilderness Institute promotes awareness, appreciation and stewardship in the Park, and is separate from any political activism.

Twenty years on, the message is still strong, Smith said. Young people are losing their connection to nature, which is why preserving parks such as Strathcona is vital, he said.

Continued on page 14



In Profile: Brian Scott

World-renowned Comox Valley artist Brian Scott loves a good story...

His latest projects have seen him creating art books, painting commissioned house portraits and recording a television program on Shaw TV based on his painting knowledge. "I love the house portraits because you get amazing stories (from the inhabitants)," he says.

Scott's personal story, of growing up and settling in the Comox Valley, is entwined with that of Mount Washington. He first came to the Island in 1961 when his father, an air traffic controller, was posted to Canadian Force Base Comox (now 19 Wing Comox).

He joined the local youth ski club, called the "Fanny Dunkers", and skied Forbidden Plateau with Peter Gibson, now the President of Mount Washington.

"I started skiing there in 1980. I know a lot of people up there. I'm very excited about the new owners," Scott said from his studio in Black Creek, midway between Courtenay and Campbell River. "I think it's a huge opportunity for the mountain."

Scott released a book entitled 'Skiing on the Island' in 2011 as a fundraiser for the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre. The book contains 40 images from Mount Washington Alpine Resort, Paradise Meadows and Strathcona Prov. Park.

The book offers one story per painting, and is an insightful, sometimes humorous view of the Resort's development since its inception (for instance, the chapter on Mount Washington and the Death of the Outhouse).

Skiing on the Island is one of a series of books Scott continues to create. Each has only 40 paintings and 40 stories. He recently returned from a cruise to the Suez Canal, the Holy Land, Santorini and Venice - his 22nd cruise, and one of three he has planned this year.

"I'm doing a book around the world on cruise ships," he said. "The next (cruise) will be Australia/ New Zealand. My company pays for all of my cruises. I've sold a lot of paintings around the world," he said.

Scott is known for his brightly coloured, leaning toward abstract acrylic depictions of his favourite scenes from the Comox Valley and around the world. He paints everything from canvases to cars to spirit bear sculptures, driftwood to his latest, garden art. He's got artwork "pretty much world wide," he says.

He is also working on a six-episode series of painting lessons with Shaw TV. "It's called Too Much Blue. That's my nickname in Cumberland," he said. (Scott is known for underpainting his winter pieces and a series of paintings from his years in Cumberland with blue.)

Scott taught art for 20 years at North Island College and has been painting for 41 years. His television segments are educational: "I paint for half an hour and talk while I'm painting," he said.

"I show people how to lay out a palette. I talk quite a bit about design, colour theory, art history. I talk about what I do, about underpainting. A lot of people have trouble finishing a painting, so I talk a lot about how I finish off my work."

Scott's alpine artwork can be seen at the Resort, the Comox Valley Art Gallery on Duncan Avenue in downtown Courtenay and at his own gallery, 8269 North Island Highway in Black Creek. Scott's work is also available on his website at www.brianscottfineart.com.

Photo: Susie Quinn



When an accident takes away the sports you love...

Let us get you the best medical care and compensation you deserve.

Call Steve Allardice for a free initial consultation.



**ACHESON SWEENEY
FOLEY SAHOTA**
PERSONAL INJURY LAW FIRM

Law Offices in
Victoria and Courtenay
512 Fourth Street, Courtenay, BC

Rider: John Crockford
PC: Dennis Crockford

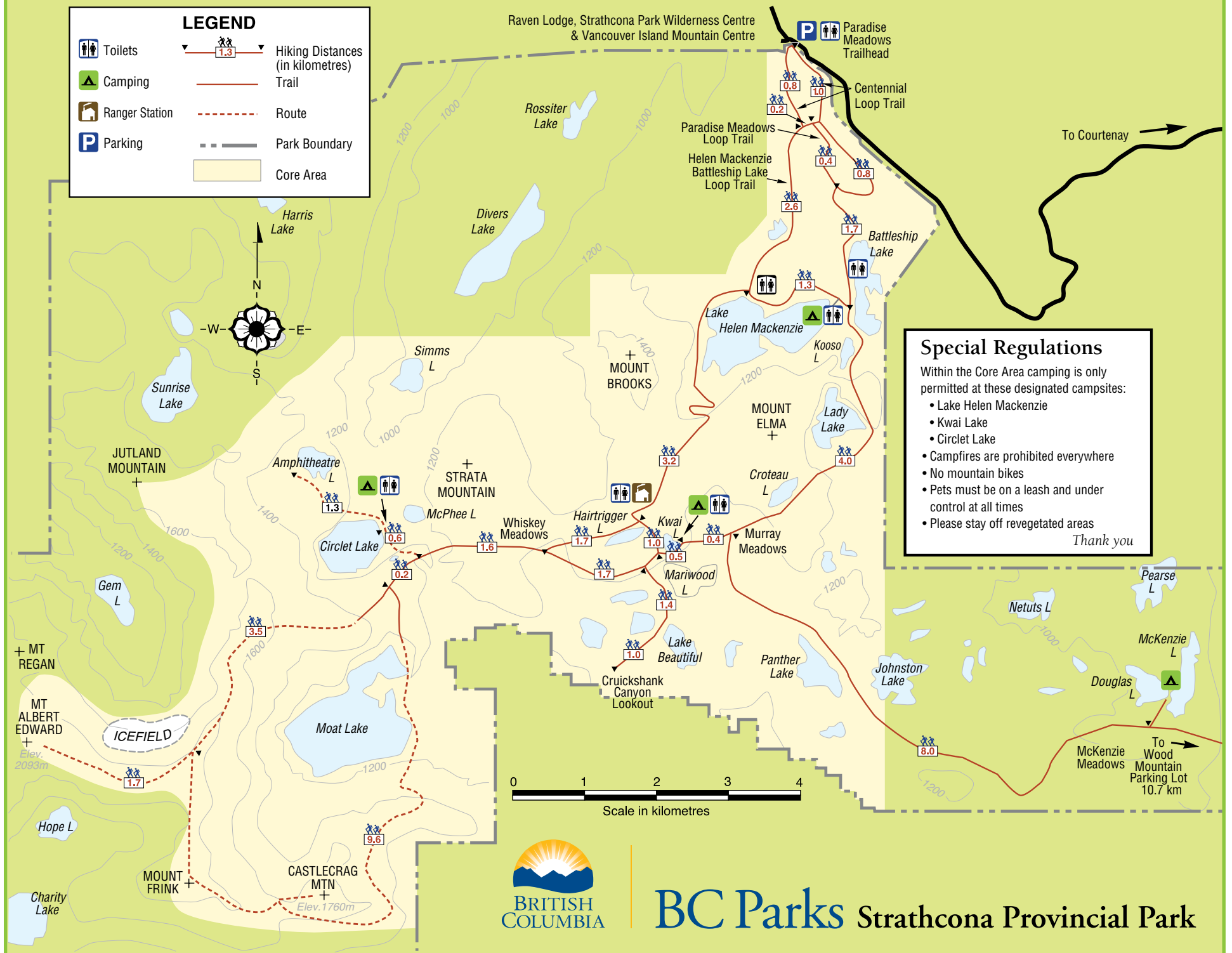
www.awslaw.ca 250-338-6747 or 1-800-214-4520

(Above)
Brian in his
home studio
with his dog,
Vincent Van
Dog (Vinnie
for short).

Brian has
painted a
couple of cars,
including the
Kia pictured
in front of his
studio which
are regulars in
Comox Valley
parades.



STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK TRAIL GUIDE



Friendly Cove Day Cruises

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

Cruise Nootka Sound to the birthplace of British Columbia. Visit the lighthouse and historic Catholic Church / Cultural Centre, hike the beaches and trails. Wildlife viewing along the way, eagles, otters, sea lions and whales. **\$85 + Taxes**

GETWEST
ADVENTURE CRUISES

GOLD RIVER DEPARTURES

1-877-824-8253

www.getwest.ca

FASHIONS & EQUIPMENT FOR EVERY SEASON

Summer Fashions & Beach Wear
Shoes, Sandals & Flipflops
Sunglasses & Sun Hats

Packs & Hike Wear
Kayaks & Surf Skis
Paddle Boards & Rentals

SKI & SURF SHOP

Fashions • Paddle Sports • Skiing
Courtenay, BC

Open Monday to Saturday: 9:30-5:30
333 Fifth Street, Downtown Courtenay

250-338-844 • skiandsurf.ca

Est. 1989



Photo: Neil Havers



Enjoy Hiking Forbidden Plateau and Paradise Meadows...

The following guidelines will help to ensure that the Forbidden Plateau area remains pristine for all who venture there.

HIKING TRAILS - Please stay on designated trails, stay off revegetated areas and avoid taking short cuts.

CAMPING - Designated camping sites are located at Lake Helen Mackenzie, Kwai, Circler and McKenzie-Douglas lakes. Please use the tent pads and toilets where provided. If a tent pad is unavailable choose a site that has exposed soil or will not easily be impacted.

FIRES - Campfires are prohibited. Please pack a campstove for cooking.

CACHE YOUR FOOD! BC Parks has installed new metal food caches at Lake Helen MacKenzie, Kwai Lake and Circler Lake campsites.

GARBAGE - Help keep the back country clean. Pack out all garbage and please pick up any litter you see. Please do not use outhouses for trash receptacles.

PETS - Please keep your pet on a leash at all times. Free running pets can harm other animals, irritate other visitors and can be harmed by wild animals. Do not allow your pet to swim in the lakes as this could contaminate drinking water sources.

GROUPS - Larger groups of people tend to concentrate use in an area and cause extensive damage to the fragile vegetation. To reduce these impacts, we recommend that group size be restricted to ten or less people. Where this is not possible, the larger group should be split into smaller groups which should travel and if possible camp in different locations.

WATER - Drinking water is available from the lakes at all designated campgrounds. All drinking water should be boiled or purified prior to consumption. Please avoid swimming in these areas as it may contaminate the water supply. It is also important to use the toilets and grey water pits provided to keep these pollutants from entering the lake.

SAFETY - To avoid bear conflicts while camping, never leave food, garbage or toilet articles in your tent. Please use pack sack hangers provided at designated campgrounds. Hikers should make noise when approaching blind corners to warn off bears and other animals.

Mountain Weather can change without warning, be prepared. Take spare, warm clothing and rain gear. It is advisable to leave an itinerary of your trip with a friend or relative.

Photo: Neil Havers



STRATHCONA PARK WILDERNESS CENTRE

The Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre is located at the BC Parks parking lot at the Paradise Meadows trailhead, next to Mount Washington's Raven Lodge.

The Wilderness Centre is open from late June to early October.
Open 9 am - 4 pm Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays and many weekdays.
Dates may be extended, depending on volunteers.

Remember to dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. Bring water, a snack or lunch, sunscreen and bug spray. If you are setting out on your own expedition, visit the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre for trail information or to obtain maps or books.

WEEKEND GUIDED HIKES

STRATHCONA WILDERNESS INSTITUTE Guides and Naturalists offer a series of programs and Paradise Meadows hikes for summer weekends.

Nature Walks & Talks Two to three hour nature walks & talks on nature themes.

Level 1 Hikes Two to four hour guided hikes for all ages.

Level 2 Hikes Five to seven hour guided hikes for intermediate hikers.

Level 3 Hikes Eight to ten hour guided hikes for fit hikers.

Programs start at the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at Paradise Meadows

- No pets please on SWI guided nature walks and hikes unless otherwise noted.
- Special Note for persons with mobility issues... Paradise Meadows Centennial Loop Trail is wheelchair accessible!

Go to www.strathconapark.org for the most up-to-date information.

Strathcona Wilderness Institute is a non-profit charity. To assist SWI with operational costs, donations for all programs are greatly appreciated (\$5 to \$10 is suggested).

FAMILY DINING THAT'S WELL WORTH THE DRIVE!



Home Made Soups • Sauces and Gravies • Great Burgers
Sandwiches • All Day Breakfast • Kids Play Area • Patio



Open Daily 7am - 3pm
2601 Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay, BC

250-334-8087

www.platescatering.com

Eatery & Catering Co.

Comox Valley
REGIONAL DISTRICT



MEETING ROOMS, ARENAS, POOLS and WELLNESS CENTRE



From wellness and fitness to skating and swimming, we have something for everyone!

CVRD's sports centre 3001 Vanier Drive
CVRD's aquatic centre 377 Lerwick Drive

For schedules visit:
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rec
or call 250-334-9622

Follow comoxvalleyrd

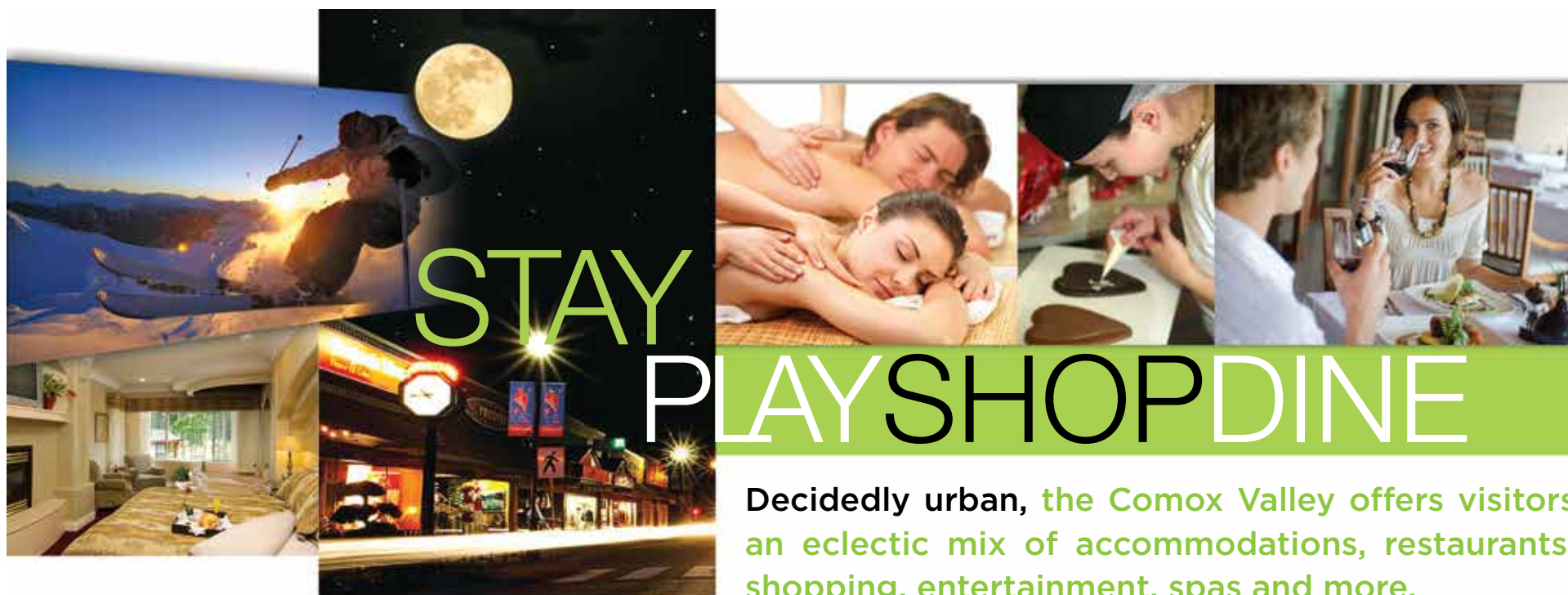


The first word that should come to mind after an accident.

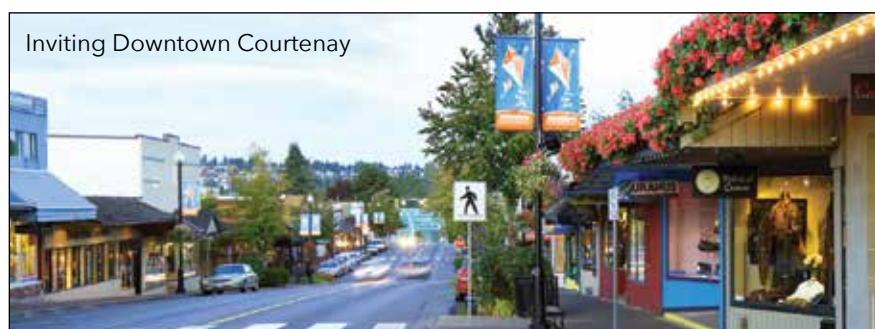
FIX AUTO COURTENAY
COLLISION AND GLASS REPAIRS
2317 Cousins Road
British Columbia V9N 3N6
250.338.9636
fixautocourtenay.com



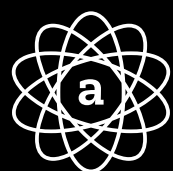
THE BODY SHOP NETWORK • FIXAUTO.COM



Decidedly urban, the Comox Valley offers visitors an eclectic mix of accommodations, restaurants, shopping, entertainment, spas and more.



There is much to see and do in the Comox Valley. Widely known as an agricultural and culinary hot spot the region boasts more than 445 farms, shell-fish growers, wineries, breweries and distilleries. Savour the bounty of these producers at many of the finer restaurants in Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland. Live music is part of the region's DNA and rivals major cities for the variety of live entertainment offered weekly. Add a day or two to your next visit to Mount Washington to discover what makes the Comox Valley an ideal year-round getaway destination.

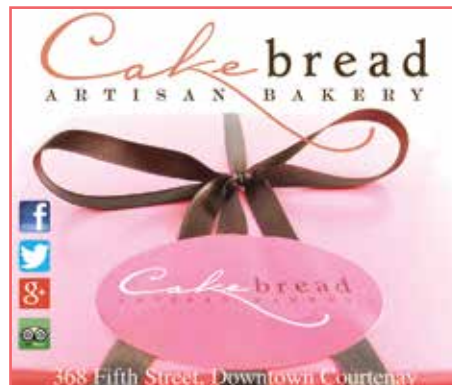


atlas café

250 6th St. Downtown Courtenay
250 338 9838 ★ atlascafe.ca

ATLAS CAFE is a global experience with a world of choices in the heart of downtown Courtenay. ATLAS serves fresh and innovative cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Diners will appreciate the warm and inviting vibe, and it is a great place to meet the locals. We feature fresh desserts, espressos, fresh juices, kids menu and nightly specials. Take out menu available.

250-338-9838 www.atlascafe.ca



CAKEBREAD ARTISAN BAKERY

Hand crafted Breads, Cakes and Tempting Treats for your next mountain excursion are just a call away. Order 48 hours in advance and we will have it ready for you to pick up on your way through town! We also stock premier Olive Oil, Balsamic Vinegar, Tapenade and Jam. Come in to enjoy our cafe-with a full coffee bar and ready-to-eat selections. 250.338.8211 or TF 1.866.468.2462 www.cakebread.ca



COMOX VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

Your year round source for local food! Everything from meat and poultry to pork and seafood, 100s of varieties of veggies and fruits and so much more! Saturdays 9am - 1:00pm at the Exhibition Grounds, plus Wednesdays in Downtown Courtenay and Sundays in Cumberland (during the summer months).

250-218-0321
www.cvvm.ca



Located in the Heart of Downtown Courtenay, **EDIBLE ISLAND WHOLE FOODS MARKET** provides nutrition conscious shoppers a complete and extensive selection of organic whole foods, produce, local breads, baked goods and meats, all the groceries, household cleaning options, plus quality supplements and fabulous body care alternatives. We also carry a large selection of specialty diet options.

"Simply put... we bring you the best."
www.edibleisland.ca



GRAHAM'S JEWELLERS is a family operated business, serving the Comox Valley for 46 years. All jewelry repairs are done locally by a qualified goldsmith. At Graham's, as well as offering fine jewelry we also carry watches, crystal, chaina and and giftware, such as Simon G, Pandora, Swiss Army, Tissot, Lampe Berger.

261 Fifth Street
Downtown Courtenay
250-334-4523



GRAINS BAKERY & BISTRO Headed up the Mountain? Come on in to Grains bakery for the freshest artisan breads, buns and sweets. Try our own Gluten Free varieties. Got a hunger on? Our newest item is our in-house "Good to Go" toppings to create your own sumptuous meals after a great day. Its our answer to "Whats for Dinner?" You're Invited, Linger awhile.
250-338-0955
www.grainsbakery.ca



STAYPLAYSHOPDINE IN THE COMOX VALLEY

The **BEST SELECTION** of Comox Valley **SOUVENIRS**

HITEC
BRAZEN SPORTSWEAR

Men and Womens apparel
Team Uniforms • Embroidery
On site Printing

479 4th St Courtenay

HITEC SCREEN PRINTING

Brand your event in style with swag that sells. Hitec - Brazen Sportswear embroidery and printing makes your image a lasting one. We have unique Comox Valley Souvenir designs: garments, caps, mugs, pewter, artwork and water bottles. See us Online, Instagram, or Facebook.

479 4th Street, Downtown Courtenay
250-334-3656 www.hitecprint.com



HORNE LAKE CAVES Winner of Destination BC's "Remarkable Experience" Award. Park open daily, year-round. Guided tours and self-exploring options. Check out the new cave slide on the 3hr. Multi-Cave Spelunking Adventure; climb an underground waterfall, see ancient fossils and crystals while you scramble through the marbled caverns. Prefer adventures above ground? Check out Canada's only Cave Theatre and hike the new Fossil Trail. Tel. 250-248-7829 www.hornelake.com

hot CHOCOLATES

368 Fifth Street, Downtown Courtenay

HOT CHOCOLATES Our chocolates are hand-crafted from the highest quality Belgian chocolate combined with fresh ingredients such as roasted nuts, intense fruit and liqueurs. Discover our wide selection of quality artisan chocolates, including handmade truffles, barks, bars, and a wide variety of other confections. Enjoy our signature housemade gelato, sorbetto, fudge or a beverage in our cafe. 250.338.8211 or TF 1.866.468.2462 www.hotchocolates.ca

MAD CHEF CAFE
...insane food... With Attitude!

Open for Lunch & Dinner
Eat In or Take Away

Featured on the TV Show "You Gotta Eat Here"

MAD CHEF CAFE INSANE FOOD WITH ATTITUDE!!! If you're crazy about great food, the Mad Chef Cafe will make you absolutely insane! Relax, be yourself and enjoy great food with great friends! Voted Comox Valley's #1 best burgers! Also serving pizza featuring the MAD CHEF's thin and deadly homemade pizza crust, seafood, hot soups and cold salads. We have moved to 444 Fifth Street in Downtown Courtenay. Eat in or take away. 250-871-7622 madchefcafe.ca

OLD HOUSE HOTEL & SPA

The **OLD HOUSE HOTEL & SPA** is a 79 room West Coast inspired boutique hotel & full service spa. Spacious accommodations with petite or full gourmet kitchens, fireplaces, and soaker tubs. Enjoy pampering treatments at Oh Spa, an outdoor heated pool and hot tub. Centrally located to shopping and dining. 1730 Riverside Lane, Courtenay, BC. 1-888-703-0202 www.oldhousevillage.com

RainForest OUTDOOR LIVING

HOT TUB SALES & REPAIRS

RAINFOREST OUTDOOR LIVING Rainforest Outdoor Living has factory trained service technicians with years of experience; trust us to fix your hot tub. With great service and Canadian-made products, we are the best place to buy a hot tub! We also carry Spa-Guard & BioGuard water care products, as well as, wood, gas, and pellet stoves from Osburn and Enviro. 250-871-7887 www.rainforestoutdoor.ca

THRIFTY FOODS

Courtenay: 660 England Ave | Crown Isle: 444 Lerwick Rd
Customer Care: 1.800.667.8280 | thriftyfoods.com

THRIFTY FOODS Smiles every day, excellent service and prices on all your grocery needs, with in-store bakery, meat and seafood service counter, deli, floral department. Redeem your AirMiles points for cash at the till or earn Dream Miles for travel. Downtown Courtenay and Crown Isle locations to serve you! www.thriftyfoods.com



THE WHITE WHALE RESTAURANT AND OYSTER BAR is a friendly gathering place. Everyone is welcome to enjoy our freshly prepared, locally sourced menu. Our casual atmosphere and huge riverside patio set the stage for a great dining experience. We have 16 rotating local craft beer taps and a locally inspired wine and cocktail list. Buck-a-Shuck Oysters & Happy Hour runs daily from 3-5pm, Sushi Bar is open from 5pm every Thursday - Saturday! 250-338-1468, 975 Comox Road, Courtenay BC. whitewhalecourtenay.ca

rickgibson.ca
personal real estate corporation

ROYAL LEPAGE 250-338-1723
realestate@rickgibson.ca

In the Comox Valley

Eat
to a different beat

(250) 897 0081
5th Street, Downtown Courtenay
www.unionstreetgrill.ca

Union Street GRILL & GROTTO

Brian Scott GALLERY

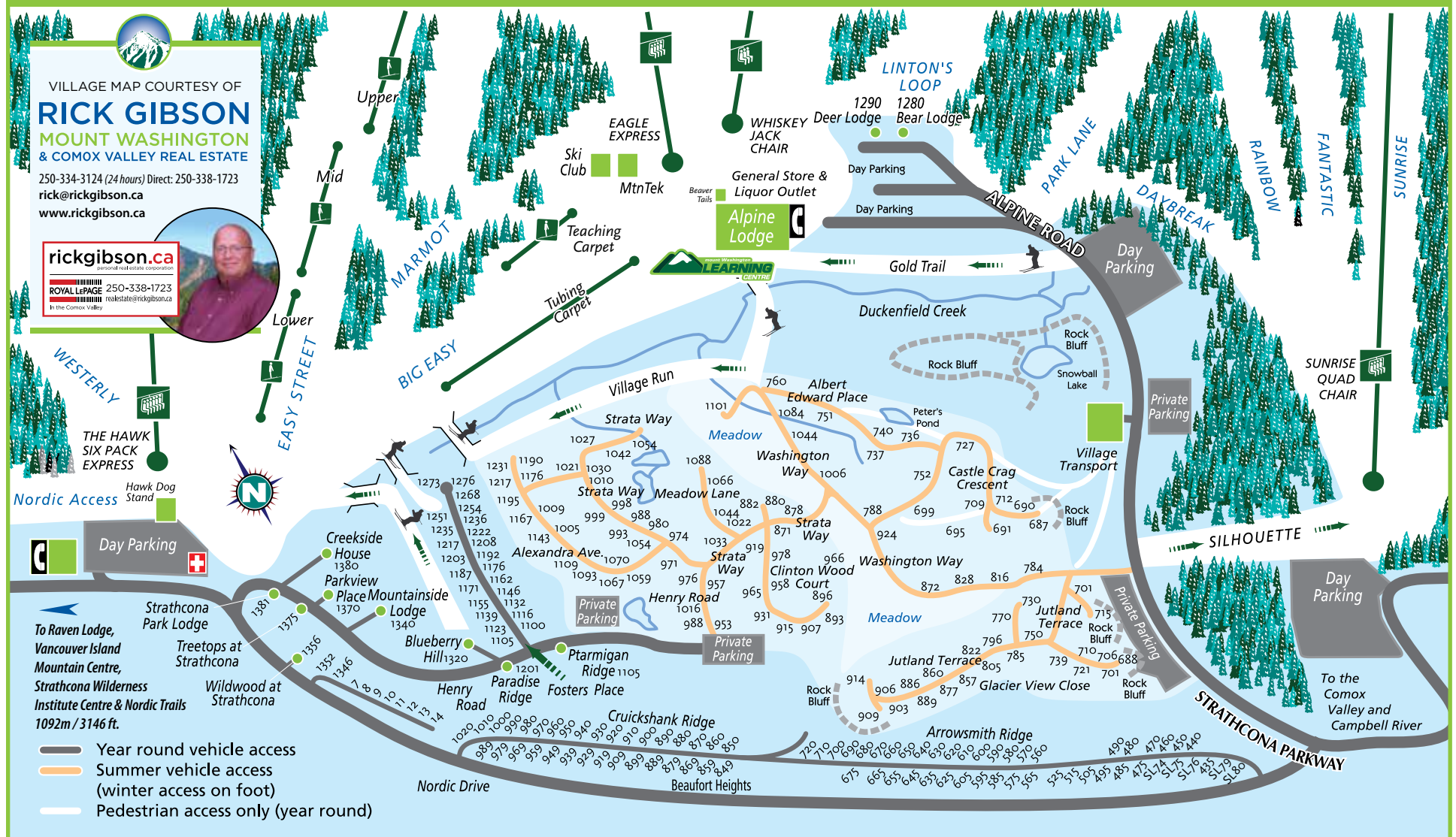
Open Daily 1pm - 5pm
and by appointment.

Tel: (250) 337-1941

8269 North Island Highway, Black Creek, B.C.
Across the street from the Black Creek Store
www.brianscottfineart.com



MOUNT WASHINGTON VILLAGE MAP



Welcome to the Wilderness

Continued from page 7

"If there was ever a time our parks need help, it's now," he said.

When BC Parks stopped all park programs in 2000, SWI stepped up and created its own programs with guidelines from BC Parks.

Volunteers take visitors on guided hikes and there are special talks planned throughout the season. The SWI has cultivated a strong core of Park Stewards through its volunteer program, and they were rewarded with the Volunteer of the Year award in 2011 from BC Parks.

Comox Valley photographer Krista Kaptein spent a lot of time in Paradise Meadows, so much so that she spent a few years with SWI as Coordinator of the Wilderness Centre (she stepped down last spring when funding for her position concluded).

Stewardship in the Park was integral for her. "Paradise Meadows is at the edge of the wilderness. It spans diverse user groups," she said. "The more you learn about the flowers and what they are, for example, you learn some of them are rare."

"It's a special eco-system up there. It's not the same as walking through an area that has been logged and regrown."

The advantage of taking a guided tour with an SWI volunteer, is that you learn the names of the plants and their role in that alpine eco-system, she said.

Walks and talks are put on by members of the Comox District Mountaineering Club, the naturalists' society, SWI members and sometimes guest experts such as the Marmot Recovery Centre or Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society.

Topics are often suggested by park visitors, and trending activities like geocaching.

"My own experience is even though you make think you know a lot, you come away with a lot more appreciation and more attachment to the place," Kaptein said.

For summer program information and trail conditions, please visit the SWI website at www.strathconapark.org.

Photo: Krista Kaptein



GETAWAY ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Visit Vancouver Island's Mountain Sports epicentre for a lift to hike or bike above a vista of sea and forest this summer. Visit Tourism Mount Washington's website for your room at the top and make the most of your alpine adventure.

www.tourismmountwashington.com

Where the trees reach almost as high as we fly

Discover your inner explorer on Vancouver Island.

We offer friendly, personalized service and daily non-stop flights with Air Canada, Central Mountain Air, Pacific Coastal Airlines and WestJet.

www.comoxairport.com

COMOX VALLEY AIRPORT YQQ

Where Journeys Begin

You're Invited, Linger Awhile!

Fresh baked Artisan bread, buns, sweets and more.

GRAB & Go Coffee, Bistro and Baked Goods
Daily Lunch Specials
GOOD TO GO MEALS
Fresh frozen hearty toppings for those on the go!

Grains

250-338-0955
Serving the Comox Valley for over 35 years. 445-10th Street, Courtenay, BC
ON-LINE COUPONS & SPECIALS: www.grainsbakery.ca



Photo: Ed Brooks



Ed Brooks

Continued from page 3

One day the photographer didn't show up for the work and the editor asked if Brooks could do the job. "I said sure." He was 16.

By the time he turned 17 he decided not to go back to school, and he never looked back. His first job led to a bigger one with the daily Prince George Citizen, then a job with the Campbell River Courier and Upper Islander, which brought him to Vancouver Island.

Brooks eventually left the newspaper business behind, and opened a photography studio, Backdoor Gallery, in Courtenay. "By the time I got out of the newspaper part of photography, I got into exercising my passion, which was nature," he says.

"Nature photography is really my passion. Both wildlife and nature; that's my sweet spot," he says. Brooks' appreciation for nature began far earlier than his love for photography. "I came from a family where we didn't have television or radio, nobody smoked or drank, my parents never had drivers' licences. I basically lived out-doors as a kid."

Mountain Biking

Continued from page 1

Crews are building on the strengths of what the Resort had in place previously, he said. "The mantra for this summer has been 'walk before you run'. We're still waiting for the upper third of the mountain to melt. Trails haven't been maintained for four years; other sections were dismantled when we decided to close mountain biking. In other cases we've had poor drainage."

The Resort had approximately 700 responses to a mountain biking survey it publicized this spring, and Manara said they are listening.

"We're going to build the Bike Park to what the market wants and hopefully we'll get a good response from that," Manara said.

"We really want to take our customers' feedback seriously. I think people are excited to see

He had a trap line, swam in the summer, skied in the winter and rode his bicycle everywhere.

Brooks still makes sure to get out of the gallery and back into nature nearly every day, whether it is a day-long trip to Gowlland Tod Provincial Park near Victoria with a group of like-minded photography buddies, or a walk around the Courtenay Airpark walkway as daylight wanes.

He is looking forward to getting up to Paradise Meadows too. "I spend quite a few weekends up there in the summer and fall. It's a really remarkable area," he says. The Meadows also promise to show some great colours this fall, he predicts, due to the good snowpack.

"I think this is going to be a really good fall. We've got a snowpack up there to sustain us through the summer."

DID YOU KNOW: *Ed Brooks used to be known as Ed Robertson. When he got married in 1989, his wife had previously been married to a Robertson, so the couple chose a different name all together.*

the lift access product back."

Manara says he is personally vested in growing the sport of mountain biking at Mount Washington, particularly for families. "I've got a four-year-old and I want to be able to go up there and ride my bike with my daughter in four years when she's eight years old."



Photo: Kerry Dawson



Kerry Dawson

Continued from page 3

Dawson often wintered in Mexico, touring language students around that country. She spent hours with her camera kayaking around the Sea of Cortez in Baja California, Mexico. She has taught in Dalian, China, and in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Now she is settled in Comox.

Dawson's "go-to" spots when she has some free time are the Northeast Woods and the McDonald Wood, Goose Spit, Mack Laing Park

areas in Comox. Most are within walking distance of her home, giving her easy access.

"I love photographing in the woods," she says. "Sometimes I'll go for a drive in the country, crawling through farmers' fields and see what picks my fancy."

Dawson also appreciates the digital part of photography, and has started teaching classes in Photoshop.

Dawson recently purchased a new house and plans to build a photography studio once she moves in. "It's for more of my conceptual stuff," she said.

Cumberland Forest

Continued from page 5

This year is pivotal for the forest society, which has set its sights on an aggressive goal for 2016.

Purchase agreements are under development "and we are so excited to be realizing our goals and saving these very special places in our community for future generations," says Cursons.

Their latest campaign was for a 40 hectare piece called Space Nugget, which was due to wrap up at the end of June (after the Marmot went to press).

Space Nugget is the first of four parcels that make up Phase 2 of the Cumberland Forest Acquisition. This particular phase is right next to the Village of Cumberland.

"Space Nugget is a playground for forest explorers of all ages and skills," says Cursons, "a beautiful green threshold to the upper trail systems and a beautiful backyard for the whole Comox Valley."

Then they will turn their attention to a 60-hectare parcel featuring forests, creeks and riparian areas alongside Perseverance Creek.

Other parcels slated for purchase in the future include China Creek and Japanese #1 Heritage Forest and Perseverance Creek Wetlands.

The community has embraced the forest society's goals, and residents from across the



Photo courtesy Cumberland Community Forest Society

Comox Valley and beyond turn out in large numbers to support their fundraisers - from the popular trivia nights, which always books up quickly, to the annual Perseverance Day Run, which in November 2015 raised \$131,784 through runner registrations and donations.

The society has a monthly donation program and one-time donations can be made online through their website at www.cumberlandforest.com. They are a registered charity.





NEWS in Brief

Encompassing people, places and happenings at Mount Washington.

Life Savers Honoured

Members of the Mount Washington Ski Patrol Association as well as some of the pro patrollers were honoured by British Columbia Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon in May for their role in saving a skier's life this winter.

Ski Patrol Association members Derek Tolmie, Don McCauley and Carla Valentine, and pro patrollers Sandra McLaughlin, Ian McConnell, Talia Major, Josh Morris, Charlie Eaton, Dan Goodwin, Kianna Thistlethwaite, Dr. Gene Filanovsky, Tina Webber and Michael Hamilton received the Order of St. John Lifesaving Award at Government House in Victoria.

"On Feb. 5, 2016 in Courtenay, BC, the recipients worked as a team and used their first aid skills to help save a life," said Maria Bekiaris, St. John Ambulance marketing and communications coordinator.

"While skiing at Mount Washington, several people witnessed a man suddenly collapse on the hill. Skiers and responding members of the ski patrol immediately went to his aid," Bekiaris related.

The man wasn't breathing and did not have a pulse. Ski patrol members started CPR, and an automated external defibrillator that is located at the Resort was brought to the scene.

"The casualty was resuscitated," Bekiaris said. He was transported to an ambulance and taken to hospital in town.

"Without the immediate application of CPR and use of the AED equipment, the casualty might not have survived," she said.

"The recipients are to be commended for their part in administration of first aid to save a life."

The Order of St. John recognizes individuals or groups that have saved or attempted to save a life, regardless of the risk, through the application of first aid and skills.

Al Wedel Honoured

On his 86th birthday, Al Wedel, a retired music teacher, was honoured by having a ski run at Mount Washington Alpine Resort named after him.

Wedel has been a teacher all his life, teaching professional career. When he retired from teaching music, Wedel decided that teach-



ing skiing at Mount Washington Alpine Resort would be a great "retirement" activity. He could remain active while sharing his passion for skiing with others.

Wedel has been an active pro at Mount Washington for more than 25 years and still teaches full time.

"In the snow sports world there is often one legendary ski pro that has been with the snow school for a long time," Snow School Director Mike Manara said.

"At Mount Washington, Al Wedel is that guy," Manara spearheaded the run-naming project. "Al exemplifies not only the traits of a great ski pro but a great staff member. He is accountable, passionate and works with integrity. He is a team player, who works hard and plays hard."

To honour Wedel, the Resort has named a run in the beginner area 'Wedel's Way'.

"This run is more than just a run," says Manara. "It exemplifies who Al is and what he means to our team. He is a role model for other staff on the mountain."

Some Familiar Names Grace the 2016-17 Alpine Canada Alpine Ski Team Lists

Mathieu Leduc of Comox has been named to the 2016-17 Canada Ski Cross Team. Former Olympian Braydon Luscombe of Duncan, who calls Mount Washington his home mountain, has been named to the 2016-17 Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team. And Melissa Pemble of Victoria, who attended Podium of Life Ski Academy when it was located at Mount Washington, has been named to the Para-Alpine Development Team.

Leduc, Luscombe and Pemble are among 35 Alpine, Para-Alpine and Ski Cross athletes who will form the respective National Teams that will compete on the World Cup circuits.

Next year will be a world championship year for Alpine Canada Alpine's teams, all of which have the potential to be podium contenders.

You can follow our local athletes on their respective social media, or the Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts for the ACA ([search Alpine Canada](#)).

Strathcona Nordics Compete At BC Winter Games

Twenty skiers from the Strathcona Nordics and Mount Washington Ski Club represented Mount Washington at the BC Winter Games in Penticton in late February.

Aiden Noble, Stephen Lamon, Zander Swift, Taz Oldaker, Calder Guimond, Emmy Stapff, Amelia Wells, Emma Wong and Annelies Henckel competed for the Nordics.

Anja Leikmoser, Shelby Nilsen, Emily

Johnston, Brooke Taylor, Isabella Cross, Ian Leighton, Eric Ashton, Luke Hofer, Trent Perras, Griffin Hart and Luka Djurickovic competed for the Ski Club.

Congratulations to all athletes for their achievements.

John Trimmer Honoured as Head Coach of the Year

Mount Washington Ski Club head coach John Trimmer had a golden season this year. Trimmer was named Head Coach of the Year by BC Alpine at the inaugural Goldie Awards, held in Kamloops. Trimmer's was one of eight awards handed out at the event.

"I can't imagine a more deserving recipient," Club Member Mathieu Leduc posted on Facebook. "Truly a love for the sport and a community."

Darcy Sharpe Competes in X Games

Cassie wasn't the only Sharpe to compete at the X Games in Aspen, Colo. in January. Her brother Darcy finished sixth in both Men's Slopestyle and Big Air in his first appearance at the X Games.

Spencer O'Brien Wins X Games Gold

Olympic Snowboarder Spencer O'Brien, who grew up on the snow at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, also won Gold at the X Games in Aspen, in Women's Snowboard Slopestyle.

O'Brien had a clean run and landed a switch backside 720 at the X Games in Aspen, Colo. in January.

"Today was very, very validating for me," said O'Brien, who last year landed the first-ever backside 900 in an X Games Women's Snowboard Slopestyle Final.

This was the 27-year-old's 10th X Games and brings her medal count to five (one Gold, one Silver and three Bronze).

O'Brien also placed Second in the Women's Snowboard Slopestyle Semifinal at the Dew Tour Breckenridge in Colorado in December 2015. This was an Event that O'Brien won in 2012.

11 Medals for Strathcona Nordics

Six Strathcona Nordics athletes accumulated 11 Medals in three days at the Haywood NorAm Western Canadian Championships in Prince George in February.

"The athletes showed tremendous consistency and gritty racing," Nordics' Head Coach Andrea Stapff said.

The Event turned out to be a family affair, with siblings Tallon and Aiden Noble, Ross and Stephen Lamon, and Alec and Emmy Stapff representing the Nordics.

Emmy Stapff won Bronze in the Midget Girls' 1.2-kilometre Classic Sprint Race.

Aiden Noble dominated all three of his Midget Boys Races, winning three Gold Medals.





Photo courtesy ESPN



Cassie Sharpe proudly holds her much deserved X Games Gold.

Stephen Lamon, also in the Midget Boys Category, was not far behind, bringing home a Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Ross Lamon won Bronze in the Juvenile Boys' Sprint Race and Silver in the Long Distance Classic Race.

Tallon Noble won Silver and Bronze in two Junior Boys Distance Events.

Cassie Sharpe Brings Home X Games Gold

Cassie Sharpe of Comox has had a dream season with the national freestyle ski team in 2016. Sharpe won gold in women's ski superpipe at the X Games in Oslo, Norway on Feb. 28. Earlier in the year she had an impressive fourth-place finish in Aspen in her X Games.

And on May 19, the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association (CFSA) honoured her with the Most Outstanding Performance of the Year in Halfpipe for her Gold Medal.

"I'm on cloud nine right now," Sharpe said following her golden win - her first-ever Gold Medal win at the X Games - where she held off Olympic champion and four-time X Games Gold Medalist, Maddie Bowman, of the US.

"I came here knowing that I had a chance to medal, but I never thought I could end up on top with the likes of Maddie Bowman," she said.

"When I was growing up, the X Games was the dream and the biggest event you could go to before the Olympic Games added our sport.

I'm just so happy to be here and to be able to perform in front of such a huge crowd."

Sharpe is the first Canadian woman to win X Games Superpipe Gold since Roz Groenewoud won Double Gold in 2012. Sharpe won the CFSA High Performance Rookie of the Year Award in 2015.

'Never Win' Johnson Flies Westjet Skies

A retired Duncan skier felt the luck o' the Irish in March, thanks to the Herb Bradley Challenge at Mount Washington.

Bruce Johnson bought a Herb Bradley Challenge raffle ticket thinking he was really making a donation, because "I never win anything," he said.

Johnson proved himself wrong when he won two flights to anywhere WestJet flies. He chose Ireland.

Chairlift To Success Raises Money for VIMSS

The Chairlift to Success was a success this winter. Spencer Hay, 19, skied 12 straight hours on March 12 at Mount Washington and raised more than \$2,000 for the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society.

"The event went great," Hay said. "I skied for the full 12 hours without any breaks. Pretty tired and cold near the end."

Hay teamed up with VIMSS because he wanted to raise money to assist individuals and make a direct impact on his community.

"VIMSS is the perfect charity as it helps local mountain athletes pursue and excel at their sport," Hay said.

One of VIMSS' mandates is to provide annual grants to Vancouver Island mountain sport athletes; money raised from Chairlift to Success will provide additional grants in 2016.

"It's amazing when someone approaches you with a new and unique idea, and then has the skill and dedication to carry out the initiative," says VIMSS chair Karen Bonell.

Hay's ski-a-thon was filmed for a video, which can be seen on YouTube (search "Chairlift to success").



\$15,000 Raised For Adaptive Sports

Fifteen teams raised \$15,000 for the Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) during the annual Herb Bradley Challenge in February.

The challenge is named after the late Herb Bradley, founder of adaptive snowsports in the Comox Valley. He led a small group of outdoor enthusiasts at Forbidden Plateau Ski Lodge in the early 1960s and began offering ski instruction for people with physical and mental disabilities.

The Vancouver Island Skiing for the Disabled Society was officially established at Mount Washington as a non-profit, charitable society in 1992. The organization (now known as VISAS) now has 90 volunteer instructors and supports more than 500 participants each season.

Investors Group won first place in the slalom course, Westview Ford was second and Thermo Tec third. Westview Ford was the fastest overall team, while Bedrock Beauties won the team spirit award. Corey Nickerson was the fastest overall athlete after finishing the course in 15 seconds.

Forsythe and Butler Named to Viasport Advisory Group

A pair of Comox Valley athletes has been named to ViaSport's Girls and Women Advisory Group for sport and physical activity in British Columbia.

Olympian Allison Forsyth, who started her alpine skiing career at Mount Washington Alpine Resort and is now based in North Vancouver, joined the group last March.

Robyn Butler, a marketing specialist with the Comox Valley Regional District, joined in February. A former competitive figure skater, Butler has been involved with the Active Comox Valley steering committee, which addresses barriers to providing accessible and affordable physical activity opportunities to engage community spirit and participation.

This is the second year for the advisory group, comprising 13 female sport leaders.

"Creating more equitable opportunities for girls and women in sport is a priority for the province of B.C.," Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development said in a press release. "Having the right leaders around the table is crucial as we start to translate our goals into action."

ViaSport's goal is to see 50 per cent female representation across all levels of sport in B.C. by the year 2020, viaSport CEO Sheila Bouman said.

"Currently at 42%, we are proud to have some of B.C.'s top thought leaders and sector experts working with us to achieve this goal."



Discovery Channel's 'Daily Planet' Films on Mount Washington

Residents living on Vancouver Island know it's possible to ski and surf on the same day. Visitors often scoff at the idea: but one television program has given them proof that it can really happen.

Mount Washington Alpine Resort hosted the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet TV show this past winter to prove the theory correct.

"As weather-driven sports go, 'ski' and 'surf' are at opposite ends of the spectrum," Daily Planet field correspondent Sean McShane said as he ticked off skiing and surfing in the same day from his bucket list. "But a handful of spots on the planet put both in reach."



New Air Service from Victoria and Abbotsford

Mount Washington just got a little closer to Victoria and Abbotsford. Island Express Air announced in April that it has launched a new daily air service to Abbotsford and Victoria from the Comox Valley.

The service started May 16. The airline is also offering flights to Boundary Bay Airport in Delta, and service to Powell River for an add-on fare.

That means travellers coming from those destinations can connect much easier with the Comox Valley.

"This is a niche market that has been underserved and we are pleased that Island Express Air has seized the opportunity to cater to those passengers who are looking for another way to access those destinations," said Fred Bigelow, CEO at Comox Airport (YQQ).

"Our flight times have been built with the business traveller in mind but are also well suited to the leisure traveller who wants to avoid taking up half of their day driving or waiting for the ferry," Island Express Air owner Gerry Visser said.

Photo: Neil Havers





"New Hope" Marmots on Mount Washington



'Hollis' sunning herself on Mount Washington.

Marmot Recovery Foundation welcomes 13 young Vancouver Island Marmots from Calgary Zoo, part of a "New Hope" for the endangered species.

As well, last fall the Foundation welcomed Adam Taylor as the new Executive Director. Long-serving Viki Jackson took a well-deserved retirement. While Adam is new to marmots, he does arrive with a background in conservation and in protecting species at risk. For the past eight years he was the Executive Director of Habitat Acquisition Trust where he led projects to conserve many endangered species, including

Western Painted Turtles, bats, snakes, and even endangered slugs!

"I am passionate about conserving our natural heritage" says Adam, "and the Vancouver Island Marmot is a special species that has a real chance to come back from the absolute brink of extinction thanks to the hard work of the Foundation and its partners. I am very excited to join the Foundation and to get to know these incredible animals better."

Among the first marmots Adam met were young yearlings from the Calgary Zoo that arrived at the Tony Barrett Mount Washington Marmot Recovery Centre this spring.

Luke, Leia, Jabba, Anakin, and nine others travelled with the Foundation's wildlife veterinarian, Malcolm McAddie from the Zoo to their temporary home on Mount Washington.

"One yearling in particular was especially bold," said Adam, "the very aptly named Han Solo wasn't going to be put off his food just because I was hanging around watching."

You've probably already noticed a theme in the names of these marmots. In honor of the new Star Wars film, all the yearlings were given Star Wars names by the Calgary Zoo keepers. But while some of their namesakes are villains, all of these younglings are definitely heroes.

Photo: Adam Taylor



Executive Director Adam Taylor

During their stay in the Centre on Mount Washington they will be implanted with transponders and then go through a quarantine period where their health is assessed and they are given a chance to adjust to the West Coast before being released.

Later in the summer, they will join the nearly 300 wild marmots that now live in the mountains of Vancouver Island. It's a great increase from just over a decade ago when only 30 remained in the wild, but there is no doubt that marmot's recovery is still a work-in-progress.

Compared with other famous endangered species, there are still fewer marmots in the wild today than there are Giant Pandas (1500 to 3000), Mountain Gorillas (about 800), or Siberian Tigers (about 500). Fortunately for the marmots, unlike many other endangered species, their alpine habitat is still largely intact.

"The meadows are still there, even if the marmots aren't always" says Adam, "and where

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.

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



HELP SAVE THE VANCOUVER ISLAND MARMOT!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

email: _____

I'd like to help our Marmots with a tax-creditable donation. Please accept my gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

Sign me up! I want to join the Adoption Club:

☐ \$120 for one year, OR per month: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25

I authorize the Marmot Recovery Foundation to deduct the above amount from my chequing account monthly. (I have enclosed a blank cheque marked VOID for processing purposes.)

Signature _____

YOUR GUARANTEE: You can change or cancel your pledge at any time.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Cheque payable to: Marmot Recovery Foundation

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Marmot Recovery Foundation www.marmots.org

Box 2332, Station A, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada V9R 6X6 Fax: 250-753-8070

Registered Charity #889980629 RR0001





there is habitat, there is hope for the species.” Like the Jedi at the beginning of the original Stars Wars, the marmots are scattered and few, but there determined and dedicated people in their corner, and the marmots themselves are a tenacious and hard-working.

During a recent visit to Mount Washington, Adam witnessed first-hand how the marmots scamper up the steepest slopes and dig burrows in the rocky ground. “I was put to shame by the marmots, there was no way I could have kept up with them running up and down the rock piles and the hill. I’m glad I all I came to do was watch!”

He was also there for one of the sadder moments, as Joey and Jordan, members of the Foundation’s field crew, discovered that Revelstoke, a four year old marmot living on Mount Washington, had died.

“It’s hard when you find a dead marmot. We know each of these marmots by name, and of course we do everything we can to ensure they have the best chance for survival.” But deaths do happen. In Revelstoke’s case, he died just after waking from hibernation, probably as result of low-energy reserves.

The period just after they wake from hibernation is an especially precarious time for Marmots. Their body fat reserves have been used up during their seven month sleep, but their digestive systems aren’t yet running at full-speed. Some just don’t have enough extra fat to get their bodies going and feeding properly again.

Spring is the changing of the seasons, and sometimes it is also a changing of the guard. Some of the young marmots from the Calgary Zoo will join the healthy colony at Mount Washington, and carry on the legacy of Revelstoke and other marmots that come before them.

They truly are a “New Hope”, along with marmots like Nicola, Hollis, and Buffy who continue to enliven the slopes. In the background, Malcolm, Cheyney, field crew like Jordan and Joey, and now Adam will continue to support their recovery in the alpine of Vancouver Island.

Flores Island... Seaside Home for Sasquatch?

Could Sasquatch be lurking on Flores Island, 80 kilometres away from Mount Washington Alpine Resort as the crow flies?

A young fisheries officer from Ahousaht thinks so. And so do First Nations legends from the West Coast.

Two years ago, Luke Swan Jr. said he was patrolling the waters around Ahousaht, northwest of Tofino, when he saw a figure he didn’t recognize crouching on the shore. “Something really big stood up, probably between eight or nine feet,” he told CTV News in 2014.

He said he had seen enough bears in his life to know it wasn’t a bear. He and his father went back to the shore and found some footprints. According to the Ha-Shilth-Sa newspaper, the men saw 10 bare footprints in approximately a 30-foot area. The man who witnessed the footprints said they were 16 inches long, about seven to nine inches wide and about three feet apart.

The men felt their findings pointed to a sasquatch having been in the area, but they couldn’t confirm it.

In Nuu-chah-nulth lore, *buc miis* (pronounced *book-mees*), or *bigfoot*, is a symbol of good luck and spiritual strength. He is known to have lived for thousands of years in the Clayoquot Sound watersheds.

Ahousaht is located on Flores Island, 20 kilometres northwest of Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The main settlement on Flores, Ahousaht is only accessible by boat or float plane. Its inhabitants are primarily members of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation.

Although Flores is surrounded by water, there are recorded reports of sasquatches swimming, says renowned cryptozoologist John Bindernagel.

The Courtenay biologist last year investigated sasquatch vocalizations in Alert Bay on Cormorant Island (northern Vancouver Island). The idea that sasquatch could swim from island to island isn’t farfetched, he said at the time.



“We need to tone down our arrogance that says ‘this cannot happen.’ Healthy skepticism is perfectly in order and it’s a really good question, where did it come from?”

Bindernagel would like to see more scientific exploration of these kinds of sightings. And he says communities and individuals just aren’t getting that.

“It’s like, how could it possibly be there, rather than let’s review the evidence and see if it is. We should all pay attention to these reports.”

Potential Bylaw for Fire Protection Services

The community at Mount Washington is another step closer to having a fire service in place.

The Comox Valley Regional District has endorsed three recommendations as a result of last year’s Mount Washington Fire Service Study: the creation of a draft borrowing bylaw, development of a property ownership analysis and creation of a service agreement with a fire department.

The draft borrowing bylaw will enable the regional district to pay for the rest of the steps, says James Bast, CVRD Manager of Fire Services.

“The draft service bylaw and borrowing bylaw will fund the question on a referendum that will be held for Mount Washington property owners that are eligible to vote,” he said.

The property ownership analysis will identify who is eligible to vote - one of the trickiest questions in the process. “What we’ve found through research is there are still a number of property owners that may not be able to vote in the referendum,” Bast said.

If someone has a lease agreement less than 99 years, they are not eligible. If someone has a condo owned by a corporation, that corporation cannot vote because there are no allowances in British Columbia for such a vote.

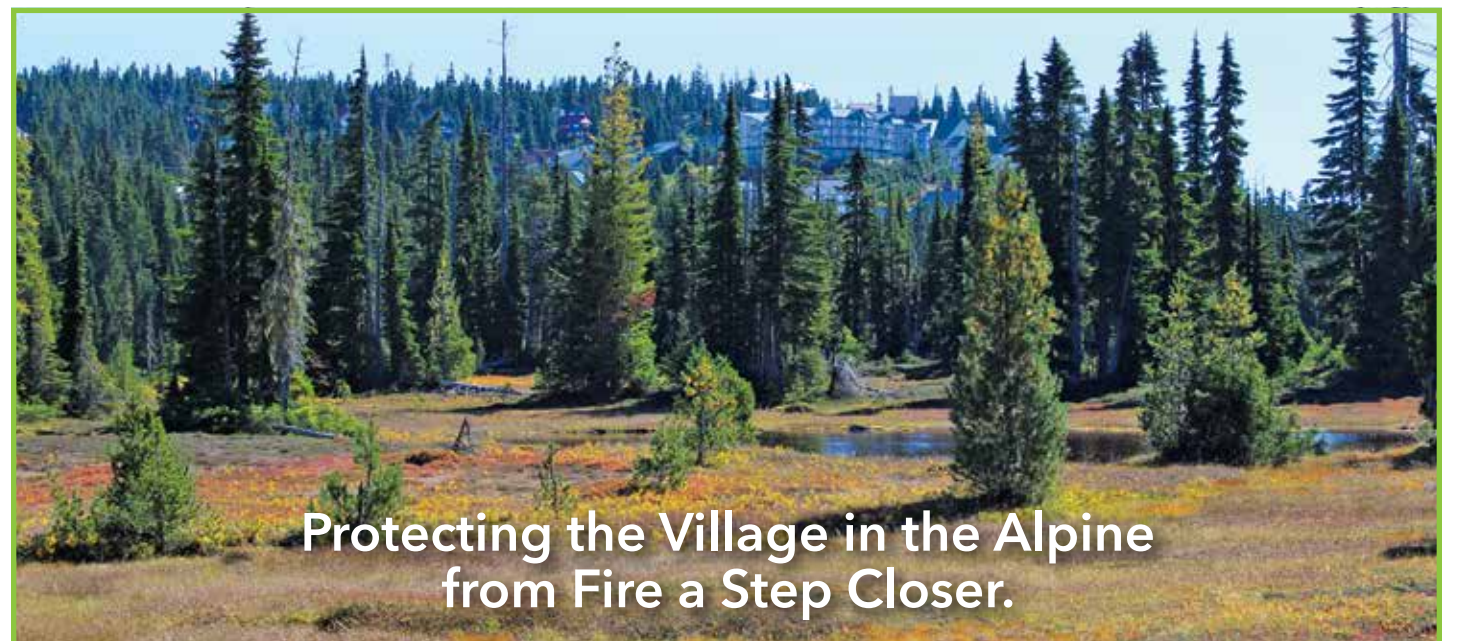
If a property has multiple owners, the property only gets one vote. “Those multiple owners would have to appoint one person to be their voter,” Bast said.

Bast will now begin contacting owners to find out who is eligible, and whether they want to change their ownership status so they can vote. He will also begin talks with Oyster River, Cumberland and Courtenay fire departments to see who can best help them as a fire service provider.

“We have started talking to these local governments to find out their willingness and ability to enter into a service agreement with Mount Washington,” Bast said. “What we’re contemplating is having a service agreement with one entity.”

Bast hopes to hold the referendum later this year, although a date has not yet been set. “We’re still moving through the process.”

Photo: Neil Havers



Protecting the Village in the Alpine from Fire a Step Closer.

NEWS, ACCOMMODATIONS & REAL ESTATE • WINTER-SPRING 2015/16

The MOUNT WASHINGTON Marmot

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

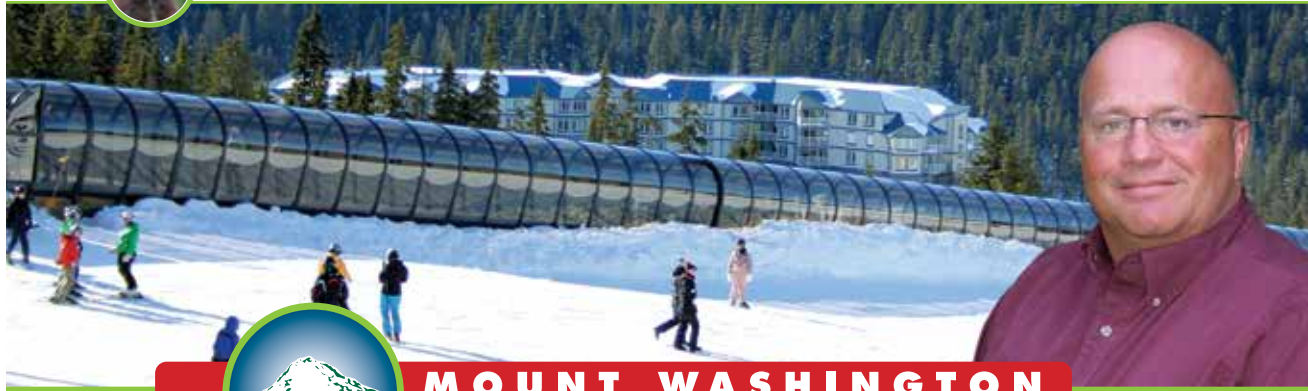
If you are looking for more information, wish to advertise, or want to submit information in future issues please refer to these contacts:

INFORMATION:
rick@themarmot.ca

EDITORIAL: Susan Quinn

AD SALES:
info@haversdesign.com

DESIGN/PRODUCTION:
www.HaversDesign.com



rickgibson.ca
personal real estate corporation

ROYAL LEPAGE 250-338-1723
realestate@rickgibson.ca
In the Comox Valley



MOUNT WASHINGTON

MileHigh Properties FOR SALE

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF JUNE 17, 2016



Quarter Interest Opportunity!

One quarter interest in a 2 bedroom sunny exposure condo in the heart of the village. Many recent upgrades have been made to the building. Use it one week per month and not worry about a large purchase price **\$37,500**



Meticulously Maintained!

Family owned and meticulously maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo in the Alpine Village. Enjoy sunny sunset views from the balcony of this bright, well laid out suite. Easy access to skiing and parking. The building is in great shape and has a live-in caretaker. **\$137,500**



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**

Rick Gibson

Serving the Mount Washington Real Estate market since 1989.

250-334-3124 (24 hrs)

Direct: 250-338-1723

rick@rickgibson.ca

www.rickgibson.ca

LOTS FOR SALE! Building Sites Available.



640 Arrowsmith Ridge	\$94,999
690 Arrowsmith Ridge	\$62,500
700 Arrowsmith Ridge	\$94,500
849 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$89,000
879 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$99,900
919 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$117,900
930 Cruikshank Ridge.....	\$68,000

Looking for a Mount Washington Building Site? Ask About Freehold Ownership!

Foundation & Plans Included!

One of the few remaining chalet lots in the Alpine Village. Price includes plan for an impressive chalet and the completed foundation. Spectacular location with easy access to parking and ski in and out access. **\$199,900**

Prime Location Duplex Lot!

The only duplex lot available on Mount Washington in the Alpine Village! Prime location and still owned by its original owners this jewel is waiting for you. Many opportunities as you could build both, sell one and keep the other side. **\$325,000**



IvesBurger
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Your legal experts offering extensive experience with Mount Washington property transfers for over 30 years.

- Real Estate & Property Development
- Corporate Law
- Commercial Law
- Civil Litigation
- Wills & Estates
- Divorce & Family Law
- ICBC & Personal Injury

Paul R. Ives • Mark Burger • Hans H. Urdahl • Katherine Tinmouth

250-334-2416
www.ivesburgerlaw.com
info@ivesburgerlaw.com • Fax: 250-334-3198

505-5th Street, Courtenay, BC (Corner of 5th & Fitzgerald)

"I know the Comox Valley Real Estate market as well as I know Mount Washington's."

If you are considering buying or selling a home in the Comox Valley I have the experience you need to help you with your Real Estate needs.

"I am never too busy to help you."

rickgibson.ca
personal real estate corporation

ROYAL LEPAGE 250-338-1723
realestate@rickgibson.ca
In the Comox Valley

Selling Real Estate from
Sea Level to Ski Level since 1989.

BUYING a Condo or Chalet on MOUNT WASHINGTON?

Providing Peace of Mind for Resort Owners for over 20 Years.



ISLAND BUILDING
INSPECTIONS

- Unbiased Analysis
- Client participation encouraged
- Immediate Reports
- Strata Building Reviews
- Maintenance and Repair Recommendations
- Prompt Service and Flexible Hours
- WETT Certified



1-800-667-0150 or 250-339-5399

www.islandbuildinginspections.com



BEAR LODGE at Mount Washington

Features Include:

- Slopeside Location
- Fully Furnished, 6 appliances
- Rainscreen Technology
- Live-in Caretaker
- Underbuilding Parking
- Common Hot Tub
- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom, some w/Lock-offs

110	2 Bdrm 965 Sq Ft Corner	\$224,900
304	3 Bdrm 1013 Sq Ft Corner Lockoff	\$374,900
315	1 Bdrm FREEHOLD	\$179,900

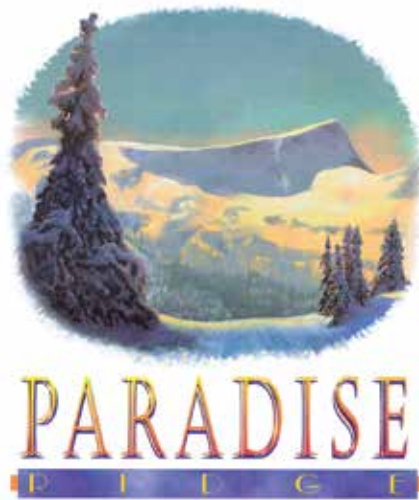


DEER LODGE AT MT. WASHINGTON

Features Include:

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

103	3 Bedroom, Deluxe Suite FREEHOLD	\$349,900
105	2 Bedroom, Luxury Slopeside	\$264,900
212	3 Bedroom FREEHOLD No GST	\$299,900
303	3 Bedroom, Awesome Views FREEHOLD	\$274,900
312	3 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park	\$249,900
415	1 Bedroom, Top Floor FREEHOLD	\$209,900



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 FREEHOLD	\$292,500
111	3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park FREEHOLD	\$249,900
113	2 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park FREEHOLD	\$179,900
212	3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	\$169,900
402	3 Bedroom facing ski runs	\$234,900
502	3 Bedroom Top Floor Facing ski runs	\$199,900



Ptarmigan Ridge

Features Include:

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

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

208	One bdrm, facing Strathcona Park	\$94,900
209	One bdrm, facing ski runs	\$94,900
301	Top floor Corner Unit Facing ski runs	\$113,500
305	Top floor, facing ski runs	\$99,500
309	Top floor, facing ski runs	\$109,900
312	Corner unit FREEHOLD Facing Strathcona Park	\$149,900



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

110	3 Bedroom facing Strathcona Park	\$179,900
111	3 Bedroom slopeside view FREEHOLD	\$220,000
202	3 Bedroom facing ski runs and park FREEHOLD WOW View!	\$239,900
306	3 Bedroom facing ski runs FREEHOLD	\$239,900
308	3 Bedroom, facing Strathcona Park FREEHOLD	\$229,900



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**



Mountainside at Mount Washington

Drive in ski out one bedroom condo. Located almost slope side with easy access to ski lifts in winter and Strathcona Park in summer, Mountainside Lodge offers under building parking, hot tub and sauna. This is a great suite at an even greater price! **\$134,900**



Sunset & Mountain Views

Spacious, well kept townhome within a few minutes stroll of the alpine lodge. Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and sauna. The inside is well cared for with a huge space in the lower floor for sleeping or ??? Outside patio to take in the sunsets and mountain views. Ski in and out access to the slopes. Fantastic location and great value. **\$184,900**



Pride of Ownership!

Pride of ownership 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 lifts. Basement area could be further developed. **\$189,900**



Nestled in the Village!

Freehold 3 bedroom townhome close to the Alpine Lodge. Corner suite for added privacy! Very open plan with 3 bedrooms up. Home has been lovingly cared for with new windows and upgrades. suite comes with all furnishings and is ready to go! **\$199,900**



RickGibson.ca

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





MOUNT WASHINGTON PROPERTIES FOR SALE

CHALETS • CONDOMINIUMS • TOWNHOUSES • BUILDING LOTS



Bathed in Sunshine!

Freehold Duplex building site located on the 'Benchlands' overlooking Strathcona Park. Strathcona Park is at your front door and Mount Washington Alpine resort is at your back door! Build your mountain retreat and be bathed in southwest sunshine all day on your front deck. Larger lot than most and not part of a strata. There are very few lots like this!

\$199,900



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 **\$329,900**

Four Bedroom **\$429,900**



Close to the Alpine Lodge!

With easy access to skiing and parking, this townhouse has everything to offer your family. 3 levels finished with an additional basement area. Very nicely cared for with sauna, loads of storage, ski tak area, large sunny deck and very quiet. Building is Freehold.

\$244,900



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 \$339,900
Sunny slopeside **FREEHOLD**



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



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

A Cabin in the Woods on Forbidden Plateau



Forbidden Plateau 3 bedroom hideaway! Located on a large lot at the end of Bradley Road this home is ready for your ideas or to use as a tranquil retreat.

Close to Strathcona Park yet only 15 minutes from the Island Highway. Drive to your front door in all seasons. Toboggan, snowshoe, snowmobile, skin and ski or cross country in the winter. For summer use it has some of the best mountain biking around, hiking, quadding, open camp fires and almost no neighbors. The neighbours that are there are all there for the these reasons. This cabin has an outhouse and a rock pit for kitchen drainage. Bring a generator and you are set. There is hydro on the street if you want to bring in hydro. There is a drilled well right on the edge to the adjoining property so water shouldn't be a problem if you wanted to put in a well.

\$119,900



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

INFORMATION CURRENT
AS OF JUNE 17, 2016



rickgibson.ca
personal real estate corporation
ROYAL LePAGE 250-338-1723
realestate@rickgibson.ca
In the Comox Valley



RickGibson.ca

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



Georgious Family Retreat!

Located just off the Village run you will discover this gorgeous family retreat on Mount Washington. Easy access to the slopes and parking. The home has been carefully designed to offer great family accommodation plus two separate owners suites. Many thoughtful features which add many benefits; from the wood fireplace in the open living area to the ec room downstairs with a ping pong table and sauna, this one has it all. The home is connected via wifi so you can turn the heat up on the way up to the mountain. **\$689,900**



Mountain Log Home

Located at the foot of Fosters Place slopeside you will discover this mountain log home. Situated on the lot to take in western sunset views into Strathcona Park from the three decks, two with hot tubs. The main suite has 4 bedrooms and entertainment styled kitchen and living areas. Down below is a spacious one bedroom suite. **\$788,888**



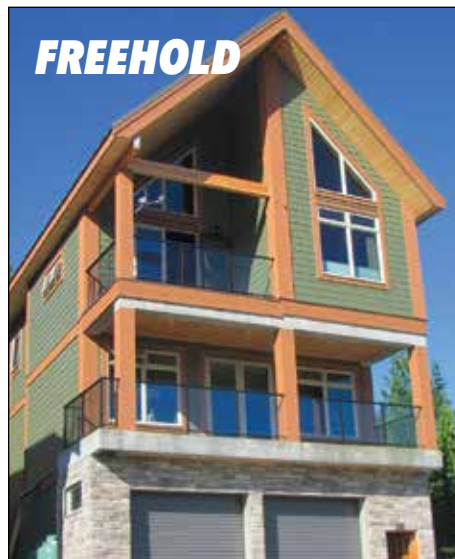
2700 Sq. Ft. of Luxury!

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**



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**



Come Home to the Marmot Home!

Custom built mountain home with sweeping sunset views into Strathcona Park. Lived in full time by its owners this has all the extras you would expect in a custom built home. Almost 4,000 square feet this three bedroom home has everything from concrete wall construction, heated drive way, gourmet kitchen, in floor heat, lots and lots of storage and a view that goes on forever. Two decks plus an outdoor patio. If you are seeking an exclusive family retreat on Mount Washington come home to the Marmot Home. **\$1,000,000**

RECENT REAL ESTATE SALES ON MOUNT WASHINGTON

Since November 10, 2015

DATE SOLD	LOCATION	BDRMS	LIST PRICE	LISTED BY	SOLD BY
May 25, 2016	978 - Clinton Wood Court	4	\$369,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 16, 2016	105 - Blueberry Hill	2	\$189,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
May 9, 2016	1195 - Alexandra Avenue	6	\$499,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
April 26, 2016	889 - Jutland Terrace	4	\$329,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
April 12, 2016	5-691 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
March 25, 2016	9-709 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
February 1, 2016	869 - Cruikshank Ridge	Lot	\$58,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 31, 2016	Lot 10 - Nordic Road	Lot	\$119,000	Other	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 27, 2016	216 - Blueberry Hill	2	\$179,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
January 24, 2016	202 - Bear Lodge	2	\$222,900	Other	Other
January 23, 2016	1066 - Meadow Lane	3	\$264,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 22, 2016	211 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$159,000	Other	Other
January 20, 2016	4 - Wildwood	3	\$424,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 15, 2016	301 - 695 Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$129,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 11, 2016	403 - Paradise Ridge	3	\$164,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 10, 2016	8 - 736 - Albert Edward Place	3	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 4, 2016	4 - 737 - Albert Edward Place	3	\$114,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
January 3, 2016	1190 - Alexandra Avenue	4	\$269,999	Other	Other
January 2, 2016	201 - 788 - Castle Crag Crescent	2	\$127,500	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
December 8, 2015	1217 - Fosters Place	6	\$469,000	Other	Other
December 7, 2015	408 - Bear Lodge	1	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	Other
December 6, 2015	403 - Bear Lodge	3	\$299,000	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 30, 2015	305 - Bear Lodge	2	\$234,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 20, 2015	435 - eaufort Heights	3	\$259,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 20, 2015	470 - Beaufort Heights	3	\$244,900	Other	Other
November 12, 2015	305 - Deer Lodge	2	\$199,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE
November 10, 2015	306 - Deer Lodge	2	\$149,900	ROYAL LEPAGE	ROYAL LEPAGE

www.rickgibson.ca

For all of your Real Estate needs on Mount Washington and in the Comox Valley.



RickGibson.ca

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



43% OF ALL HOUSE FIRES

Start in the kitchen.



ONLY
LOOKS
LIKE
a smoke
detector



HEAT ACTIVATED
AUTOMATIC
FIRE EXTINGUISHER

\$249
per unit



INSTALLATION
EASY AS 1-2-3



1

Find location
in ceiling
between joists

2

Trace 5 3/4" hole
(template provided) and
cut with drywall saw

3

Slide HAVEN
into hole, turn 2
locking screws

For peace of mind call Haven In Your House...
Ryan Thorburn 250.702.6250