

# Mount Arrowsmith Park Initiative

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Mount Arrowsmith is the most popular wilderness mountain on Vancouver Island and is a focal point of activity for several mid-Island communities including Parksville, Qualicum, Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

Mt. Arrowsmith offers a wide variety of features for people of many different interests. For the hiker and climber, Arrowsmith provides a myriad of opportunities, from easy family hikes to technical rock/ice climbs and everything in between. In wintertime, activities include snowshoeing, backcountry skiing as well as cross country skiing. For the botanist, Mt. Arrowsmith is home to over 150 different species of plants, including several endangered species. For naturalists, more than 20 species of birds inhabit the slopes of Mt. Arrowsmith. It is also home to many mammals, possibly including the rare Vancouver Island marmot.

The Arrowsmith massif is the apex of the United Nations designated Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (designated in 2000) and virtually all of its' watersheds drain to either the Little Qualicum or Englishman Rivers. Mt. Arrowsmith's snowpack has an immense value to these river's well being, by providing a slow release reservoir during the

driest times of the year. The well-being of the snowpack on the massif is of paramount importance to the fish bearing streams, as well as to other wildlife and humans.

In the past century numerous attempts have been made to give the Arrowsmith massif some kind of protected park status. Once again, we are working hard with Regional and Provincial governments to make this a reality.

How can you help? Tell us about your organization and the importance of Mount Arrowsmith. Let us know about what you see as the benefits to your group when Mt Arrowsmith becomes a park.



Contact Peter Rothermel or Don Cameron at [info@mountarrowsmith.org](mailto:info@mountarrowsmith.org) for more information.

