

## Mount Arrowsmith Park Proposal - Executive Overview

Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Chapter (ACC)

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. (FMCBC)

- **Location:** The Mt. Arrowsmith Massif consists of Block 1380, a 1300 ha parcel of Crown land. It includes the ridges and peaks of Mt. Arrowsmith and Mt. Cokely as well 4 pristine, sub-alpine lakes (see map in attached brochure). The Massif forms the dramatic visual backdrop for Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Port Alberni and the surrounding mid-Island area.
- **Regional District support:** The Massif lies within the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). We have received the support of the RDN Board and are working closely with RDN staff on this initiative. In partnership with the RDN, we have submitted a “property evaluation” under the Land Evaluation and Acquisition Framework (LEAF) to BC Parks in determining the value of this parcel as park land. The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board has also confirmed its support for the project.
- Block 1380 is located next to the ACRD’s Mt Arrowsmith Regional Park, which lies on the lower slopes of Mt. Cokely and encompasses the former Arrowsmith ski hill. The ACRD and RDN are in discussions regarding transferring ownership of the park over to the RDN.
- **Forest company support:** Brascan and Timberwest Forest Companies own the surrounding TFLs. In our discussions, both companies have verbally supported our goals for a park, and continue to work with us in providing buffers to trails and recreational activities on the mountain.
- **Recreational use:** The area is used extensively by residents and visitors to Vancouver Island for hiking, climbing, nature study, fishing and wilderness camping, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. Over 2600 people signed the register at the Mt. Arrowsmith summit from 2000-2004; this represents only a fraction of those who use the area as whole. The ACC alone ran 47 scheduled trips to Mt. Arrowsmith from 2002-2005. Trails and routes on Mt. Arrowsmith are featured extensively in guidebooks and websites on outdoor opportunities on the Island.
- **Ecological significance:** 3 red-listed (threatened or endangered) and 6 blue-listed (of management concern) species have been identified in the area. Sites around Mt. Arrowsmith and nearby Mt. McQuillan have been designated national Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as core habitat areas for the White-tailed Ptarmigan. The Mt. Arrowsmith area also forms the headwaters for two significant watersheds – the Englishman River (north side) and Little Qualicum River (south side) – both important salmon systems and wildlife corridors. The Englishman is also the water supply for several communities in the Parksville area.
- **Stewardship Proposal:** Our proposal is to create a provincial or regional wilderness park in a partnership with the applicable governing agency. We would act as stewards for the park - assisting with planning, fund-raising, coordinating trail development and maintenance, public information and education, restoration projects, etc. The ACC and FMCBC have considerable success in acquiring funds and drawing volunteers to our projects.

We strongly believe that the many ecological, economic (eco-tourism), and social/recreational benefits – at no cost to the Province – provide a strong rationale for a park on Mt. Arrowsmith.

The ACC is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006, and is hopeful that it can share the creation of a wilderness park on Mt. Arrowsmith with the Province as a keystone in its centennial accomplishments.

### Contacts:

Peter Rothermel, FMCBC Director and Mt. Arrowsmith Project founder - 250-752-2529

Don Cameron, Mt. Arrowsmith Project ACC - 250-889-2480

Evan Loveless, Executive Director FMCBC - 604 873 6096

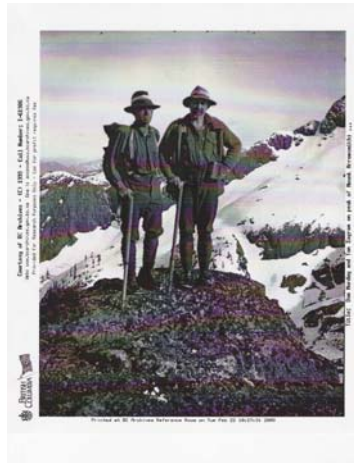
Harriet Rueggeberg, RDN resident and volunteer, 250-390-2361/754-5651

For more information, please visit the Mt. Arrowsmith website [www.mountarrowsmith.org](http://www.mountarrowsmith.org)

## **Mt. Arrowsmith - Past and Present**



*Mt. Arrowsmith from the west*



*Tom Ingram & Don Munday  
on Mt. Cokely, 1925*



*Judges' route*



*Roped on "the Nose", 1940s*



*Roped on "the Nose" -  
youth course, 2004*



*Sid Watts, 1950s*

