

Mount Arrowsmith Park Initiative Status Report
Feb 2005

Hi Everyone. Well, as per usual, a lot has been going on with the Mt Arrowsmith Park Initiative.

Our general strategy is to cooperatively work with government and industry to help us obtain a wilderness park for Mount Arrowsmith. If the park is Regional or Provincial it does not matter. To this end, here is where we are at:

Regional Government

We have met with Bob Harper, the administrator of the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD). Largely we discussed the existing regional park (Mt Cokely ski park) - their intention is to clean it up over the next 1-3 years. An Environmental study will be done this summer to determine to clean-up costs.

We also have a date scheduled to do a presentation before the ACRD Board. Our intention is to ask them to partner with us and the RDN to approach the BC Government. This presentation will take place in March.

Since these timelines are not "quick enough for us" we are pursuing the BC Govt now.

BC Government

We are trying to get meetings with the three MLAs in the area: Gillian Trumper (Alberni-Clayoquot), Mike Hunter (Nanaimo) and Judith Reid (Nanaimo-Parksville). So far we have a meeting set up with Gillian Trumper for next week. Our intention is to get the MLAs support and have them promote this cause to the Minister(s) responsible for the land.

Ralph Hutchinson from Nanaimo will be helping us with our meeting with Mike Hunter. Ralph is famous: he is the "judge" that judge's route is named after, and has a lot of experience with government politics.

By the way, Mount Arrowsmith is actually in the riding of Nanaimo. Go figure.

Chambers of Commerce

Last week we met with the Port Alberni CoC. We discussed the various ways a wilderness park can be used to help boost the local economy. Do not fear, we stressed that the ****real**** attraction is keeping this wilderness park pure and pristine! We have a presentation set in April to work with the local Port Alberni CoC to come up with some creative and ecologically sounds ways of boosting the economy. We intend to do the same with other Chambers of Commerce in the area.

BC Parks

We have started communications with BC Parks district staff. Our intention is to present the initiative to the Minister, Deputy Minister and ADM; to convince them that our initiative is easy and the right thing to do.

First Nations

We are starting to contact First Nations whose territory include Mt Arrowsmith. This includes: Hupacasath, Tseshaht, Qualicum, Nanoose and Snuneymuxw. We want to have their "vote of support", as well as learn about their history as it pertains to Mt Arrowsmith.

Media

So far, we have had a CBC Radio interview as well as an article in the Nanaimo Daily News. Peter just completed an interview with the Parksville-Qualicum paper. The more media coverage we get, the better! See www.mountarrowsmith.org for some of these articles.

We intend to have our first "press release" out next week, describing what the initiative is all about and why it is such a good thing.

Publications and the Web Site

Peter is working very hard on a brochure which will feature a map of the area, hiking trails, history, flora, fauna, animals and key features of the mountain. When this is distributed to outdoor stores, Chambers of Commerce and clubs, it will really help our cause.

Martin Hoffmann has volunteered to be our web designer (thanks Martin!). While we build this web site, a temporary web site has been set up which gives the basic information about the park initiative (www.mountarrowsmith.org). Take a look, it has the initiative overview, frequently asked questions (FAQ), a map of the area and a newspaper article.

Thanks for everyone's help.

Don