

Mt Arrowsmith Park Initiative Status Report  
January, 2005

Hi Everyone, Peter and I want to give you an update on the Mt Arrowsmith Park Initiative. Since our last presentation at the AGM on Dec 2, we have got a lot done!

RDN Presentation  
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Last week we gave a presentation to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). Our aim: have the RDN partner with the ACC/FMCBC to approach the BC Govt to get park status for Mt Arrowsmith. The presentation was well received - all good feedback. The board moved to have the RDN staff write a report on this proposal. This may sound like bureaucracy - but it is expected and **\*\*is\*\*** a positive direction!

Park Stewards  
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Both the ACC and the FMCBC have given us approval in concept to create a group to take on the responsibilities of stewards for the proposed park. This includes arranging funding for improvements, doing trail work and working on the park planning process. It **\*\*does not\*\*** mean that we will be liable for the visitors to the park - this will be a BC Govt or RDN liability.

Web Site  
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We have secured a web address: [www.mountarrowsmith.org](http://www.mountarrowsmith.org) It is very skimpy right now, what we need is a good web developer volunteer to write us 20 web pages - any takers?

Brochure  
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As some of you have seen, we have written a one page brochure on the park initiative. This has been edited and sent out to a wide variety of clubs and organizations. However, that is not enough. We have approached Phil Stone – of Wild Isle fame - to quote us on developing a Mt Arrowsmith trail map and history (similar to the Nootka Island Trail map). Keep your eyes peeled, this is going to be great!

Clubs and Organization Support  
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We have solicited over 100 clubs and organizations for their "vote of support" for this initiative. So far, 23 clubs have responded YES, one said NO (they were not in our area). However, out of the 23 clubs who said yes, it represents over 20,000 people! And this is **\*\*not\*\*** counting MEC!

Weyerhaeuser  
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Both Peter and I have been working with Weyerhaeuser on various levels. Peter has been working with the local foresters and the "people on the ground"; I have been speaking with their head office. They ahve all been favorable of the initiative, however, what we need is their public

support. So we will keep at it and keep the pressure up.

#### Alberni Clayquot Regional District (ACRD)

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It is important to involve the ACRD, as they own (or lease - we are not sure yet) the existing Cokely Ski park. Ultimately we should like to get it one great big park. Plans are afoot to present our initiative to the ACRD, as well as the Alberni Chamber of Commerce and the City of Alberni.

#### BC Govt

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We have been doing some strategizing on how to approach the BC Govt. First we need local and regional support, then it is off to the province. Stay tuned, by next report we should have made initial contact with the BC Govt and have a good feel for the provincial political climate.

#### Media

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We are trying to get media interested in writing a story about the effort involved to create a park. Not only will this give us attention, but we can use it to leverage reluctant governments and industry to give us their support. We are looking into CBC radio, Explore magazine, as well as Beautiful BC Magazine.

#### Credits

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Personally, I would like to give lots of thanks to:

- \* Sandy Briggs for the excellent editorials on our literature
- \* the ACC VI executive (past and present) for the support with this initiative
- \* the parks staff at the RDN (Tom Osborne and Jeff Ainge)
- \* Evan Loveless of the FMCBC
- \* and, of course, Peter, for all of his undying work on this initiative over the years

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