

# WHAT'S UP IN WHISTLER?

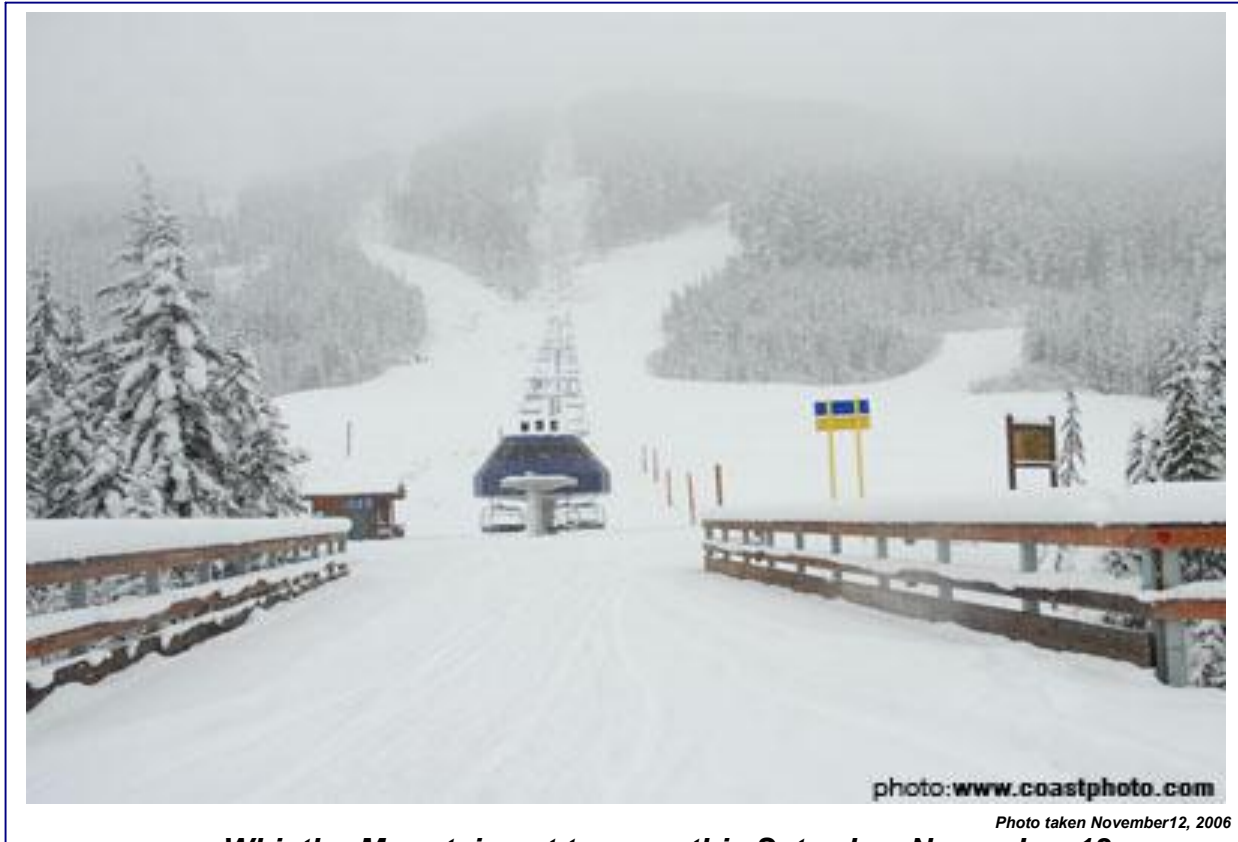


News from the Whistler Blackcomb Sales Department

November 2006

Page1

## MASSIVE WINTER STORM HERALDS EARLY OPENING AT WHISTLER BLACKCOMB



***Whistler Mountain set to open this Saturday, November 18***

**WHISTLER, BC**, November 13, 2006 – A massive winter storm that has blanketed Whistler resort since Thursday night in 75 centimeters or 30 inches of snow, has precipitated the announcement that the resort will open earlier than expected. Whistler Mountain will open for the season this Saturday, November 18 from 8:30am to 3pm. Blackcomb Mountain will open as planned on Thursday, November 23.

“This latest weather system has been a huge boost for our early season conditions, helping to create excellent opening weekend conditions, as well as building a solid base for the rest of the season,” says Doug MacFarlane, Whistler Blackcomb’s mountain operations manager. “We couldn’t be happier with what we can offer our guests this coming weekend.”

Whistler Mountain will open on Saturday with access from the Whistler Village base. The Whistler Village Gondola, the Emerald Express and the Big Red Express are all scheduled to open. The resort’s new fleet of grooming machines will be hard at work this week preparing the slopes for skiers and riders. Guests should be aware that early season conditions will exist off-piste and so extreme caution should be exercised when venturing beyond the ropes.



**SYMPHONY EXPRESS HIGH SPEED QUAD – new for 2006/07**

Whistler Blackcomb will introduce a new high speed detachable quad in the high alpine for the 2006/07 winter season. The new Symphony Express lift on Whistler Mountain will run to the Piccolo peak from the bottom of Flute Bowl and will provide access to more than 1,000 acres of the most spectacular high alpine terrain available in North America. The new lift is part of an overall capital investment of \$22.1 million in mountain upgrades at Whistler Blackcomb, consistently ranked as one of the world's top winter resort destinations.



The new Symphony Express will open up a brand new era in high alpine access for intermediate skiers and snowboarders, as well as the experts, in an area newly crowned as the Symphony Amphitheatre. For the first time, guests will have high speed lift access to this spectacular terrain, with its legendary vast bowls, deep snow and exciting gladed sub-alpine skiing. The new Symphony Express will provide access to a range of gentle and challenging terrain including the wide open upper bowl area, a new high-intermediate gladed area, and two new conventionally cut trails for low-intermediates. This lift will give intermediate guests a new opportunity to enjoy a truly incredible high alpine experience on Whistler Mountain with access to wide open bowls that can reach snow depths of more than five metres (16 feet).

## \$22.1 MILLION IN CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE INVESTMENT FOR 2006-07

In preparation for every winter season, Whistler Blackcomb spends \$12-15 million in maintenance and capital upgrades. This year is no exception and, in addition to the usual spend, the resort is spending an additional \$9 million on a new lift – the Symphony Express high speed detachable quad. In addition, further capital costs will be spent on a wide variety of items ranging from the replacement of Information Technology infrastructure to a hefty upgrade to Whistler Blackcomb's retail/rental outlets. Other projects include:

- An exciting new look and menu at Whistler Mountain's Roundhouse Lodge (see below for more details);
- Eight new grooming machines added to the fleet replacing old ones;
- Summer grooming and trail widening in the Piccolo/Symphony zones, Burnt Stew Trail and Pony Trail to improve the ski experience on these popular beginner/low-intermediate trails;
- Snowmaking enhancements leveraging snowmaking investment made by 2010 Olympic Games organizers which will double snowmaking production at Whistler Blackcomb by 2010;
- A major power upgrade to the Roundhouse Lodge that will provide significant energy and cost savings and reduce greenhouse gases - a project that Whistler Blackcomb has recently been recognized for by local environmental watchdog AWARE.

### Grooming/Trail Improvements

Whistler Blackcomb's fleet of 29 grooming machines grooms more terrain during the winter season than any other North American resort. This year, \$2.6 million dollars has been spent on eight new groomers, which will replace older machines ready to be retired. The new machines will enable two shifts of grooming staff per night to cover more ground, groom more high alpine terrain, and ultimately add to the intermediate guest's experience.

"To many of our guests, experiencing 'corduroy perfection' is paramount when looking for an exceptional mountain experience," says Greg Jarratt, Whistler Mountain's Grooming Manager. "With the new grooming machines, we'll be more efficient at accessing further-reaching areas such as the new Symphony Amphitheatre, and groom the runs that will cater to intermediate and beginner guests, typically the guests that crave the corduroy."

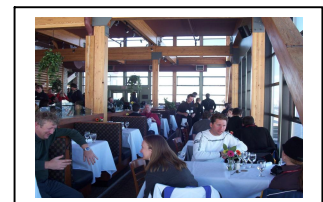
To complement this spend, an additional \$2.1 million has been spent on:

- Trail improvements across both mountains;
- Brush cutting on both mountains;
- New trails within the Symphony Amphitheatre;
- A wider, improved Pony Trail Bypass, a popular beginner run on Whistler Mountain.

"Last year's summer grooming efforts were a major reason why we were able to open up so much terrain so early in the season," recalls Jarratt. "It was an investment that paid off in a big way."

### MOUNTAIN RESTAURANTS ARE CATERING TO ALL BUDGETS

Roundhouse, Rendezvous, and Glacier Creek are now featuring "Meals Under \$10", Whistler Blackcomb's famous breakfast sandwiches for \$2.97, and the Alpine Breakfast with coffee or hot chocolate for only \$7.95. Re-energize yourself for a day on the slopes without spending all your dough, or dine in the fabulous dining restaurants such as Christine's and Steep's Grill.



## UPDATES FOR SKI SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Please note there have been some changes for this year's ski school programs:

- Ski Esprit is on Mondays only. There will be an exception for the holiday where the program will begin on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- We have added a new 2-Day Freestyle/Freeride Snowboard Camp to replace Ride Guides.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Ride Tribe camp has been cancelled.

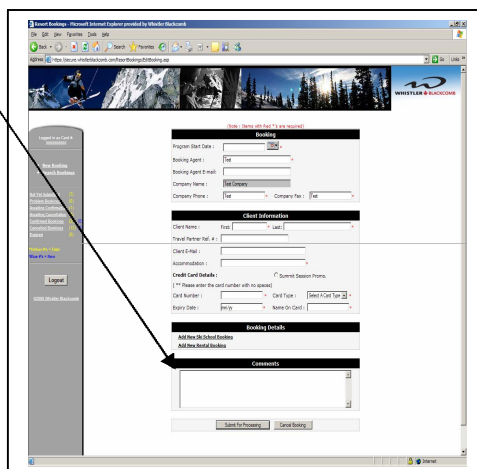
## DISCOVER WHISTLER DAYS



Whistler Blackcomb is offering major savings of 40% off a variety of ski and snowboard lessons during 11 weeks this winter. This season's Discover Whistler Days dates are: opening day to December 22; January 15 to February 11; February 26 to March 11; and April 16-22.

## ONLINE BOOKING TIPS

- For special offers, if you do not input the Promo code you will be charged the regular Resort Partner rates
- The "Learn to ski/ride" package is the only one that allows you to book the Lift Lesson and Rental. Other than this all rentals must be booked separately
- If you want a Skier and Snowboarder in a Private lesson together, you must request a "Dual Certified Instructor"
- The adult beginner Learn to Ski/Ride only meets in the village
- Date of Birth and Parent's name is mandatory when booking a Whistler kids program
- Always stress pre-booking Whistler Kids programs as they sell out fast!
- When communicating to the team in the comments area, make sure to add all new comments at the top of the dialogue box.
- Make sure you include logging into the Online Form as part of your team's daily routine. That way you can keep on top of any confirmations and changes that need to be made.



## PROUD TO BE A VENUE FOR THE 2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Construction kicked into high gear at Whistler Blackcomb in the summer of 2006 as British Columbia prepares to host the world in 2010. Work this summer took place on Whistler Mountain to lay the ground work for an extensive snowmaking operation on the men's and women's Alpine Skiing race courses. Trail enhancements on the men's Downhill course – the legendary Dave Murray Downhill, and the women's Downhill course – Franz's Run will also take place this summer and next. Work is expected to be completed in time to host test events during the 2008/2009 winter season.

### On the Road to 2010 – Snowmaking and Trail Improvements

With the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games less than four years away, venue preparations are well underway and the alpine skiing venue on Whistler Blackcomb is no exception. The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Games (VANOC) has been preparing the venue for the events that will take place on Whistler Mountain in 2010. The events held at Whistler Creekside include the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines of men's and women's Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, Slalom and Combined (Olympic only).

With snowmaking paramount in the preparation, Whistler Blackcomb has had the opportunity to participate on the snowmaking enhancements design team. Approximately \$17.6 million is being spent by VANOC on snowmaking infrastructure to be ready for the Games, a huge legacy to the resort once the Games are over. In addition, Whistler Blackcomb has been able to leverage this by investing in further improvements that will ultimately double the snowmaking production capabilities on the mountains by 2010. In fact, Whistler Blackcomb has invested over \$5 million in snowmaking on both mountains over the past three years.

This summer, Whistler Blackcomb worked on additional snowmaking improvements such as:

- Snowmaking from the Chic Pea restaurant to the valley via Orange Peel, Expressway and Crabapple, providing a new early season route and another dependable ski-out throughout the season;
- Pump station upgrades to keep pace with the new expansion technology for benefits long past 2010;
- New sewage infrastructure for the Raven's Nest and Crystal Hut restaurants providing much anticipated conventional washroom facilities there.

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