



Press Release: IPC Sept 8/08

## World Stage Returns to Comox Valley

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has awarded its 2009 Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon World Cup Final ski races to the Comox Valley. The event will take place March 8-15 at the Mount Washington Nordic Centre. This final series of races will follow directly on the pre-games world cup test event being staged at Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley, site of the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Nordic events. It is expected that most of the 21 nations on the IPC world cup circuit will send their teams to Mount Washington. An estimated 175 participants will double the number who participated in same event held here 2007. Four days of Nordic and Biathlon races will culminate in the presentation of the World Cup championship trophies to the top world athletes in these sports.

The Comox Valley World Cup Organizing Committee has worked with the Strathcona Nordic Ski Club and the Comox Valley Spirit Committee to attract this event to our region. Following on the very successful 2007 world cup, the IPC found it easy to award another world cup to the Nordic trails of Mount Washington Resort and is relying on the North Island communities to again host a spectacular event. Coordinated with the VANOC world cup pre-games test event at Callaghan Valley, the valley will see the arrival of the elite Paralympics field to a community celebration in Courtenay on March 8. Two days of training will be followed by four days of races. The Nordic stadium at Mt. Washington is renowned for its accessibility and visibility making it a perfect place to watch and encourage these world class athletes. Facilities are provided for spectators to understand and enjoy Para Nordic skiing at its best. This is a chance to get up close to the athletes that will ski for Paralympic gold in 2010.

World cup events rely on sponsorships for many of the activities surrounding the races. The Island community was exceedingly generous in 2007 and will be asked again for their support. Many opportunities exist to promote your company on the world and local stage. International attention is paid to these



events and press from the participating countries cover the races. Biathlon is a hugely popular sport in Europe and successful biathletes have hero status. The organizing committee encourages those who wish to participate as sponsors to step forward and enjoy the advantages this event offers.

World cup events also rely on local communities to volunteer their time and enthusiasm. Upwards of 300 volunteers will be needed to successfully stage this world cup final. A call for event week volunteers will be made later in the fall. At this point, people who are interested in the design and management of the event are encouraged to contact the organizing committee. We are seeking a coordinator of volunteers and a chairperson for the hospitality services committee. These people will sit on the organizing committee and lead the volunteers working on Food Services, Awards Banquet, medal presentations, and Community Events. The volunteer coordinator will be responsible for recruiting and assigning volunteers to specific committees and providing volunteer recognitions and logistics. Most of the volunteers from 2007 have expressed interest in again being part of the event and will bring experience and expertise to their tasks. These wonderful people will form the base for future top level events in our community.

**For more information on the event, contact Darryl Pippin, Event Chair, at [chair@mountwashingtonworldcup.com](mailto:chair@mountwashingtonworldcup.com).**