

Friends of Garibaldi Park

Making a 'Stewardship
Commitment' to Garibaldi
Provincial Park



Media Links:

'Black Tusk Meadows Trail' 2010 - Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EP8ml3nar8>

'Black Tusk Meadows trail in need of repairs' - Whistler Question

<http://www.whistlerquestion.com/article/20110119/WHISTLER01/301199953/-1/WHISTLER/black-tusk-meadows-trail-in-need-of-repairs>

'Celebrating 100 years of Recreation and Protection' - Video

http://www.elderscouncilforparks.org/bcparks_movie.html

Our Beginning

Forming the Friends of Garibaldi Park (FOGP) all began after Al Jenkins made a hike to the Black Tusk Meadows last fall. As a former Park Ranger and Area Supervisor for Garibaldi Park, Al could hardly believe his eyes. Al noticed that an important trail leading to Black Tusk, one of the more popular features of the park, had deteriorated due to lack of maintenance.

After making some phone calls and doing some research, Al discovered others who had concerns with the current state of Garibaldi Park. It then became clear that the issues surrounding Garibaldi Park were much more numerous and greater than expected.

Al posted a video project showing the deterioration of the Black Tusk trail on YouTube and began speaking with the media to generate public interest. Al then founded the Friends of Garibaldi Park group to promote further awareness and stewardship in Garibaldi Park.

The Black Tusk

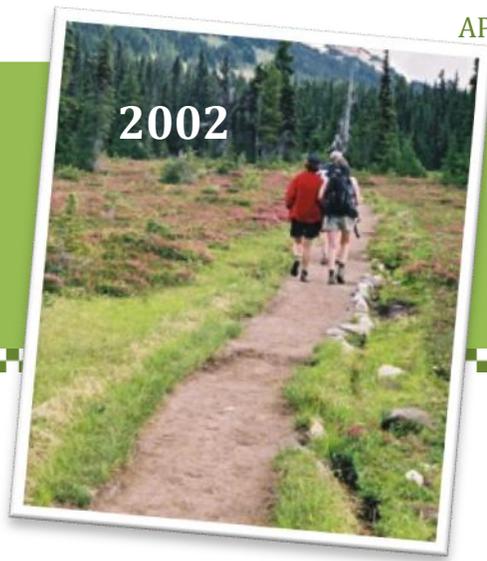
The dramatic remnant of an extinct volcano that has eroded away over time. It is known by the Squamish Nation as the perching place of the 'mythical' Thunderbird.



2010



2002



Our Direction

In 1927 another group of passionate leaders organized. Back then, The British Columbia Mountaineering Club (BCMC), were successful in protecting the wilderness area that now comprises Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Members of the BCMC took extensive action in order to preserve the 'extraordinary natural beauty' of Garibaldi Park and were instrumental in protecting the

cultural resources of the park for 'the enjoyment, education and inspiration of future generations'.

As we 'fast forward' to 2011, it would appear by looking at the condition of Garibaldi Park that we can no longer assume everyone will attach the same priorities to the public benefits of what our Provincial Parks have to offer.

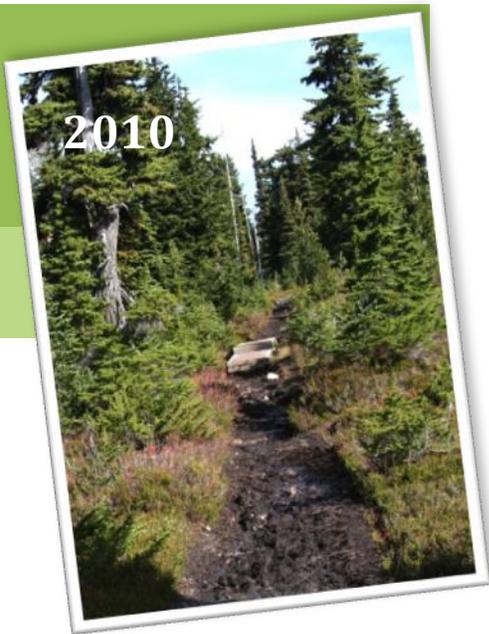
Public understanding will be crucial in helping people re-connect to the value of the park and

see what opportunities Garibaldi Park can bring into their lives. Community support will be the key to a long-term commitment and relationship that will continue to protect the unique features and history of Garibaldi Park.

The development of a mission statement as well as the structure for the Friends of Garibaldi Park will take a network of passionate leaders and Ambassadors willing to re-engage the community and forge

'Working toward improving the experience of Garibaldi Provincial Park'





‘Our intention is to create public demand, by increasing awareness and broadening the understanding of concerns that are affecting Garibaldi Provincial Park’

new partnerships. If we are going to help Garibaldi Park survive and become relevant, it can no longer be viewed as ‘an island’ in the community.

The proposed goal for this summer is to have the Friends of Garibaldi Park work to upgrade a one kilometre section of the Black Tusk Meadows Trail between Taylor Cabin and Black Tusk junction. This project would serve to :

1. Provide an opportunity for the Friends of Garibaldi Park to build their ongoing stewardship commitment with the park and provide an excellent example for the community on how to make a positive impact.
2. Provide an opportunity for the Friends of Garibaldi Park to increase public awareness on park issues with a project that celebrates the current 100 year anniversary of provincial parks in British Columbia.

For some portions of the trail we will be able to use hard wearing ‘moraine’ type material. However, for the very poor sections, we are proposing that boardwalk be installed using 6 x 6 timbers. Al Jenkins is working on the details of this proposal and he will be submitting it to B.C. Parks shortly.

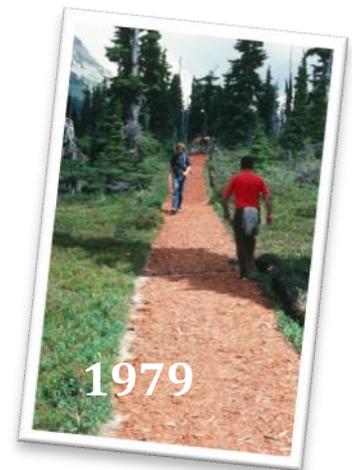
Financing is currently something that is also required for this project. We are looking to identify potential sponsors as well as accepting donations to help with raising funds for the materials needed.

We have partnered with B.C. Parks, Garibaldi Park Area Supervisor Chris Platz and are in the process of setting up a general fund under the Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act.

Known as a ‘Park Enhancement Fund,’ the Friends of Garibaldi Park will then utilize these funds for our Black Tusk Trail restoration project.

In the meantime, volunteer

workers will be critical and we will need the hands and support of many volunteers to help get this done. Inside the summer’s short window, it could be August before the meadows are clear of snow,



allowing work to proceed.

At this time we are looking to identify volunteers for field crews, trail restoration managers and project coordinators. There is much preparation and coordination to be done. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact **Al Jenkins** at info.fogp@gmail.com

Continued

Initiating a process for collecting information and understanding basic park issues will also be essential as we move forward. The development of an easy to conduct 'park survey' would yield an immense amount of information and be particularly useful in the early stages of our inquiry into the issues surrounding Garibaldi Park.

Information gathered from a survey would provide the Friends of Garibaldi Park with factual data that can be used to prioritize projects, as well as provide greater understanding of park issues.

Knowledge of park concerns and the experiences of those who use and have yet to use Garibaldi Park will be valuable in planning the road ahead.

Also, having a base of factual information available to us will lead to an open and informed decision making process. A survey would be a way to respect the needs and desires of current park users, visitors, the general public, Garibaldi Park and its' stakeholders.

If you are interested in helping with this project please contact **Cathy Ross** info.fogp@gmail.com

From "Running on Empty" on BC Parks' 100th Anniversary Campaign:

"The first services to be axed were the interpretive programs"

"Next, park rangers became an endangered species"

"Trails have fallen into disrepair"

To assist with the flow of information, we are in the process of building a website. Once the site is up we will then be able to facilitate connecting people to the Friends of Garibaldi Park easily and send out information in a more

effective manner.

Our first order of business is raising awareness, organizing and generating funds for the Black Tusk Trail restoration project. Your feedback is appreciated and your suggestions are highly valued.

If you have a particular skill set, interest and or transferable experience that you would like to share with the Friends of Garibaldi Park please email your interest to info.fogp@gmail.com

We are aware that some of you have already stated a preference and that is greatly appreciated.

This is one very popular park! It is amazing what interest and enthusiasm lies out there. Collectively we can use this momentum to create action!

Our thanks to ...

Brian Wood, president of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) has generously provided his time and support during the initial stages of the Friends of Garibaldi Park (FOGP). Brian brings his valuable experience to the FOGP, with his involvement in the Recreation and Conservation committees of both the FMCBC and the British Columbia Mountaineering Club (BCMC). Thank you Brian.

A special thanks to Jodi Appleton also of the FMCBC, Jodi has kindly forwarded us the names and contact information for those people interested in becoming part of the Friends of Garibaldi Park. Thank you Jodi.