



Find a winter paradise in Smithers

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AN ARTISTS' RENDITION of a quiet cabin nestled in the mountainside at Hudson Bay Mountain in Smithers, B.C. Developers predict Hudson Bay Mountain will be a winter resort destination for international skiers and snowboarders. (photo supplied)

Winter is here and skiers' thoughts are turning to the slopes.

For many Vancouverites, that automatically translates to Whistler, where the powder is world class and real estate has long been sky high.

But investors willing to travel farther in order to be part of a new, evolving ski experience at a far more attractive price point are watching with keen interest as Hudson Bay Mountain unveils an ambitious \$75 million plan to transform the community ski hill in Smithers into what developer 20/20 Developments hopes will become one of B.C.'s most unique mountain resorts.

The three-year plan will see the addition of a second chair lift and 10 new runs, including completion of the eight-kilometre Trail to Town, one of the few opportunities in North America where skiers and snowboarders of any ability can ski from the mountain top to the village at mountain base in one continuous run.

At more than a 3,700-foot vertical drop, this gives Hudson Bay Mountain an enviable rating as one of the top five longest ski-out mountains in B.C. As the first of what will ultimately become a six-phase master-planned resort community prepares to launch sales on Nov. 17, buyers looking for a place to park their recreational investment dollars are taking note.

This initial offering brings 148 fully serviced building lots to market. Home sites range from 8,500 to 20,000-plus square feet and at a starting price of \$137,900 make an affordable alternative to other, more established and better known ski hills.

"Hudson Bay Mountain is the exact opposite experience to what Whistler is," stresses Lorne Borgal, president of 20/20 Developments.

However, like Whistler, its registered design guidelines will maintain the integrity of the community's overall architectural style and theme of residential development on the mountain, he added.

"This project will provide a rare opportunity to build a safe, secure cabin surrounded by nature in a four-season mountain resort with world-class fishing and hunting along with an uncrowded and expanding ski operation."

Dennis MacKay, MLA for Bulkley Valley-Stikine, predicts this expansion will attract skiers and snowboarders from beyond B.C. and even Canada, and will help put Smithers on the map as a new destination of choice for skiers and recreational property investors.

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