



IN HIS ELEMENT
Geoff Croll makes tracks
on Cypress Mountain

WEEKEND WARRIOR

Mountain Man

For British Pacific Properties president Geoff Croll, snowshoeing is one more way to take to the hills

I was born and raised in West Vancouver, and I've been playing on the North Shore Mountains all my life—from hiking to skiing to mountain biking and trail running. Snowshoeing's just another activity on the hillside. My first memories of snowshoeing are of a Scout group 40 years ago going up Hollyburn with these

big, wooden, heavy showshoes. Now you have these superlight-weight snowshoes that you just strap on like very lightweight trail shoes. You can walk, you can run, so it's a great way to get exercise, to get fresh air.

You don't need as much equipment as you do for skiing. You don't need to take lessons. You just need a pair of snowshoes, and off you go. This winter I hope to get out a couple of times a month—if we go to Whistler for a weekend, we'll go skiing one day, and the other day we'll go snowshoeing on the other side of the valley. I usually go with my wife. Our three daughters are very much in the outdoors as well, so we have snowshoes and headlamps for everybody.

If you go at night, it's magical, with the light from the headlamps darting through the trees and reflecting off the snow. You can go snowshoeing at Mount Seymour, you can go at Hollyburn—you can have a fondue dinner at Hollyburn Lodge. We often go on the Trans Canada Trail in West Vancouver as well—the snow's lower.

It can be a casual walk or it can be a superintense cardiovascular workout, depending what you want to do or who you're going with. But most of all, it's getting out in the fresh air and out in nature and away from the stress and the busyness of our lives in the city.

—as told to Felicity Stone

NEW + IMPROVED

The latest developments in the world of lifestyle—from bikes to booze (and more!)

BIKES/ A female-focused cycling boutique has rolled into Vancouver. Liv Vancouver, on West 4th Avenue, sells bicycles, clothing and accessories, and wants to become a hub where women riders can learn about bikes over coffee.

SKINCARE/ Victoria-based Jusu Bar has launched Jusu Body, a line of skincare products made with pulp left over from cold-pressing organic juices. The line includes body lotion, body scrub, lip balm and soap bars.

TRAVEL/ Travel Best Bets, the Burnaby-based travel agency founded in 1993, has a new Go Solo app for travellers looking for small-group tours with similar-aged people.

BOOZE/ Vancouver's Odd Society Spirits micro-distillery released its first single malt whisky last December, followed by a second offering in February. The Batch #1 Single Malt Whisky was distilled from B.C.-grown malted barley and matured in oak barrels for three years.

RENOVATION/ The City of Vancouver's new Commercial Renovation Centre is a one-stop shop that helps entrepreneurs with regulations, permits and procedures ranging from licensing a small business to renovating a commercial tenant space. —F.S.

Correction: In this space last month, we gave incorrect information on the name O2E Brands. O2E stands for "ordinary to exceptional."

WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT

Geoff Croll, who joined British Pacific Properties 11 years ago, became president of the real estate development firm in 2014. BPP's latest project on West Vancouver land owned by the Guinness brewing family since 1931—the first was the British Properties—is Cypress Village. The mixed-use community will give more people access to the mountain and introduce them to snowshoeing, Croll says.