

## Chamber Plans Canada Day Extravaganza

The Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce will host Canada Day celebrations at Rotary Lakeside Park, Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chamber of Commerce has hosted this annual community celebration for many years, and it is with great pride that we honor Canada, with a community wide celebration.

Canada Day is a major Chamber of Commerce event each year, and a tremendous family oriented celebration of our greater community, with thousands of people attending from all over the region.

Included in the day's activities is an official opening ceremony beginning at 10:30am with Nelson City Police, RCMP and Nelson Fire Department color guards, official speeches from local, provincial politicians as well as the ceremonial raising of the Canadian Flag and the singing of O Canada.

One of the highlights each year is the serving of our Canada Day birthday cake, followed with live music and all kinds of fun-filled activities for kids of all ages. Dozens of community groups will be involved throughout the day concluding with a tremendous fireworks display, at dusk sponsored in part by Celebrate Canada, The City of Nelson, The Nelson Professional Firefighters, as well as several community minded businesses and individuals

In past years, community minded businesses like yours have stepped forward to provide the sponsorship money required to put on a grand finale fireworks display.

Sponsors of the Canada Day Fireworks will receive pre and post event-advertising acknowledgement, as well as business name credit acknowledgement in the monthly Chamber newsletter and on the sponsor's board at Lakeside Park.

Your sponsorship commitment would mean an investment of \$200.00 for this year's event.

On behalf of the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank you for your businesses on going support of this community event.

If you would like to be a supporter once again, please email your response to [tom@discovernelson.com](mailto:tom@discovernelson.com), or call 352-3433.

We are also in the process of booking our entertainment line up of musicians and performers for the Canada Day celebrations. Every year, crowds are delighted with the wealth of talent that takes part in these family oriented Canada day festivities.

As well, many community groups and non profit organizations set up activity booths for kids and kids and at heart, and provide day long activities. If you would like to take part in the Canada day activities in Lakeside Park, and would like to book a booth, please contact the Chamber office at 352-3433, or email [info@discovernelson.com](mailto:info@discovernelson.com)



## **Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole: Nelson residents have an opportunity to carve a moment in history**

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Nelson residents will be able to take part in a unique art project as part of the celebration for the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games. To commemorate the rich history of British Columbia's Aboriginal peoples and share the story of the international multi-sport games, a Coast Salish artist will transform a 20' western red cedar log into a traditional story pole.

Nelson Spirit of BC committee spokesman and Chamber of Commerce manager Tom Thomson says the Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole Tour is really an amazing and unique project! With the log visiting more than 45 communities over a 13 week tour and under the guidance and supervision of the carver, Carey Newman, the Spirit Pole will take shape. In each community, people will be invited to try their hand at carving the log while learning about traditional carving methods and Aboriginal history.



The Cowichan Spirit Pole will be in Nelson Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Spirit Pole will be set up between 11am and 3pm in the Nelson and District Community Complex parking lot.

The 20 foot Western Cedar is transported throughout the province on a flat deck that transforms into the central focus staging and carving area.

Also as part of the experience there is an education exhibition that highlights BC rich First Nations diversity and history. There is also a demonstration carving area and an area for cultural performances.

The event kicks off with a special welcome ceremony. Then people are invited to try their hand at carving, with the guidance and supervision of the carving team. People will also be able to experience and enjoy the exhibit, demonstration carving area and the many other features of the event. It is expected that by the time the spirit pole is completed, as many as 10 thousand people will have contributed.

The Spirit Pole will eventually make its way to the coast and be integrated into Tribal Journeys, a celebration of Indigenous nations' maritime heritage and one of the most prominent cultural events associated with the North America Indigenous Games

The Cowichan Valley will welcome more than 9 thousand Aboriginal Athletes and cultural participants from across North America, as the region plays host to the 2008 North American Indigenous Games August 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>.

The Spirit Pole is one of several initiatives and community celebrations taking place throughout the province as part of the BC 150 Years program, a celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of British Columbia as a Crown Colony.



Nelson

## History Comes Alive with CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour: Spirit Train to visit Nelson June 14th

June will be a busy month. The Spirit Pole arrives in Nelson June 5th, while on June 14th Nelson will experience history in motion. On February 1st, The Canadian Pacific Rail, the Royal BC Museum and the Province announced a partnership to celebrate B.C.'s 150th anniversary with a heritage rail tour across the province.

The CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour officially starts on June 12 and will begin its journey across the province, stopping at many B.C. communities over the course of a month. Canadian Pacific's rolling ambassador, the vintage CP 2816 Empress Steam Locomotive, will lead the rail tour across CP's rail network in British Columbia. Canadian Pacific's rolling ambassador, the vintage CP 2816 Empress Steam Locomotive, will lead the rail tour across CP's Rail network



in British Columbia. The importance of railways in the history of B.C. and Canada is often not entirely realized or may be forgotten nowadays. This heritage tour will give people across B.C. a chance to celebrate communities linked by rail and reflect on the industry's contributions in shaping our provincial identity.

The historic tour will be enhanced by vintage passenger, business and stage cars. As well, the partners are turning a 1958 Ex Union Pacific baggage car into a rolling museum, a travelling version of the Royal BC Museum's Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and B.C. exhibit.

The train tour will take visitors on a journey through time and space," said Tim Willis, Royal BC Museum Director of Exhibits and Visitor Experience. "The exhibition will reveal just a glimpse of some of the stories that make our



history so fascinating. This really is a chance to explore what makes BC what it is"

Along with the travelling exhibit, the train stops will also feature music, kids' activities and performances by actors portraying some of B.C.'s prominent historical figures.

The Train will be rolling into Nelson at 6:45pm, making its way to the Lakeside Park level crossing. The show will take place from 7pm-9:45pm, with a full array of family oriented entertainment as well as an opportunity to tour the railway museum exhibit. We will see you at Lakeside Park on Saturday June 14th.

With the Chamber moving along with our CP Rail Station restoration project we look forward to this historic day, and the arrival of the CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour.

## Finalists Announced for Spirit of Innovation Awards

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After receiving a record number of submissions for the regional Spirit of Innovation Awards, KAST is pleased to announce the finalists for the four Award categories: Innovative Company, Innovative Individual, Innovative Organization and Most Promising Emerging Company.

In the **Innovative Company** category the four finalists are

**AC Global Systems, Teck Cominco, D-Pace ([Dehnel Particle Accelerator Components and Engineering, Inc.](#)) and Qfinsoft Technology Inc.**

For the **Innovative Organization** category (non-profit & public organizations) the four finalists are **Invest Kootenay Partnership, Red Mountain Academies, Tech Village and The Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL).**

The **Innovative Individual** category finalists are **Selena Davis (Selena Davis & Ass., Health Informatics Consulting), Jocelyn Cowie (ASSESSX Technology Ltd.), Marilyn Roberts (Kootenay Covers) and Robert Macrae (Selkirk College).**

In the category of **Most Promising Emerging Company** the finalists are **AC Global Systems, Selkirk Power, ASSESSX Technology Ltd. and Kootenay Covers.**

On Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, over 200 of us will gather, along with these innovative organizations and individuals to discover who the winners of each category will be.

“Inspiring, informative and fun...these are KAST’s goals for this event”, says Kelvin Saldern, Executive Director for the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology. “We start the day with the Innovation for Entrepreneurs conference that features sessions on

fostering innovation and creativity in your organization as well presentations on real life lessons from innovative entrepreneurs. That evening, we’ll celebrate innovation in the W. Kootenay-Boundary with the Spirit of Innovation Gala Banquet and Awards Ceremony.”

The 2008 Awards Gala is a premier event that includes an opening reception with a martini bar and live music, followed by an elegant 4-course meal with complimentary wine and decadent desserts. Multi media clips will showcase the innovative achievements of the sixteen Spirit of Innovation finalists. Of the sixteen contenders, four will be take home a prestigious Spirit of Innovation Award.

Tickets for the Banquet & Awards Ceremony are \$40 for an individual or \$300 for a table of eight. The Innovation for Entrepreneurs Conference and the 2008 KAST Spirit of Innovation Awards will be held at the Prestige Lakeside Resort in Nelson on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For details visit [www.kast.com](http://www.kast.com) To register for the conference or purchase tickets to the Awards Gala, contact KAST at 250-483-5052 or visit the KAST website [www.kast.com](http://www.kast.com)

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce applauds the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our regional businesses. Congratulations to all of the finalists, and good luck at the KAST Spirit of Innovation Awards on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## West Kootenay Early Childhood Advisory Councils look for input on Child Care

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**The West Kootenay Early Childhood Advisory Councils would really appreciate you printing and distributing the attached survey to your employees, collecting completed surveys and returning them to their office. They are also happy to send you the required number of surveys you would need and pick up completed surveys if that is your preference.**

As many of you have heard, families with young children are struggling to find child care. Waiting lists are up to two years long and growing. This has a negative economic impact on our communities in two ways. First, many employers are struggling to find the employees they need to do business. Employees with young children are missing work, quitting work or refusing work due to lack of childcare.

Secondly, when a family has only one income or in the case of a single parent, forced onto social assistance, this significantly impacts their purchasing power. It is only a very small percentage of families that can get by these days on one income.

One or both of these situations may be affecting your bottom line.

We hope you will help us to gather information which will allow us to better understand the impacts the lack of child care is having in the West Kootenay.

**If you return the surveys from your employees to The West Kootenay Early Childhood offices labelled with your workplace name and a contact person, we will compile your data and provide you with a summary of the results from your workplace.**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to call the West Kootenay Early Years office at 352-6786 or 1-866-551-5437. The survey is attached to this Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

## Over 50 and fabulous!

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Canada's mature workers are ready to take on the workforce!

A large percentage of individuals looking for work in today's market are over 50 years of age and say they are having difficulty winning over employers. The question is - can you afford to miss out on the opportunity to grow your team with skilled, motivated employees?

"Older workers are determined to overcome the myths that exist about them today," says Myrt Turner, Director of Experience Counts – WCG's employment program for 55-64 year olds in Prince George. "They have so much to offer and can bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job," says Turner.

**Myth: Older workers are biding their time until retirement.**

**Reality:** Many older workers want to continue to work.

**Myth: Older workers are less productive.**

**Reality:** Older workers can be as productive as younger workers. There is no significant difference in job performance between older and younger workers.

**Myth: Older workers are unwilling/unable to adapt to new technologies.**

**Reality:** Older workers have the ability to learn new knowledge and keep pace with younger workers. If anything, older workers generally recognize the need for continuous learning.

*WCG International HR Solutions delivers programs like JobWave and Triumph Vocational Services in over 250 communities across British Columbia in collaboration with close to 70 community agency partners, the business sector and the provincial government. Call Ashland Training 352-0966.*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Darla Tolerton RMT  
207-507 Baker Street  
Nelson, BC  
352-9686  
Registered Massage Therapist

BCFerien Vacation Rental  
(Rasberry Hill)  
Marion Johnston  
1495 Birch Road  
Gray Creek, BC  
250-227-9583  
info@bcferien.ca

Blackbird Renovations  
Shane Smith  
Suite 307, 622 Front St  
Nelson, BC V1L 4B7  
250-509-1313  
[blackbirdrenovations@yahoo.ca](mailto:blackbirdrenovations@yahoo.ca)  
Contractor

## A BIG THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

Artful Lodger  
Shoppers Drug Mart  
Whitewater Winter Resort Ltd.  
JNP Contracting Ltd  
McKernan Gowans (Credit Risk Management)  
The Gingerbread House Bed and Breakfast  
Endless Harvest  
Prefix Media  
Comfort & Joy/Mountain Baby  
Feelings With Flowers/What's Happening  
Party Rentals  
Smienk Holdings Inc (Gas plumbing & Natural Water Improvements)  
Two Hills Tea Limited  
Zep Manufacturing Co.  
Bills' Motor - In Ltd  
Erickson Enterprises  
McLaughlin Printers & Stationers

Focus Point Coaching  
Blackbird Renovations Canada Ltd.  
Arica Gardens B & B  
Biome Ecological Consultants Ltd.  
Hellman Canoes (Enterprise)  
Kootenays Bed & Breakfast Association  
McGauley Resources All Seasons Waterfront Rentals)  
Endless Adventure Wilderness Tours  
Mikes RV Ranch  
Summit Reflections  
Kootenay Bay Developments  
Lillie & Cohoe  
Lonnie's For Her & Him  
Safeway Canada Ltd  
Karibu Park Cottages & Campground  
Ram's Head Inn Ltd.  
Withinsight Services  
Integrated Ecological Research  
Long Beach Medical Clinic  
Adele's Cleaning Service  
All Accounts Organizational Services  
In Your Face Foods  
Reel Adventures  
Turtle Mountain Developments

Becoming a member of Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce can save you and your business money. As a member of the BC Chamber of Commerce we are proud to provide many benefits for you and your employees, including;

### **CHAMBER GROUP INSURANCE**

Covers all industries including one person firms, home businesses and farms. Possible benefits include life, health, dental and travel care insurance, vision care, short and long term disability, business overhead benefits and many others. Guaranteed renewable contract and fully pooled price stability.

For details on the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan, please contact Glenn Sutherland at Sutherland and Associates Financial Service 250 352-3518, or contact the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce. A Group Insurance Plan can be developed that is tailored to your needs, whether you are a 1 or 2 person operation, or a business that employs dozens of people.

## Businesses in Nelson Win: Business Workshops May 27th

The Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Nelson Business Association present a series of business workshops, **Tuesday May 27th at the Best Western Baker Street Inn.**

6 speakers will present 50 minute presentations throughout the day. Topics include:

- Business and the Privacy Acts of BC and Canada
- Small Business ta and tax relief areas
- The money game and the changing employment picture
- How the world economy will affect your bottom line, and the changes that your company may need to make to survive
- How to optimize the return to your business of the satisfied customer
- Keeping more of your net profit

The cost is \$20 pre registered which includes a continental breakfast and beverages.

For more information call 505 3925

**Got an event coming up?  
Go to [www.discoverNelson.com](http://www.discoverNelson.com)  
and post it to our on-line  
calendar. It's free!**

**You can also add your  
business information to  
our business database.**

**That's free too!**

## Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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- **Vice President** Cal Renwick, Nelson Toyota
- **Past President** Russell Stocks, Nelson Ford
- **Secretary Treasurer** Brent Irving,  
Carmichael, Toews, Irving Inc

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- Chris Jury, RBC Royal Bank
- Bruce Lacroix, Lacroix & Associates Consulting
- Barrie McWha, Balfour Golf Club
- Travis Mann, Granite Pointe Golf Course
- Karen Van Vogt, Investors Group
- John Yowek, Nelson and District Credit Union