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SNOW TIME!

BC alpine resorts
gear up for winter

HONOURING CULTURE

BC Elders Gathering celebrates past and
future generations

Pacific Coastal
AIRLINES®

October/November 2015 | Volume 9 | Number 4

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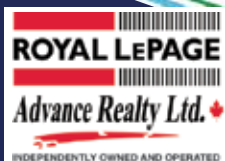
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Sheep Island: Beautiful 7 acre private island minutes from **Saanich** on Southern **Vancouver Island**. Amazing views. Protected deep water moorage with 120ft dock, classic netloft/shop on standing pier, oceanside salt water pool. 2 rustic cabins. Dug well, ponds, outbuildings, lawns, gardens and orchard. Prime location to build your new island paradise. **\$1,800,000**



NW Vancouver Island: Very rare opportunity! **Alice Lake** lakefront development - 17 subdivided acreages, individually titled, from 9.88-16.48 acres totalling 220 forested acres. 4000ft of diverse lakefront, rock outcrops, private bays and beach areas. Forest service road access or water access from two boat launches on the lake. Great investment opportunity! **\$1,250,000**



BC Mainland Oceanfront: Cordero Channel, **Stuart Island/Discovery Islands** region. 9 acre oceanfront property, 4bdrm panabode cedar home with large decks, secondary cottage, saltwater swimming pool with deck at water's edge. Systems are in place for power, water and septic. Moorage facilities including storage building, standing pier, ramp and dock. **\$875,000**



Campbell River Oceanfront Lot: 7840sqft level property with 70ft of waterfront. In a prime location, minutes from all amenities and services. The views are ever-changing across to **Quadra Island** and **Discovery Islands** with the marine and wildlife traffic. City services are to the lot line. This property is ready for you to build your dream home! **\$499,500**



Tlell Acreage: **Graham Island, Haida Gwaii**. 15 semi-oceanfront acres south of the Tlell River. Partially cleared, some forested areas, ocean views. 1968sqft 2-storey custom home with wood ceiling beams, sandstone fireplace, maple counter tops and oak flooring. Drilled well, septic, storage building & outbuildings. Easy access to sand and gravel beaches. **\$220,000**



Quatsino Sound Oceanfront: West coast **Vancouver Island**. 14 oceanfront acres, 150ft easy access shorefront, 780sqft 2bedroom home, with electricity and well. Ideal for year-round living or vacation home. Zoning allows additional cabins. Moorage minutes away at government dock. A region renowned for great sportfishing and wildlife on the **BC Coast**. **\$179,900**



Quartz Bay, Cortes Island: Unique! 88 acres on NW side of **Cortes**. 5,645ft of diverse sheltered oceanfront. Multiple titles, internal road network; 4 substantial, licensed dock systems; barge bulkhead; new 2500sqft shop; spring fed ponds for domestic water and power generation; septic system. 3 rustic oceanside cabins, one additional cabin. **\$1,990,000**



Read Island Oceanfront: 31 acres, 1800ft shorefront, mostly forested. Substantial improvements include 2 well-built structures, a small cabin and a shop with 2bdrm suite above. Main residence includes generous living room, 1 bedroom and loft. Orchard, small creek, expansive lawns. Solar power. Substantial standing pier and dock. **\$695,000**



Chatham Channel Acreages: Six oceanfront wilderness acreages with southern exposure and great views. Shared loading dock, internal roads, cleared building sites. Enjoy this magnificent outdoor adventure area on the doorstep of **Knight Inlet** and **Broughton Archipelago**, world-renowned for fishing, whale watching, kayaking and more. Water access. **\$75,000 - \$140,000**



Yakoun River Inn: This popular, local pub is situated on the oceanfront in **Port Clements** on **Graham Island** in **Haida Gwaii**. 3,300sqft building on a corner location, adjacent to government dock facilities, licensed for 100 patrons. Permitted uses also include lodging and adjacent properties can be available for anyone interested in expanding the business. **\$375,000**

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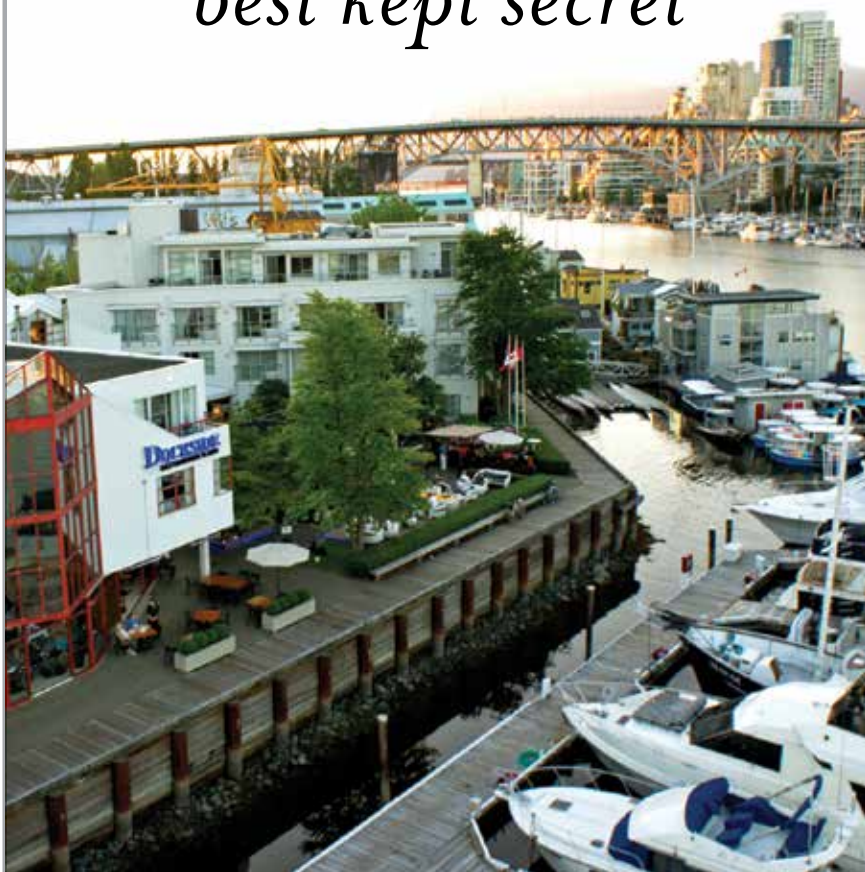
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New route is part of a long-term plan to provide convenient, affordable options

I am pleased to announce the addition of another new route to Pacific Coastal's network of more than 65 destinations in British Columbia.

Effective Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the new Victoria (YYJ) to Kelowna (YLW) flights will operate seven days a week using our Saab 340 aircraft.

The turbo prop Saab 340A and 340B's provide spacious seating for 30 to 34 passengers, bathroom facilities, a flight attendant and onboard service.

There will be two flights daily Monday through Friday, and one flight each day on Saturday and Sunday.

Pricing for the one hour and five minute flight will be competitive.

The introduction of this new route is part of a much larger strategic development plan that began in 2014 with the launch of our Cranbrook to Kelowna connector, and follows on the heels of our non-stop service between

Victoria to Prince George which began in January of this year.

We believe that the residents of both southern Vancouver Island and the Okanagan communities will enjoy the benefits of this quick, convenient, and affordable new transportation option.

Our company is now the sixth largest airline operating at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) based on outbound seats, and the third largest in takeoffs and landings.

That's quite an achievement for an airline that had its humble beginnings in the coastal community of Bella Coola nearly 40 years ago. We're proud of our unique heritage and will continue to seek out new opportunities to connect people and communities across British Columbia.

I hope to see you on one of our flights soon.



Pacific Coastal
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MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE



Name:
ELIJAH SCHULTZ

Position: First Officer,
Saab 340

Based in:
Richmond, BC

Time with Pacific Coastal: I've actually worked for Pacific Coastal for over three years, on and off. I started as a ramp agent in 2011, drove the shuttle bus for a summer, and had a two-year stint in the dispatch office before finishing my commercial pilot's licence. I worked a year with another airline and Pacific Coastal welcomed me back as a first officer earlier this year.

Department Mission or Vision: To deliver quality travel services to our customers with a focus on safety and efficiency.

What do you like best about your job? The people I've met while working at Pacific Coastal, the scenery of BC, and doing a job I've been passionate about since I was a kid in Air Cadets.

Can you tell us about your family? I actually met my wife, Jessica, while working at Pacific Coastal; she used to work in the office. No kids, but we have a dog named Pika.

Where did you grow up? Kamloops, BC

What do you enjoy outside of the job? Travelling, beach volleyball, soccer, skiing/snowboarding, spending time with friends and family.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Susan Lundy is an award-winning freelance writer, author and magazine editor, who lives on BC's west coast.



Sean McIntyre is a journalist from Montreal. He lives in the Gulf islands, where he enjoys writing about people and places that make BC a special place.



Susan Quinn is a veteran Vancouver Island journalist with more than two decades of experience and a passion for flying.



Jen Blyth is an award-winning writer, photographer and editor, whose stories have appeared in BC Business, BC Home, WestWorld and Yes Magazine.

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Pacific Coastal Airline's Saab 340B will be featured on the airline's newly announced Victoria-Kelowna direct link.

Pacific Coastal Airlines announces new non-stop service between Victoria and Kelowna

Pacific Coastal Airlines expects to see a mix of business and leisure travellers onboard, when it launches its new direct link between Victoria and Kelowna.

With flights between the two BC cities beginning October 27, the new scheduled service is just the latest in a series of route announcements over the past year.

"We believe there is significant market opportunity for this new route and that these new non-stop flights will be well received in both communities and the surrounding areas," says Spencer Smith, PCA's Vice President of Commercial Services.

The new Victoria (YYJ) to Kelowna (YLW) flights will operate seven days a week using Saab 340 aircraft.

The Saab 340A and 340B offer stand-up cabins, comfortable seating for 30 to 34 passengers, a flight attendant, on-board service and washroom. There will be two flights a day Monday through Friday and one daily flight on Saturday and Sunday.

Competitive pricing will be in place for the one hour and five minute flight.

The new route comes after Pacific Coastal began non-stop service between Victoria and Prince George in January of this year.

Pacific Coastal Airlines has been providing regularly scheduled, charter and cargo services in BC for almost 40 years. Started in Bella Coola by one-time truck logger Daryl Smith, it is now the sixth-largest airline operating at YVR (based on outbound seats), and third largest in takeoffs and landings.

Pacific Coastal Airlines' seaplane base operates out of Port Hardy on Vancouver Island and from there provides service to a large number of destinations along the coast. For more information visit www.pacificcoastal.com

Operating from its administrative centre at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) South Terminal, Pacific Coastal employs approximately 300 people across 15 bases in BC.

Passengers can make reservations on the airline's website at www.pacificcoastal.com, by phoning the call centre number at 1.800.663.2872, or through a local travel agency.



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FUNDING HELP FOR NORTH ISLAND

PORT ALICE — Looking for ways to diversify the economy is a top priority for Port Alice and the North Island Region, so \$30,000 from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour is a welcome influx of cash — especially when the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) is matching that investment with an additional \$30,000.

The \$60,000 in total funding will support the creation of an economic development and implementation strategy for Port Alice and the Regional District of Mount Waddington (North Island region). They will work with North Island communities to prioritize regional economic initiatives.

Port Alice and the North Island are in the midst of challenging times with the recent announcement that a major employer in the area, Neucel Specialty Cellulose, is on temporary curtailment until 2016.

Port Alice and region has an economic history tied to a small number of industries, which mainly includes the forestry sector. Plans are to enhance economic development by attracting investment and supporting new and existing businesses.

PRESERVING A RARE RAINFOREST

PRINCE GEORGE — The province is taking action to preserve the unique ecosystems of the Ancient Forest, home to some of the oldest trees in the country, and is calling for public input into the planning

The Province signed an agreement with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Society, a community-based conservation organization. The partners are working together to ensure that the Ancient Forest is preserved and, in the long-term, designated as an official protected area. At the same time, government is consulting with the public to help inform critical decisions like the forest boundaries and the legal designation of the protected area.

Ancient Forest covers more than 10,000 hectares of largely unlogged temperate rainforest and contains stands of giant red cedars, some more than 1,000 years old, as well as rare plants and lichens. The forest called Chun toh whud u jud by the Lheidli T'enneh — is 120 kilometres east of Prince George next to Slim Creek Provincial Park.

SEA TO SKY LINKS TO TRANS CANADA TRAIL

VANCOUVER — The dream of a cross-Canada recreational trail is one step closer to

being realized, following the opening of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail. The 40-kilometre marine trail spans Howe Sound from Horseshoe Bay to Squamish to Gibsons, and includes campsites in Porteau Cove, Halkett Bay and Plumper Cove provincial parks along with six new provincial marine recreation sites.

The marine trail connects to the 180-kilometre Sea to Sky Trail, which will eventually run from Squamish to D'Arcy, and connect Howe Sound to the Lower Mainland.

The marine trail, which also links to the Trans Canada Trail, was the result of a partnership among the Province, Squamish Nation, the Squamish-Lillooet and Sunshine Coast regional districts, Town of Gibsons, the Bowen Island Municipality, the Districts of Squamish and West Vancouver and the BC Marine Trail Networks Association.

The Trans Canada Trail is one of the world's longest networks of multi-use recreational trails. It will eventually cover nearly 24,000 kilometres from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic oceans.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MAINTAINED

COMOX VALLEY — The provincial government is preserving affordable housing in Courtenay through the purchase of the Washington Apartments, the city's largest

apartment complex.

There was a chance that the complex would be privately purchased and redeveloped, likely impacting tenants and resulting in the loss of much-needed affordable housing in the community.

The provincial government's purchase of the Washington Apartments means that the complex's current rental rates will remain the same and a significant amount of affordable housing will be preserved in Courtenay.

The complex, located at 1027, 1029 and 1033 Ryan Road, provides 120 residential rental apartments and is currently fully occupied. After learning of the purchase, many tenants have expressed their relief to staff that the complex that their rental rates and tenancy agreements will remain in place.

TOP MARKS FOR TOP WINE

OSOYOOS — North America's first aboriginal owned and operated winery, [Nk'Mip Cellars](#), has placed in the Top 10 Wineries of the Year category for the fourth consecutive year at the InterVin International Wine Awards competition.

Ranking 6th overall, Nk'Mip also brought home double gold awards for their top-scoring wines.



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HONOURING CULTURE

ELDERS GATHERING CELEBRATES PAST AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

BY JENNIFER BLYTH

Elders from First Nations across BC came together on the Saanich Peninsula, just outside Victoria this summer in an annual celebration of history, culture and sharing between generations.

Described as “honouring our ancestors through our Elders and recognizing our future through our youth,” the 39th Annual BC Elders Gathering welcomed 4,000 attendees and more than 600 volunteers to the Panorama Recreation Centre and surrounding community July 7 to 9.

Hosted this year by the Tsawout First Nation and WSANEC Elders, the annual gathering has grown every year since first hosted by the Coqualeetza Elders more than 39 years ago. That first year, just 60 Elders came together to socialize, celebrate past accomplishments, share stories and knowledge and regenerate their emotional well-being for future work.

The dream was bigger, however.

“The gathering continues to improve every year,” says Brad Boyes, director, sponsorship chair, Annual BC Elders Gathering Society.

The importance to the Elders of community and coming together for the benefit of future generations cannot be overstated, he says.

Cultural activities at gatherings have

included name-giving and totem pole raising ceremonies, revival of the Bumble Bee dance — not publicly demonstrated for more than 100 years — a traditional wedding and many cultural presentations.

The event also brings cultures together.

Boyes was pleased to note that of the 600 volunteers working at this year’s gathering, about half were non-native, many approaching their senior years. And in the opening ceremony, “it was great to see so many native and non-native leaders walk in the grand entry, followed by our wonderful team of sponsor partners.”

A primary aim of the Annual BC Elders Gathering Society is for the event to be hosted in a different BC First Nation community each year, allowing the Elders to share their traditions and teachings.

“Next year’s gathering in Williams Lake is going to be a game-changer, setting a new standard for Annual BC Elders Gatherings,” Boyes says.

Instrumental in this continuing legacy is the help of sustaining sponsor partners, who support the work of the hosting Band Councils and Elders, along with the support of the Elders Gathering Society, whose members are all volunteers.

“It is an honour for all our Annual BC Elders Gathering Society board of directors, under the advice, guidance and leadership of our Elders, to have the opportunity to

work with and assist the Elders in achieving whatever it is they wish to achieve through the gathering. Although our primary commitment is to the Elders through the Annual BC Elders Gathering, our indirect motive is to work with the Elders to assist the youth and all future generations,” Boyes says.

For that, the gathering encourages the sharing of the Elders’ knowledge and experience.

“It is so important that they share the stories they have in their hearts and minds with memories going back through experiences they gained from early childhood to the stories told to them by their ancestors through their parents and grandparents who have long since passed over,” Boyes says.

“The strength and determination the Elders provide to each other through sharing at the gathering is so helpful in the healing process that needs to take place as a result of the tremendous hardship put on them and their families during the residential school period. The Elders understand the work that needs to be done for the safety, security, health and well-being of their communities and all future generations. The Elders Gathering shows everyone who attends that by supporting each other and all people, Mother Earth and all that she provides, the future through respect and understanding will be a better place for all of us.”




The 39th Annual BC Elders Gathering, held this summer on the Saanich Peninsula near Victoria, was a multi-generational event. It was hosted this year by the Tsawout First Nation and WSANEC Elders.



COMING UP: 40TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING

The 40th Elders Gathering comes to Williams Lake, July 12-14, with a pre-Gathering Wild West Show July 11.

Hosted by the Tl'etinqox Government, Tsilhqot'in (the people of the river) National Government with support from the Carrier, Northern Secwepemc and Nuxalk Nations, the gathering will be held at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex and Williams Lake Stampede Grounds. 



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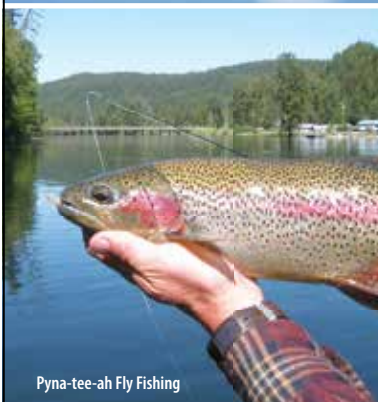
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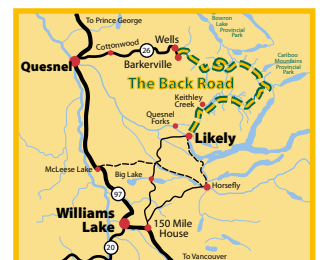
This is perhaps the oldest structure in the town site and is commonly referred to as the Tong House. A Tong was a Chinese traditional representative that over the needs of new arrivals, the community's interests, fishermen, the men of industry and business as well as the enjoyment of a visitor's residence back to China.

The Cheo Hing Tong Society formed to maintain here in 1932 and until 1940 had over a hundred members.

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这座建筑是福士顿镇最古老的建筑了，通常被称为“致公堂”。类似中国人的兄弟会，宗旨在于扶持新人，社区节庆，筹款，扶贫救困，并且负责把矿工的青壮年送回国。

福士顿致公堂分社成立于1932年，到1940年，已经发展到有一百多名成员。



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THE ECONOMICS OF Tourism

Lower Columbia
benefits from
tourism in a non-
traditional way

By JENNIFER BLYTH

While the economy in BC's Lower Columbia region continues to be driven by longstanding staples like the metallurgical sector — led by Teck — and health services, including the regional hospital in Trail, more and more, tourism is playing a role.

And it's not only in the traditional sense, where dollars are spent by visitors on accommodations, services and activities like skiing, fishing and mountain biking.

"Seventy-five per cent of people who move here are visitors first," says Terry Van Horn, economic development coordinator for the Lower Columbia Initiative Corporation.

It's a statistic no doubt helped by the region's growing tourism market, and one

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LCIC is focusing on in its diverse economic initiatives.

The corporation's annual Community Economic Development Forum in June was dedicated to "The Economics of Tourism" and there's an emphasis on developing that relationship with visitors.

"When visitors are coming to our region, we make sure we're making that extra effort to make their visit memorable," Van Horn says.

Created in 2010, the Lower Columbia Initiative is a partnership between the City of Roseland, City of Trail, Village of Warfield, Village of Montrose, Village of Fruitvale and electoral areas A & B of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. It works to develop a creative, dynamic and competitive business environment that fosters economic growth in the region.

Once visitors make their way to the community, they have a chance to experience all the community has to offer — and experience its potential.

The question for the LCIC is how to showcase the Lower Columbia region compared to others that also boast an appealing climate, breathtaking scenery, numerous outdoor amenities and



A highly skilled workforce is a draw for the Lower Columbia region.

opportunities to live and work.

"We all have lifestyle, we all have beautiful weather, so how do we stand out?" Van Horn asks.

Two key components of the answer are affordability and economic stability.

Compared to communities in the Lower Mainland or even the Okanagan, the cost of

living is significantly less, Van Horn notes.

And thanks to continued investment by Teck, for example — not to mention \$1.5 million in capital projects the hospital has planned for the coming year and a variety of community-based projects, like the City of Trail's \$6.5 million library and museum — the region enjoys considerable stability.

"It is very resource based, but in general we don't see those highs and lows like you see in some other communities," Van Horn says.

The community also enjoys a highly skilled workforce, plus, "we have a really strong entrepreneurial spirit here as well."

And then there's the accessibility, supporting both the livability of the region and its potential for business growth.

In addition to being just an hour's flight from Vancouver or Calgary, "we have really easy access to Spokane and Kelowna ... we're three hours from anything, really." ■

To Get There

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SNOW TIME!

AWARD-WINNING BC ALPINE RESORTS GET “OUT OF THE BOX” FOR UPCOMING SEASON

BY SUSAN QUINN

With weather pundits predicting that a warm El Niño is on the way —following on the heels of last year’s challenging snow season — ski resorts across British Columbia are thinking outside the box when it comes to the 2015-16 season.

Resorts of the Canadian Rockies have sourced new partnerships and introduced a new winter sport. Mount Washington Alpine Resort has created an industry first in the “100-Day Winter Assurance.” And Whistler Blackcomb is celebrating 50 years of going above and beyond for its customers. Here’s a round-up of what to expect this year:

LOWER MAINLAND

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For 50 years, Whistler Blackcomb has offered a mountain experience so unique it

has garnered numerous accolades, awards and international distinctions.

The resort boasts 8,171 acres of terrain spread across two mountains, a mile-high vertical, peak-to-peak gondola, heli-skiing, reliably abundant snowfall and a vibrant slope-side village with 200 shops, award-winning restaurants and legendary nightlife.

Whistler’s beginnings started out with trout fishing at Alta Lake, on what was then known as London Mountain. Re-named Whistler after the distinctive sound of a resident species of marmot, the resort switched focus to winter recreation and opened to the public in February 1966.

When neighbouring Blackcomb Mountain opened for business on Dec. 6, 1980, a healthy rivalry between the two ski resorts began. Whenever one resort announced

Above, champagne powder and (following page) practising turns on the slopes at Big White in Kelowna.

expansion or new technology, the other would soon follow with something different.

In March 1997, the company that owned Whistler, Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation, merged with Intrawest Corporation, which owned Blackcomb, and created one of the largest mountain resort companies in the world.

FMI: whistlerblackcomb.com

GROUSE MOUNTAIN

Look to Vancouver’s North Shore at night and the glowing lights point to the Peak of Vancouver, Grouse Mountain Resort — home of the famed Grouse Grind hike in the summer and breathtaking gondola rides year-round.

The resort started preparing for winter before summer was even wrapped up: new snowmaking technology was installed on The



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Peak and The Cut for top-to-bottom coverage. The mountain operations team spent part of the summer cutting brush to smooth out runs, which translates into more open terrain with less snow, earlier in the winter.

New LED lighting was installed on Blazes, meaning black diamond skiing will be available at night. Work was also planned in the fall of 2015 for a new Sliding Zone.

For full details of all the facilities available at Grouse Mountain, visit their website online. FMI: grousemountain.com

MOUNT SEYMOUR

Mount Seymour markets itself as Vancouver's starting gate to recreation. The Wood family has owned the resort since 1984. The resort offers 200 acres of downhill skiing and snowboarding terrain, five lifts including a high-speed quad, and acres of off-piste skiing.

Mount Seymour, like Mount Washington on Vancouver Island, is participating in reciprocal agreements with several other British Columbian resorts for 2015-16. FMI: mountseymour.com

VANCOUVER ISLAND

MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mount Washington Alpine Resort is calling on snow sport lovers to come and enjoy a white Christmas. Bordered by Strathcona

Provincial Park to the west and the deep blue waters of Georgia Strait to the east, the seaside resort transforms into a magical Winter Wonderland over the Christmas period.

"It's the best place to enjoy a white Christmas on Vancouver Island," says Director of Operations Don Sharpe. "We have two full weeks of exciting events, special Snow School camps and accommodation packages from December 19 to January 3."

Mount Washington has received an average accumulation of over 38 feet in the last 10 years and is still home to one of the deepest snow bases in the world. The resort boasts 55 kilometres of world-class nordic trails, 25 km

of snowshoe trails and 1,700 acres of alpine terrain. With the addition of its Easy Acres learning area in 2012, Mount Washington became one of the best places to learn to ski and ride in North America.

Through its 100-Day Winter Assurance, season pass holders are assured that if the resort does not get 100 snow days in a season, a credit can be applied toward the purchase of the next year's season pass.

Located 25 km west of the Comox Valley, 50 km south of Campbell River and 100 km north of Nanaimo, Mount Washington is easily accessible via the new Inland Island Highway. The locally owned mountain has



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been in business since 1979 and employs over 300 staff each season.

KELOWNA BIG WHITE

"Big White is the perfect destination for families over the winter holidays," says Michael J. Ballingall, senior vice president of Big White Ski Resort. "We ensure there's a plethora of activities to suit the taste of each member of the family, and make it especially easy for parents."

Canada's largest ski-in, ski-out resort is also one of the country's most family-friendly winter destinations. The resort has received top honours for offering a variety of winter-themed fun for the whole family. TripAdvisor awarded Big White with a Certificate of Excellence for 2015, while Ski Canada Magazine named it the No. 1 ski resort in Canada for "Best Powder" in 2015.

Snow bunnies and hill runners can try out the resort's 118 ski trails and 15 ski lifts. Premiering in December 2015 is the new Black Forest Day Lodge, offering a 150-seat lunchroom with views of the Monashee Mountains.

Other family-oriented touches at Big White include grocery delivery service and door-to-ski shuttle service, as well as a Flaik GPS system to keep track of children taking

lessons on the mountain. FMI: bigwhite.com

TRAIL RED MOUNTAIN

Off-season leadership changes at Red Mountain near Rossland have positioned this resort for continued growth.

Don Thompson became president of Red Mountain Ventures, parent company to Red Mountain Resort, last spring. He will oversee resort operations, project and property management. Ski industry veteran Matt Henry was named director of sales in May, a newly created position.

"In 2002, I came to Rossland to check out this mysterious ski hill I'd heard so much about," Red Mountain Ventures CEO Howard Katkov said in announcing the changes. "Don Thompson was the first guy I met. We are now approaching our 13th year together as partners in Red Mountain. I can't be more proud and confident that Don will continue his great work in this well-deserved new position."

Despite below-average snowfall in 2014-15 and a challenging season for resorts throughout the west, Red Mountain has been on a roll. The resort set new occupancy records, developed the Legacy Training Centre, opened a new mountain on Grey

and won accolades from major press outlets, including the New York Times.

FMI: redresort.com

CRANBROOK FAT BIKING

Fat biking is taking off as a new sport with Resorts of the Canadian Rockies, comprising Fernie and Kimberley alpine resorts and Kicking Horse Mountain Resort in BC and three more elsewhere in Canada.

Monster tires and low gearing mean biking in snow is easy for both first-timers and seasoned cyclists. All three resorts are offering a new fat biking winter riding experience.

KIMBERLEY AND FERNIE ALPINE RESORTS

Kimberley Alpine Resort will have 50 kilometres of designated and groomed trails for fat bikers of various skill levels. Fat bike rentals and tours/lessons with guides will be available at all three resorts.

Both Fernie Alpine Resort and Kimberley Alpine Resort will start the 2015-16 season with online recognition as top performing ski and snowboard resorts.

TripAdvisor awarded the resorts certificates of excellence in May. The award celebrates excellence in hospitality.

Resorts of the Canadian Rockies has looked to the other side of the earth for partnerships, joining forces with Treble Cone Ski Resort in Wanaka, New Zealand. All Fernie Alpine Resort, Kicking Horse Mountain Resort and Kimberley Alpine Resort season pass holders will receive 50 per cent off single and multi-day tickets at the New Zealand resort during the 2015 and 2016 Southern Hemisphere season (their winter is opposite Canada's).

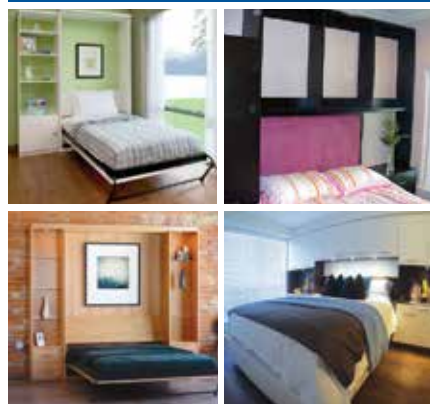
"We're excited to partner with RCR to align Treble Cone with the reputation, terrain, snow and overall experience offered by mountains including Kicking Horse and Fernie, and to assist our passionate local skiers and riders and also RCR's to enjoy some of the best available off-season skiing," said Nick Noble, Treble Cone's marketing manager. FMI: skircr.com

WILLIAMS LAKE MOUNT TIMOTHY

"Unhurried, and unworried" is the mantra at Mount Timothy Ski Area, a family-oriented ski resort located in the heart of BC's Cariboo region. Affordable skiing, diverse terrain and a friendly, family atmosphere are key features at this resort, an hour south of Williams Lake.

Mount Timothy features a variety of terrain over 35 runs for every level of ability. More

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than two-thirds of the terrain is medium to advanced, but there are ample runs for beginners too. New for the 2015-16 season is tubing for all ages. FMI: skitimothy.com

NORTHERN BC

Mountains of powder create some of the deepest snow bases on the continent in Northern BC. And skiers and snowboarders can enjoy short to non-existent lift line-ups at each of these hills:

- Hudson Bay Mountain Resort in Smithers, which has two lodges.
 - Powder King Mountain Resort, located in the Pine Pass, which traverses the Hart Ranges of the Northern Rockies along Highway 97. It lies just outside Pine Le Moray Provincial Park.
 - My Mountain Co-op, Shames Mountain, located in Terrace, BC.
- Smaller, uncrowded and economical downhill skiing and snowboarding areas can also be found in Northern BC. 



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LIFE'S NEVER 'BEAN' BETTER

Photo by Bryan Pike

ARTISAN ROASTERS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF BREWING A BETTER CUP OF COFFEE

By SEAN MCINTYRE

It's hard to imagine Vancouver as a coffee wasteland, but the cityscape was much different a quarter century ago, when "Lotusland" offered little more than bottomless diner refills and church basement percolators.



Pete Boëda and Barney McKenzie of Bean Around the World.

When an aspiring upstart called Starbucks staked a claim on Robson Street, the company bought full-page newspaper ads to educate people on the subtleties of lattes, cappuccinos and Americanos.

Today's customers can roll off requests for a "half-caf soy chai latte" before they've rubbed the sleep from their eyes or clicked through the morning's headlines. Drop into any coffee shop in the city these days and you'll be hard pressed to spot a spoonful of grandma's favourite instant coffee crystals.

But it was in the early days that Pete Boëda began something that placed him at the vanguard of Vancouver's java awakening.

The journey began in San Francisco. Boëda was at a conference representing his Calgary-based janitorial company. In between presentations about industrial-strength cleaning products and restoration techniques, he ducked out for a break. That's when he caught a whiff unlike anything he had smelled before. Boëda popped inside a nearby coffee shop, and he never looked back.

"The place was humming," he says, recalling the shop's energetic and eclectic patrons.

Boëda visited the café everyday for the rest of his conference. Back in Calgary, thoughts of the San Francisco coffee scene stole his imagination. He spent much of the next decade intoxicated by the aroma of coffee roasting and drew inspiration from his trip. By the late eighties, Boëda decided to get brewing.

He returned to San Francisco, where he inhaled everything that artisan-roasting pioneer Alfred Pete knew about the business. He relocated from Calgary to the West Coast and immediately began to scour the city for a location to replicate the feeling he experienced in California. Boëda settled in West Vancouver and opened Bean Around the World with a second-hand roaster and a dozen sacks of coffee.

By the time he had hung up the open sign, those corporate coffee advertisements had grown commonplace. Awareness, interest and competition were growing, but Boëda was confident he had unlocked the secret to make his shop stand out.

“People were starting to go, but nobody was roasting,” he says. “I guess I was right on the crest of the wave, because after three or four months, things really started to move.”

Continued on page 19

“We just believed in our product and took the approach that if it feels right and feels good, you know what, let’s do it.”



Above: Bean Around the World at the University of British Columbia. Previous page: Steve Fraser, foreground, and Jeff Boëda roasting a fresh batch of beans.

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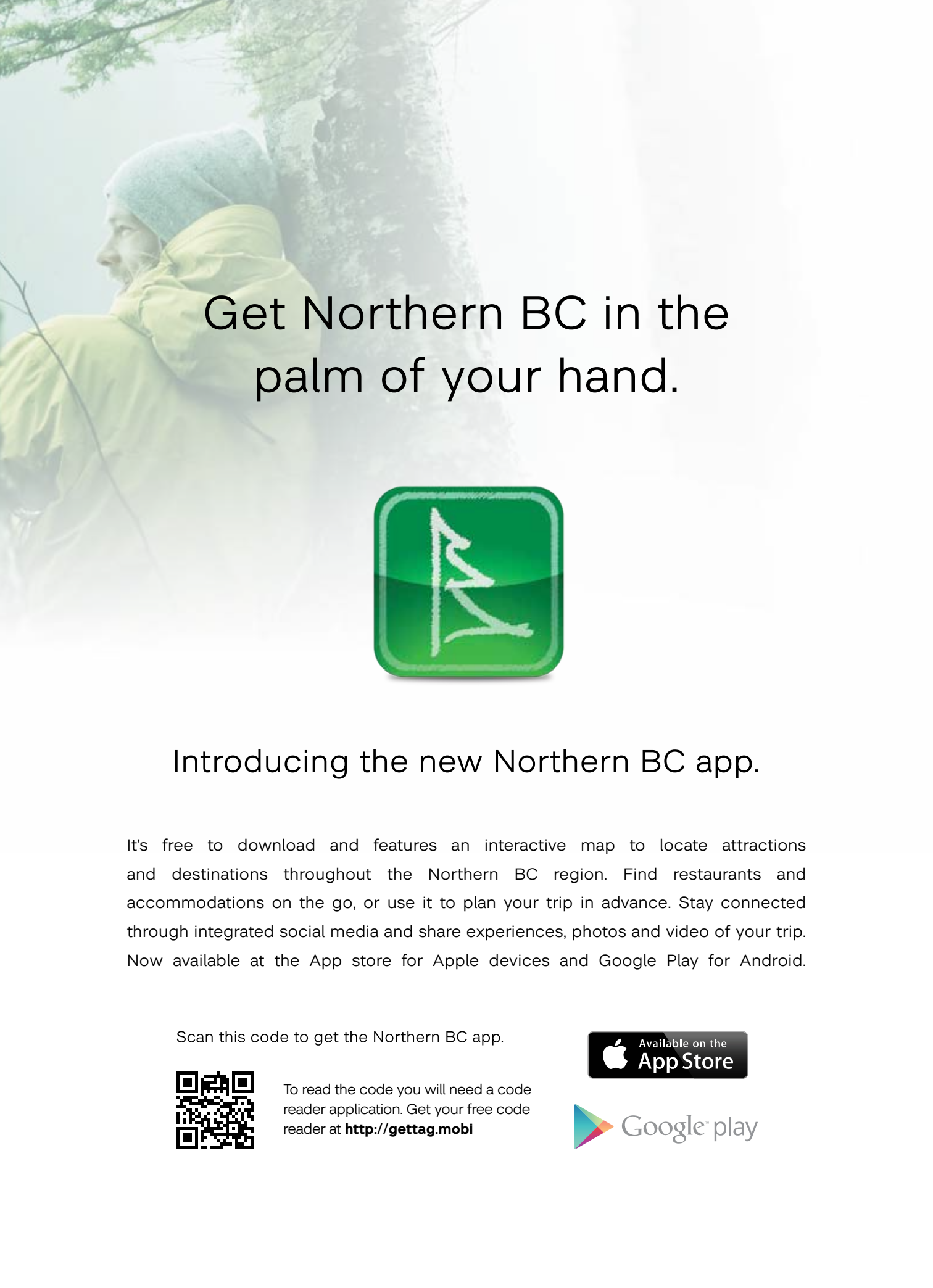
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Barney McKenzie was among those early customers. He can still recall his first sip.

"I didn't know anything about coffee, nobody did, but I thought this was amazing," he recalls.

As founder of Chez Barney, a popular Granville Street bakery, McKenzie had a keen food sense. He immediately began to serve the coffee at his restaurant and, two years later, joined Boëda to open a second Bean Around The World on West 10th.

"We just believed in our product and took the approach that if it feels right and feels good, you know what, let's do it," McKenzie says. "There was no coffee culture. We got lucky, because we got aggressive."

The business partners have watched their company match an unyielding thirst for all things Arabica. Earlier this year, the pair oversaw the grand opening of an outlet in White Rock, the 26th Bean Around the World location. Before the end of the 2015, the business will have expanded to the Greater Toronto Area, which represents the business' first foray outside of BC.

Despite the company's impressive growth, every bean served in a Bean Around the World shop still gets roasted by hand in an old-school Probat coffee roaster.

With experience in businesses that range from cleaning to ranching, Boëda knows all about the importance of ideas, execution and timing. Bean Around the World hit all three ingredients, but it's a little something extra that's helped the company keep pace with corporate rivals over the years without forsaking coffee culture's bohemian roots.

About five years ago when lighter-roasted coffees began to capture a larger market share, Boëda and McKenzie chose to stick with their strengths. They stayed loyal to their old-time ways and the iconic, clunky roaster that has served them so well by producing distinctive roast and unrivalled blends. Coffees like Black Mountain, Ethiopian Harrar, Sulawesi, Komodo Blend and the classic Marine Roast are a testament to big bold dark roasts.

Twenty-five years in the trade has also provided insight into every stage of the coffee business, from seed to cup. Whereas many modern buyers order product through the click of a mouse, Boëda and McKenzie frequently travel abroad to look for high-quality, fairly sourced coffee beans.

In Guatemala, Bean Around the World constructed and funds a school on the farm that supplies much of their beans. Boëda and McKenzie have gotten to know the farmers and learned the finer points of what it takes to make good beans.

Knowing where the coffee comes from is as important as keeping track of where it's going.

Walk into any Bean Around the World shop in Vancouver, Victoria, Sechelt, Squamish or Vernon, and you'll find a fashionably rustic decor, a loyal community and that alluring aroma that began the whole journey.

"If you're in it for the money you're not going to do well," Boëda says. "You've got to have some passion, and you've got to love people." ■



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beer festival — a fundraiser
at the Native Sons Hall. FMI:
discovercomoxvalley.com

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FMI: 250-335-0299

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Oct. 18

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in Queen Charlotte. FMI:
gohaidagwaii.ca/

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cdpr.bc.ca

TRAIL

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Oct. 2

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gold rush and enjoy a Prospector's
Dinner with local and provincial
heritage professionals and
enthusiasts, plus music from
the Golden City Fiddlers,
entertainment from the Boomtown
Garter Girls and a gold-rush
inspired meal. Cost is \$50/person.
FMI: rosslandevents.ca

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Health Foundation's Snowflake Gala

Nov. 14

Urology Campaign fundraiser with
dinner by Gabriella's Restaurant, music,
dancing, silent auction and champagne
reception at Trail Memorial Centre
Gymnasium. Tickets: \$70/person. FMI:
kbrhhealthfoundation.ca

VANCOUVER

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Oct. 17-18

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botanicalgarden.ubc.ca

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Nov. 7-8

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Conference Centre, East Building. FMI:
thehealthshows.com

VICTORIA

GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon 2015

Oct. 11

Thousands will be heading to Victoria
for the annual Thanksgiving weekend
marathon, half-marathon, 8K and kids
race. FMI: runvictoriamarathon.com

Democracy in Action Conference

Oct. 27-29

Two-day conference for young people,
aged 16 to 18, exploring the rights
and responsibilities of citizenship,
and encouraging participants
from all around BC to engage in
civic opportunities in their home
communities. Contact local Rotary
Clubs for more information.

Vancouver Island Aboriginal Disability and Wellness Gathering

Nov. 3-5

Sharing information, raising awareness
and creating new collaborations among
aboriginal and non-aboriginal health
and disability sectors. FMI: bcands.bc.ca

WILLIAMS LAKE

Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin Cowboy Christmas

Nov. 21

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Recreation Complex. FMI: cowboy-
museum.com



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Q&A

Dave Maedel

Executive director of the BC Wildfire Service

British Columbia recently came through one of the busiest wildfire seasons in recent memory and the BC Wildfire Service was on the front lines, battling the numerous blazes sparked by both natural and human causes. We chatted with Dave Maedel, executive director of the BC Wildfire Service, about his work with the service and what the future holds.

Q. WHAT IS THE MANDATE OF THE BC WILDFIRE SERVICE AND WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- A. The BC Wildfire Service's mandate is to deliver effective wildfire management and emergency response support on behalf of the government of British Columbia to protect life and values at risk and to encourage sustainable, healthy and resilient ecosystems. As executive director, I lead the organization and provide strategic direction to our staff, which numbers over 1,600 at full capacity (a mix of permanent and seasonal staff).

Q. WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS WORK?

- A. This work was a natural outcome of my experience in the emergency services sector. I worked with BC Ambulance Service in several roles, including as an Advanced Life Support Paramedic, Chief of the Air Evacuation Station in Victoria and eventually leading all ambulance services on Vancouver Island. Subsequently I worked as the Chief Sheriff for the Province of BC. I think those experiences made me realize how much I like helping people and organizations perform in complex environments where the service we provide is so important and has a significant impact on the well-being of those affected. Leading the BC Wildfire Service seemed like a fit for my skills and interests.


Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE BC WILDFIRE SERVICE'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS?

- A. We have been extremely successful in fighting wildfires in a challenging environment. On average, we respond to nearly 2,000 wildfires per season, so protecting our province's lives and values means containing as many of these wildfires as we can while they are small. The BC Wildfire Service has been incredibly successful in doing this, achieving a 94 per cent success rate in containing unwanted fires within 24 hours of detection. As well, we work hard to contain large fires and keep the impact on communities to an absolute minimum. We have also been very successful in maintaining a high standard of safety within our workforce.

Q. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE WILDFIRE SERVICE? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

- A. The BC Wildfire Service employs some of the world's best wildfire management professionals, both on the front lines and in the administrative end of our operations. However, a large portion of our full-time workforce is aging, and we're starting to look at succession plans and some non-traditional recruitment pools to bring new talent into our organization. Moving forward, we are also concerned that we may see fire seasons that last longer and burn more intensely. We can't reliably forecast what future seasons will look like, but general trends in climate change give us reason to prepare for busier seasons. We're hoping for the best but planning for the worst. We are working to make sure our ability within the province to fight fires remains at high levels and that we can access resources from across Canada and elsewhere in the world, should we need to. Further, more and more development is occurring in the wildland-urban interface, where communities and the wilderness meet. This increases the likelihood and number of "interface" fires that threaten homes and structures. Individual homeowners and wider communities can take simple steps to reduce the impact of wildfires on their homes, and we're ramping up efforts to raise this awareness.

Q. ANYTHING ELSE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INDUSTRY, OR THE WILDFIRE SERVICE AND ITS WORK HERE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA?

- A. The roots of the BC Wildfire Service stretch back to the early 1900s and the passion and commitment of the men and women who serve this province is no less now than it was then. The BC Wildfire Service is a world leader in wildfire suppression and I am proud to be a part of the team. With factors such as climate change and expanding use of our forests by people for recreational pursuits, we are expecting we may see an increasing number of wildfires in the future. The public should take steps to ensure they are ready for a wildfire should it happen to them. Learn more at BCWildfire.ca in the Prevention section. 

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