



Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows
Parks and Leisure Services

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Events Growing in Popularity

Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, BC: Spring and summer special events and festivals attracted a record number of participants this year, demonstrating the growing popularity of community celebrations. Fall and winter events are in full planning mode and a number of free activities are scheduled in celebration of traditional holidays, active living, and beneficial causes.

Parks and Leisure Services community event statistics are reporting an increase in event participation up from approximately 151,000 to 165,500 based on the first three quarters of 2010. The Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays; Bard in the Spirit Square; lunchtime concerts in Memorial Peace Park; Osprey Village Markets; an expanded Caribbean Festival; and several new grassroots events have contributed to the rise in event numbers.

Some upcoming events to mark on the calendar include: Ghost Ridge, Albion Fairgrounds, October 24 to 30; Community Fireworks, Albion Fairgrounds, October 30; Remembrance Day ceremonies in Pitt Meadows Spirit Square and Maple Ridge Memorial Peace Park, November 11; Christmas in the City, Pitt Meadows Spirit Square December 3; Christmas Festival and Santa Parade, Memorial Peace Park, December 4.

Parks and Leisure Services supports community volunteer groups that plan events, recognizing the recreational benefits of celebrations. Events are valued for building community spirit, for developing volunteer life and career skills, for attracting local business and tourism, for providing low or no cost family activities, for developing local arts, culture and heritage, and more.

Event involvement is also recognized as a way to alleviate the negative effects of social isolation and lack of physical activity. "When new volunteers approach the Festival and Volunteer Office," said Kathryn Baird, recreation coordinator—events and volunteers, "They quite often report an interest in getting involved with events as a way to feel more connected to their community."

For a complete events calendar, details about community celebrations in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, and links to various event websites, visit the City of Pitt Meadows or the District of Maple Ridge website or and go to the Events section, or call the Parks and Leisure Services Festival and Volunteer Office at 604-467-7325. New volunteers are always welcome on planning committees and event day teams.