

COMMUNITY UPDATE January 2010



PEMBERTON AND MOUNT CURRIE COMMUNITIES RALLY AROUND TORCH RELAY WITH *IT'S OUR DAY* FESTIVITIES

On February 6, the Olympic torch arrives in Pemberton for a community celebration, a winter hoe-down Pemberton-style.

Jests Mayor Jordan Sturdy: "It's not that we're overtly competitive people, but I'm pretty confident Pemberton's Olympic celebrations will demonstrate that we're one of the most creative and energetic towns in Canada. The diverse programming that has been put together for the Pemberton Nights events give us a great excuse to get out of our houses in the middle of winter and celebrate, be entertained, feast and dance, or watch the gold medal hockey games with your neighbors and friends. I'll see you there."

Dedicated volunteers have been hard at work to cram all the action of Pemberton's Winterfest celebration into one jam-packed day that will show off Pemberton's unique character and spirit. After the torch relay passes through downtown Pemberton at 8am, the activity heads to the Community Centre for the post-relay community celebration, emceed by Olympic gold medalist, Dr Hugh Fisher. Rotary will be serving up a Pancake Breakfast, and everyone who remembered to bring their cameras will have the chance to mug up for mugshots with the 2010 Mascots.

Indoors, the Lion's BBQ will fuel all the activity from noon to 5, with Kids Crafts and Story Time sessions catering to the less rowdy types.

At 2pm, Pemberton's masters-athletes will strut their stuff with the Seniors Wii Challenge.

All the activities will conclude with the grand finale for *It's Our Day*, a fireworks display intended to light up the night and rival the spotlight on the torch as it heads towards its final destination.

The Mount Currie Band is also celebrating on the 6 February. The Lil'wat Nation will not just be commemorating their participation in the torch relay, but also the ribbon-cutting for their new Community Complex at 8am. The facility will be named "Ullus", meaning "come together, gather". A pancake breakfast at 9:30 along with traditional blessing, ticket giveaways, drumming, singing, entertainment and Alex Wells Hoop Dancing are all part of the celebrations.

The winter action is not a one-day wonder, though. Pemberton Valley's Spirit of BC Community Committee has put together a quality program of evening events running from February 12-February 28 called "Pemberton Nights."

Chair of the Spirit Committee Stephanie Coughlin says the group has been working on the program content since August. "The energy from the committee and sub-committee members is very motivating making the committee a fun one to be a part of. Pemberton is fortunate to have such dedicated, creative community members. Just wait...our town is going to come alive during the 2010 Winter Olympics."

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies, as well as the Men's and Women's Gold Medal Hockey Games will all be broadcast on the big screen at the Pemberton Community Centre. A Youth Video Dance, as well as two Pemberton House Dance nights will bring Pemberton's Barn Dance spirit out in force.

The Pemberton House Dinner Theatre makes its debut, telling the history of Pemberton in story, song and comedy. And the Pemberton House Poker Tournament gives everyone a chance to get flush with Olympic spirit.

For details about Pemberton Nights, go to www.pembertonwinterfest.com

2010 Reasons to Take a Road-Trip to Pemberton this February:

- #1. No checkpoints, no delays - all your errands, hassle-free.
- #146. Free parking.
- #399. THREE gas-stations!
- #579. The Library is open to the public, seven days a week.
- #663. Our firefighters double as super-models and their calendar proceeds will support Haiti earthquake relief.
- #1109. All Pemberton's restaurants use locally-grown spuds. Mm, hash-browns...

TORCHBEARERS SHINE A LIGHT ON PEMBERTON

Kit out in red and cheer on local torch bearers as they participate in the longest-running relay in history.

Robyn Ruholl, a local Brownie leader who works for the Village of Pemberton, raised \$4695 this summer for cancers "below the belt" by running 10km through the streets of Vancouver in her underwear. On February 5, she'll keep her pants on, and run the torch through Whistler Olympic Park.

She'll pass it to Karen Vinnedge, a local mom who applied online to motivate herself to get going on her own fitness, a campaign that amped up even more when she found out she would be a torchbearer. 300 metres doesn't phase her at all. "I wish it was longer! I think it's going to go by so fast. I just think it's so neat that the average Canadian can do something special like this," she says. Vinnedge is also participating in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Grade 9 student Rachel Leverton entered an online contest through Coke and SOGO Active last year, logging over 480 minutes a week of activity playing soccer and cross-country skiing to win a spot on the torch relay. She'll run in Squamish, where her u15 soccer teammates will cheer her on. "I'm just really nervous about dropping it," she says. "I don't know how heavy it is."

Logan (14) and Dalton (13) Pehota will both carry the torch through Pemberton. The boys race with the Whistler Mountain Ski Club, ski 60-80 days a year, and go up mountains just as happily... Last summer, both posted impressive results in the 5 Peaks Trail Running Challenge.

PSS students and dragonboaters William Wiltse (16) and Kayla Spencer (17) will also be torchbearers on the 6th. Spencer also plays soccer, basketball, volleyball, competes in luge, rodeo and barrel racing.

Pemberton Valley Supermarket Pemberton Valley Supermarket owner Mark Blundell will run in Richmond on the 9th. "My main objective is to tell everyone I meet that I'm from Pemberton," he says.

Learn more about local torchbearers at www.pemberton.ca