



# COMMUNITY UPDATE AUGUST 27 2009



## ■ ICE-CREAM BUCKETS OF THANKS -

Wildfires have been breathing down our necks all summer, and although there are still active blazes in the region, the situation has calmed. The Village, on behalf of all our residents, visitors and business owners, wishes to acknowledge the hard work of the staff at the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, who ran the emergency operations centre, as well as the Pemberton Fire Department and visiting fire-fighters, for their efforts and commitment to the community.

■ **FIRE-BAN** - The Copper Mountain and Camel Back fires are still both more than 800 hectares in size. The campfire ban throughout the Coastal Fire Centre remains in effect. Report wildfires at 1800 663 5555 or \*5555 on your cell.

■ **SPRINKLE ON AND OFF** - Despite some recent rain, the summer of 2009 is still one of the driest on record. Please help us conserve the town's water supplies for drinking and essential and emergency services, by sprinkling your garden on even dates, if you have an even-numbered street address, and on odd calendar dates, if you have an odd-numbered address.

■ **STOMPING GOODTIME** - Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce for a smooth and successful Barn Dance, held at the old Community Centre on 8 August.

■ **SAFETY FIRST** - School is back early this fall, with high school students heading back to class August 31, and Signal Hill Elementary students starting semester on September 2. Please obey school zone speed limits and be alert for shorter-than-average pedestrians.

■ **GOLD MEDAL TOWN** - The Village of Pemberton has two tickets to the Mens Snowboarding Parallel Giant Slalom to give away in our Gamestown.ca contest. Showcase our amazing playground, by posting your photos, stories or videos of being active at [www.Gamestown2010.ca/pemberton](http://www.Gamestown2010.ca/pemberton). Then forward your confirmation, along with your name and contact information to [admin@pemberton.ca](mailto:admin@pemberton.ca), to go into the draw to win the hot tickets!

## Council of Elders Advise on Accessibility

On Friday August 14, the Village hosted a Seniors Accessibility Walkabout through downtown Pemberton.

With a dozen seniors attending to share their insights, the Village received valuable input on ways to improve accessibility in Pemberton.

The comprehensive walkabout started at the Pharmasave and looped through the entire village core.

Says Village of Pemberton staff member Bettina Falloon, "We had an excellent turn-out, and we received a lot of great suggestions as to what improvements are needed to make the Village more accessible."

Accessibility makes getting around town easier, not just for seniors, but for people moving at all

speeds - whether full-tilt boogie, juggling little ones, in rehab from a sports injury, needing assistance or at 'time to smell the roses' pace.

From heavy doors, to uneven sidewalks and unmarked steps, to great locations for clusters of benches, the attendees helped identify specific locations throughout Pemberton and the ways in which they could be friendlier.

The comments and suggestions have been compiled into a report for both Public Works Manager, Russell Mack, who will tackle immediate improvements, and Manager of Development Services, Caroline Lamont, who will incorporate the feedback into the Village's new Official Community Plan.

The Seniors Accessibility Walkabout is just one initiative to make Pemberton easier to get around.

**PHOTO (ABOVE):** Local artist Vanessa Stark's new banners decorate downtown Pemberton, just in time to celebrate the salmon run. The banners are an initiative of Stewardship Pemberton, with funding support from Whistler Blackcomb's Envirofund and the Fraser Salmon & Watershed Community Education Program. Come out and celebrate the salmon with Stewardship Pemberton on BC Rivers Day at One Mile Lake Park on Sunday, September 20. A silent auction and barbecue (by donation) will help raise funds for the Pemberton Eco-Interpretive Centre.

Other significant accessibility projects underway include the One Mile Lake trail upgrades, due to be completed this fall, and improvements to the front entry of the Village of Pemberton office.

## What's your Fire IQ?

### FIVE EASY WAYS TO INCREASE OUR FIRE-SMARTS

**Think Ahead.** Sure, Christmas might seem a long way off, but 4 short months from now, Santa is going to need clear passage down your chimney to deliver the gift haul. Even earlier than that, chimneys will need to be cleaned of creosote and build-up, to ensure clear passage up the flue. Get a head start on chimney maintenance. Schedule your annual chimney clean now, while the summer is providing all the heat your home needs.

**Think Interface.** Fires spread most quickly when they can bridge easily to fuel sources. Dry grass,

dead leaves, tree needles, brush and small trees ignite quickly and cause rapid spread of fire. Keep your property clear of debris. Avoid planting trees and vegetation up against your home. Keep roof and gutters clean. Check out [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca) for a list of fire resistant plants that not only resist the spread of fire, but also help conserve water use.

**Join the Fire Department.** The Pemberton Fire Department is actively recruiting new volunteer members. Permanent residents of Pemberton who can commit to three hours a week for training can pick up an application at the Village office.

**Play A Round.** 36 staff and volunteers with the Pemberton Fire Department cover an area of 500kms

and respond to approximately 250 calls a year, in serving their mission to preserve life and property within the Pemberton area, and provide assistance in the event of an emergency. To celebrate the Pemberton Volunteer Fire Department's 40th anniversary, the Firefighters Association is hosting a Golf Tournament on October 9. Supporters can sponsor a hole, donate to the silent auction, or put forth a foursome.

**Know Your Digits.** Post emergency numbers where everyone can see them.

Fire: 604 894 6412

RCMP: 604 894 6126

Ambulance: 604 894 6353

Non-emergency numbers are at [www.pemberton.ca](http://www.pemberton.ca)

### Datebook

Council Meeting

September 1, 7pm, 1350 Aster Street

Equifest, Saturday, September 12

Pemberton Rotary and Pemberton & District Chamber of Commerce Fundraising Golf Tournament, Big Sky Golf and Country Club, September 24

Pemberton Fire Rescue Golf Tournament, Big Sky Golf and Country Club, October 9