

# COMMUNITY UPDATE November 2009



## From reading salon to wine bar and back again.

The Pemberton and District Library celebrated its 17th annual Wine and Cheese last week, raising proceeds for the library, which, according to the 2009 typical week survey, serves 198 visitors a day, including 35 users of the free public access computers. For information about the library's winter events, including Scrabble, Chess, story-times, slideshows and kids programs, visit <http://pemberton.bclibrary.ca>

## WINTER TENANTS AT PEMBERTON AIRPORT BRING OLYMPICS CLOSE TO HOME

The Village of Pemberton has spent the past year in negotiations with various agencies to ensure the Olympic airspace restrictions provide as many win-win benefits for Pemberton as possible.

Typically, the Pemberton airport has limited winter maintenance and sees some rotary traffic but negligible fixed wing aircraft traffic during winter months. Where resources allow, Village snow-clearing services will clear the runway. Airport users with specific demand for use of the runway can also pursue a "user-pays" option to have the runway cleared. That scenario remains in place this winter.

What has changed is an increased security presence, because of the operations of the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit in association with the Winter Olympic Games.

The airport will fall within restricted airspace from January 29 through to March 24. As an "Olympic Control Area", the Pemberton airport is in a similar situation as the Squamish Airport, Whistler heliports, Vancouver International Airport, Vancouver Harbour, Boundary Bay Airport and Delta Air Park. Aircraft operators will be required to complete a registration and flight authorization process prior to operating into or out of any of these airports. Aircraft operating in these zones will also require security screening.

Fixed wing aircraft can fly into Pemberton under the restrictions but they cannot access the airport using the Sea to Sky corridor airspace and will be required to fly in via

another route such as the Harrison and Lillooet Lake route from the east. Helicopter operations only will be permitted within the corridor between Squamish and Pemberton.

In order to meet these added security requirements, the Department of National Defence, NAV Canada and the Canadian Air Transportation Security Agency will all have operations at the Pemberton Airport this winter. Almost two dozen crew members will be stationed here, to staff portable screening units, provide security clearance for all outgoing passengers leaving Pemberton, manage radar operations and operate the airspace and track air traffic.

In accommodating these mandatory operational needs at the airport, the Village of Pemberton has made every effort to negotiate for as many community benefits as possible.

Rental fees secured from the Department of National Defence's lease of the airport apron area will help pay for crack-sealing repairs on the runway and apron, which are scheduled to take place in 2010. The lease income will also contribute to the development of an Infrastructure Servicing Plan, that will map out potential water and sewer connections for leased lots at the airport and the installation of an Aviation Weather Observation Station (AWOS III) that will monitor ceiling, visibility and weather conditions and collect the critical data to support any future airport development.

NAV Canada has leased space at the airport, sharing part of the Pemberton's Animal

Wellbeing Society (PAWS) compound. While PAWS' shelter will remain in operation, the organization will also enjoy a share of the rental fee. In combination with PAWS' impressive fundraising efforts this year, the added funds from the NAV Canada agreement will help PAWS continue its good work rehabilitating and providing veterinary care for Pemberton and Mount Currie cats and dogs.

In addition to NAVCAN renting space from local businesses, they will also be renting the Soccer Association's trailer, to accommodate their monitoring facility, with all proceeds helping our local soccer club.

The Department of National Defence (DND) presence in Pemberton will have some long-lasting benefits. The Village of Pemberton will generate substantial revenue under an agreement to provide their 400-person camp just south of Pemberton with water and dumping access to our Wastewater plant. The Department of National Defence has also invested in the Pemberton Wildlife Association's shooting range, upgrading the facility substantially.

Winter 2010 will be an unusual season, but with revenues and benefits coming in to the Village of Pemberton, PWA, PAWS and the Pemberton Soccer Association, as well as local businesses, the Pemberton Airport has secured some long-lasting benefits for the community to balance out the impacts of providing security for the Games.

■ **\$100,000 UP FOR GRABS! JUST VOTE PEMBERTON.** Pemberton is in the running to win funds to put towards recreation facilities of our choice. Give the Skate Park the boost it needs to get off the ground! Go to [www.Gamestown2010.ca](http://www.Gamestown2010.ca) and vote for Pemberton in the under 5000 population category.

■ **RESIDENTS' GUIDE PROVIDES FAST FACTS FOR NAVIGATING OLYMPICS.** The Village of Pemberton has prepared a comprehensive Residents Guide to give you all the information you need to get through this Olympic winter. Coming in December.

■ **VANOC REVEALS FINAL GAMESPLAN.** For the latest information from the Vancouver Olympic Organising Committee, as well the Gamestown Olympic ticket draw, don't miss the GamesPlan presentation at the Community Centre, Tuesday, December 8, 7-9 PM.

■ **IT'S OUR DAY, VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.** Local "It's Our Day" celebrations will take place in Pemberton to commemorate the Olympic Torch Relay's journey through Pemberton, on Saturday, February 6. Join the annual Polar Bear Swim, street-hockey, Nordic sports and crafts for kids, Rotary pancake breakfast, Lions BBQ, and seniors activities or help out behind the scenes. Volunteers keen to wrangle mascots, referee the street hockey, and help with set up, tear down, and crafts, can contact Arlene McClean at [arlenemcclean@gmail.com](mailto:arlenemcclean@gmail.com) or 604 894 6754 during the evening to sign on.

■ **NEW LIFE FOR ELDERGO.** The weekly seniors bus service will recommence November 25. Every Wednesday, the bus offers a door-step service, collecting riders from their home for free transit to the Village. To book a ride, call 604 698 7433 on Tuesdays from 6pm - 8pm, or on Wednesdays between 8am and 10am. ElderGo! provides service for residents age 55 and older, those in wheelchairs, plus one companion per rider. For more information, call Marnie at 604 894 0242.

■ **DOWNTOWN MAKEOVER.** Pemberton is putting its best foot forward for the festive season, with new street banners showcasing the art of Karen Love and Cori Ross in place, and new LED seasonal lights brightening the winter nights throughout the Village.

■ **YIELD TO SNOWPLOWS!** Old man winter waits for no man. Once a snowfall stops, it takes a minimum of ten hours to plow and/or sand all Village streets. Help smooth their way. Remember to park only on the ODD side of Village streets, from 9pm to 9am. Keep cul-de-sacs clear of vehicles, to facilitate the plow-truck's turnarounds, and park as much in your driveway as possible. Yield to snowplows and the snow gods will keep smiling.