

PANCAKES, KNURDLING AND SNOWGOLF

Mardi Gras is alive and well (but low-key)

by JOHN ASLING
Citizen Staff Reporter
The Northern B.C. Winter Games may be over but there's still another winter activity to help you break out of that cabin fever.

For the next two weeks, Mardi Gras — which includes everything from cribbage to snowgolf — will be the centre of attention in the city.

"Mardi Gras is alive and well," Roy Spooner, Mardi Gras president said today. "We were asked not to go

public until after the games, but we hope a lot of people will come out and take part in Mardi Gras."

This year's activities are low key by design because of the winter games, he said.

Mardi Gras activities will begin with a pancake breakfast at Sacred Heart

Church Saturday. A cribbage tournament will take place at the Elks Hall all day as will sled dog races at the Pineview Hall and un-

derwater events at Cluculz Lake.

Saturday evening there will be a choice between the Queen Aurora crowning scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Inn of the North and folksinger Fred Booker's Vanier Hall concert.

Sunday will start with another pancake breakfast at Sacred Heart and sled dog races are to be held all day near the Pineview Hall. In the afternoon a knurdling contest will be held at the Exhibition Grounds and the underwater activities at

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562-2441

Cluculz Lake will continue. The next days, Monday to Friday, will only see football contests at the Sprucecland Shopping Centre each evening.

But on Friday, Feb. 17, things pick up again. An over the line snowball dance will be held at the Sacred Heart Hall and the snowgolf parade will as-

semble at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum parking lot. The parade starts at 8 p.m., moving through the downtown area.

At about 10:30 p.m. an "almost champagne flight" will arrive from Vancouver. (This flight returns to Vancouver Sunday.)

A casino will open at 6 p.m. at the legion auditorium while at the same time a snowgolf reception is to be held at the Civic Centre. Feb. 18 opens again with

the Sacred Heart pancake breakfast and over the line snowball will be played all day at Rotary Stadium.

Round one of snowgolf will be played at the Prince George Golf and Curling Club starting at 9 a.m.

At noon the snowgolfers' casino opens at the Legion auditorium.

Snowgolfers in costume and any celebrities playing the game will visit the Prince George Regional Hospital at 4 p.m. to spread

some of their fun among those forced to reside in hospital.

At 8 p.m. the dance, which is billed as the World's Craziest Saturday Night "starts at the Civic Centre.

A dance will also be held at the Inn of the North Hall room starting at 9 p.m.

The festivities continue Feb. 19 with snowball and snowgolf, and end with the snowgolf awards banquet at the Civic Centre.

ANIMALS SHOT

Village reviews dog control law

FORT ST. JAMES (Staff) — This community will take another look at its dog control bylaw as a result of recent dog control activities.

Residents were angry after 19 dogs were shot dead Jan. 28 by two men hired by the village. The men also impounded seven dogs found without tags.

The residents complained at Wednesday's council meeting.

"The meeting went well," said Ald. Henry Peters, who is in charge of dog control. "We are going to take a closer look at our own bylaw. The people (at the meeting) wanted some things changed."

Peters said the two main complaints were the short length of time dogs were impounded before being destroyed and provisions which allow dog control officers to enter private property in pursuit of dogs.

"The bylaw has a 24-hour holding period," Peters said. "And the SPCA-recommended period of 72 hours was referred to at the meeting. We will perhaps be looking at a 48-hour period."

Concern about entering pri-

vate property followed an incident which occurred during the Jan. 28 crackdown.

The dog control officers entered a private business and demanded the occupant turn over two unlicensed dogs.

The village office reports 100 dog licenses were sold in the two days after the crackdown.

Residents generally agreed that unlicensed dogs need controlling in the village, but wanted more discretion used.

Quesnel's dogs become scarce

QUESNEL (Staff) — A "pronounced absence of dogs" has resulted after police issued an ultimatum that dogs in packs will be shot, says RCMP Sgt. Stan Domansky.

Domansky says only five dogs have been shot since the crackdown began Feb. 1, but owners are now keeping their dogs at home.

Dogs in rural areas around the city had been running in packs of as many as 12 animals, and residents were afraid to walk on the roads, Domansky said. The dogs had attacked children, game, and other dogs.



Close Encounters

It looks like Close Encounters of the Knurd Kind as knurdlers Con Nostwald, left, and Mike Hammond warm up for the knurdling competition which will take place at Exhibition Park Sunday afternoon. It is one of the many Mardi Gras events planned for the next week.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

NOW WITHDRAWN

Controversial rape film shown to local groups

A widely-criticized film dealing with rape has been shown to about 15 to 20 groups in the Prince George area, and has received an excellent response from 99 per cent of women who have seen it.

RCMP community relations officer Const. Bob Ogilvie said the film, entitled How to Say No to a Rapist, was excellent, but had received some criticism because it advocated the use of "feminine guile" to put a rapist off guard.

Ogilvie said the film had been shown to women's groups, hospital employees, and high school students, but is now unavailable. He said it was supplied by the provincial Education Media Centre, which has withdrawn the film.

The film, banned in several cities, was shown at an Esquimalt high school last week as part of a police rape counselling session.

Esquimalt police chief Arthur Burton said today it would not be shown again.

Various groups say the techniques advocated by the film are unrealistic and could be dangerous.

Burton said that while he personally didn't find anything wrong with the film, it won't be used again.

He said he felt submission is one way of handling a rapist. "You must ask yourself if the price of virginity is worth your life," he said.

"When you're up against a sexual psychopath, it could be your greatest defense. But all situations are different and I wouldn't know what to advise."

Susan Brice, Greater Victoria school board chairman, said today both the Esquimalt high school and the police used bad judgment when selecting the film.

She said the board works closely with the Victoria Rape Relief Centre, which recommends using force to repel an attack.

Citizenship court busy place here

Changes to the federal Citizenship Act have resulted in massive increases in the number of new Canadians being processed each week in citizenship court in British Columbia.

In Prince George citizenship court an increase of between 45-50 people per month was recorded during swearing-in ceremonies in December and January when 111 and 76 people formally became Canadian citizens.

In a recent peak period in B.C., more than 1,200 new citizens were sworn in, compared with the weekly routine of 85 to 170 before the act was changed Feb. 15, 1977.

Additional judges and staff

have been assigned to ease the load, which includes two or more swearing-in ceremonies a day with 120 new citizens presented with certificates at each, in addition to personal interviewing of candidates by the judges.

Before the changes, the routine was one or two swearing-in ceremonies a week.

"The reason we have had such an influx," said Norman L. Oreck, chief citizenship judge in B.C., "is that the residency qualification was reduced from five to three years."

"In addition, the qualifying age was reduced from 21 to 18. And persons who formerly were categorized as British subjects now are required to have the same kind of swearing-in and court ceremony as other applicants, instead of more or less automatically getting citizenship."

Judge Oreck said that from January, 1976 to Feb. 15, 1977, there were 4,868 judges' interviews with individual citizenship applicants held by him and the three other full-time citizenship court judges in B.C. Since Feb. 15, 1977, however, there have been 18,826 such interviews.

Judge Oreck said there is no speed-up in processing to qualify additional voters for an expected federal election this year, but if an election is called, extra swearing-in ceremonies would be set to let as many new citizens as possible cast a vote.

Chamber eyes Watrous pool

Renovation of Watrous outdoor pool could cost \$140,000.

Chamber of commerce member Ron Racette, making a preliminary report on the feasibility of reopening the pool, told a chamber executive meeting that bringing the pool itself up to standard would cost about \$110,000.

Constructing change facilities at the pool site would cost an additional \$70,000-\$80,000, Racette said; but a modular unit could be used at a cost of \$30,000.

Racette said his complete report should be ready for the next chamber meeting.

MACKENZIE IDEA

A weighty problem

MACKENZIE (Staff) — This community has what it considers an ideal tourist attraction; but with two problems.

The tourist attraction weighs 200 tons and it is 600 km from where the town wants to set it up.

It is a giant tree crusher, used to make chips out of marketable timber prior to the flooding of Lake Williston by the Bennett dam.

The tree crusher is 35 feet

wide, 56 feet long and 21 feet high. Placed at the intersection of Highway 97 and the road to Mackenzie, it would be a traffic stopper.

"If we had that thing at the junction," Ald. Rob McMullin said Tuesday, "people would be forced to stop and take a look at it."

"Currently there is nothing at the junction but a sign that says Mackenzie," McMullin told the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce Tuesday. "If the tree crusher was here and we had an information booth beside it telling people what they could see in Mackenzie, you would see a lot more cars making that turn off during the tourist season."

The community apparently owns the tree crusher. Its last known owner was tracked down and he had turned it over to the municipality. But the problem still remains of how to get the thing to the junction.

Out-time loggers in the area rule out getting the crusher out intact. Roads in the area could not support the weight of the entire unit.

Dismantling it would mean using a cutting torch, one logger said, because the machine was welded as well as bolted together. Transporting it to the junction and re-assembling it there may be the only, if costly, answer.

The machine resembles a giant bulldozer with a multi-toothed roller on the front.

Lee's Designs case adjourned

A possible precedent-setting B.C. Supreme Court case in Vancouver involving Lee's Designs and Engineering Ltd. of Prince George and the Architectural Institute of B.C. has been adjourned to April 3.

The institute is asking that a restraining injunction be placed against the local company because of alleged infractions against the Architectural Professions Act.

Lee's Designs and Engineering does considerable home engineering and design work in the city as well as preparing plans for warehouses.

The restraining order, if granted, could severely cut back work by the local firm and affect other design companies in the province.

The court case initially started Jan. 16 in Vancouver and adjourned Jan. 27.

Lee's Designs and Engineering employs five people.

Sex offence charges dropped

Charges against a man accused in connection with sexual offences involving a 14-year-old girl were discharged Wednesday after a preliminary hearing.

Jasvinder Singh Biln, 20, of Squamish was charged with having sexual intercourse with a female between the age of 14

and 16, indecent assault and gross indecency in connection with an incident in Prince George Nov. 3.

Provincial court Judge D.S. Levis found insufficient evidence to proceed with a trial on the first two charges.

The charge of gross inde-

cency was withdrawn by the Crown.

Sexual intercourse with a female of previously chaste character between the ages of 14 and 16, or sexual intercourse with any female under 14 years of age, is an offence punishable by five years imprisonment.

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