

Four weeks 'til floatie launch

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Like castaway bath toys on steroids, James Matosevic said every participant in the Nechako River Float is adrift on their own initiative.

There is no organization and no planning involved, other than an idea three years ago by his friend Cody Gray. Another buddy, Richard Appiah, joined them in some Facebook postings and word-of-mouth and now the third edition is setting sail on July 23.

"I really like how it's grassroots," Matosevic said. "We don't have a goal at all [for attendance]. It never ends up as one big event. Everyone goes out on their own, people are pushing off whenever. It's just something for you to do with lots of others around, in a place we like to be."

There are two suggested launch points - Wilkins Park in Miworth and Nechako Flats on the north side of the Foothills Bridge.

The idea of bobbing along down the Nechako is easy to appreciate, said Prince George Jet Boat Association president Shannon Studney, but people must take precautions.

"We see people out there doing some unbelievably dangerous things," he said. "Even if we didn't have the big event, we expect to see a lot of people floating on the Nechako whenever the weather is nice."

The concerns for the Jet Boat Association - a partner agency with other safety organizations - are those who wear no life jacket,



CITIZEN PHOTO BY DAVID MAH

The third annual Nechako River float gets ready to set sail in late July. Last year, hundreds of people took to the water to cool down.

those who do not ensure they are visible to faster boaters, those who litter the water, and those who consume drugs and alcohol.

Although the Nechako is unique in B.C. for its size and gentle slope right through a major city, Studney cautioned that "it is one of the trickier channels in the province."

Features like sandbars and shoreline profile can change with little notice, and there is always the danger of logs and debris below the surface.

"Drivers will be a primary concern this year, but hand in hand

with water safety," said Prince George RCMP spokesman Cpl. Craig Douglass.

"I think we were quite successful last year," Douglass said. "We will take any and all information we receive about the event in advance, and develop a strategy probably similar to last year's, in making sure this is a safe event."

Matosevic said all the advice from authorities should be heeded.

"I worked at the swimming pool for several years so I am definitely one to emphasize the need for life

jackets, definitely not to drink inappropriately, and be conscientious always," he said. "Everybody is out there at their own risk. We just ask people to remember there are families out there, there are underage people, there are others to consider. What we don't want is the river to get shut down to people who like to float."

The one aspect of the day that is organized, Matosevic added, was an official after-party at The Generator.

"We do not encourage drinking out on the river at all," he said. "We

encourage people coming out and having that good time on the river, and save the partying for later."

Matosevic has ordered himself a showpiece floatation device this year and he will have water guns primed for some friendly fire between friends.

He hopes to get at least two full runs in, from Wilkins Park to Cottonwood Island Park, and pointed anyone with any interest in the event to their Facebook page titled Prince George's 3rd Annual HUGE River Float where people are posting thoughts and photos.



CITIZEN PHOTO BY BRENT BRAATEN

JUMPING BEAN — Chloe English-Tolmie, 5, a kindergarten student at Central Fort George traditional school competes in the sack race during the schools Sports Day Thursday.

Lightning quick wit, razor-sharp tongue

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Simon King the fast-talking outrageously funny Comedy Network star is coming to Nancy O's Thursday, July 7 and Friday, July 8, for a double shot of fun.

For King it's all about the stream-of-consciousness monologue in hyper drive.

"When people tell me I talk too fast, I tell them maybe you think too slow," King said.

He doesn't like to censor himself so he doesn't slow down, he added. It's just how he talks.

"I do cover a lot of ground pretty quickly," said King. "I'll do hundreds of jokes in a 45-minute set. I move pretty quick. It seems to work and I enjoy it."

King said it doesn't happen often where he's stumped.

"My mouth seems to operate independently from my brain most of the time," he laughed.

King used to be a child actor. He moved from acting to sketches, to improv, to stand up when he walked on stage at a Vancouver club's amateur night at the age of 22.

Since then the Vancouver-based comedian has travelled far and wide and goes to Los Angeles often, getting his face out there.

"Stand up seemed to offer the least amount of hassles, the least amount of rules," said King. "There is the least amount of space between me and the audience, there's no props, there's no costumes, nothing - just flat out talking directly to them. I always say



SUBMITTED

Simon King, comedian, will perform at Nancy O's July 7 and 8.

it's the fastest way to get the drug to the people because there's no middle man."

Watching King on YouTube videos, he preempts a zinger by saying "You're not going to like this joke." What?

"Well, I warn them!" he said. "I give them half a second to get out - Get out! - It's like firing a warning shot but firing the warning shot AT someone."

He just says what's on his mind at the time. And sure, he's got his bits too.

"But I never really know what I am going to say until I am actually saying it," said King. "I am very much that sort of person. I never know

where it's going to go. So I just kind do whatever I feel like doing."

By the end of a set, there's no doubt that King speaks his mind.

"I don't shirk away from anything," King said. "I don't hide from what I believe and I don't keep my opinions to myself. I am not serving a meal, I am serving a buffet and people can take what they want from it. As long as everybody gets something. And I just ask that everyone tries it, that's all."

The show is \$20, starts at 8:30 p.m. at Nancy O's, 1261 Third Avenue.

Check out his comedy at www.thisissimonking.com.

PRIMETIME programs on TV tonight 6/28/11								
	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
CTV	etalk	The Big Bang Theory	So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N)	The Voice "The Finals" The four remaining contestants perform. (N Same-day Tape)				
CBC	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer Report	InSecurity	The De-baters (N)	Halifax Comedy Festival	CBC News: The National	
Global	Entertainment Tonight (N)	ET Canada	Wipeout A dean of students and a philosopher (N)	NCIS: Los Angeles Pentagon documents are stolen.	Combat Hospital "Enemy Within" (N)			
NBC	Evening Magazine	Inside Edition (N)	America's Got Talent Hopefuls audition for the judges. (N)	The Voice "The Finals" The four remaining contestants perform. (N Same-day Tape)				
CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Insider (N)	NCIS "Swan Song" Tracking the Port-to-Port killer.	NCIS: Los Angeles Pentagon documents are stolen.	The Good Wife Kalinda receives a grand jury subpoena.			
ABC	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wipeout A dean of students and a philosopher (N)	101 Ways to Leave a Game Show (N)	Combat Hospital "Enemy Within" (N)			
PBS	Outdoor Idaho	Rick Steves' Europe	History Detectives (N)	Frontline Child death cases, for-profit colleges. (N)	POV "My Perestroika" Growing up in Russia. (N)			
FOX	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	MasterChef Competing for a spot in the next round. (N)	Raising Hope	Raising Hope	Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		

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