



Editorial Page News Leader

Similkameen News Leader, 226A Bridge Street, PO Box 956, Princeton, BC V0X 1W0

My Turn...

Well Done!

We get invited to a number of local events - as you can probably imagine. There are times when our calendar is full of activities where one of us is either going to report on something or to take a photo.

There is very little in the way of these events we attend just for fun. I explained to one group member in our office the other day that I always feel that we are "on the clock" and expected to write or photograph whatever we happen to attend.

That is a fair assumption so typically we carry a camera wherever we go - just in case.

My response prompted the question, "What do you do for fun?"

Well, let's see. I consider my paying job to be fun so I spend virtually every day, all day, having fun.

My kind of fun differs than that from those who create some of the fun events I find myself attending. Recent examples are the Crimson Tine Players Gala Valentine's Fundraising Event on February 13th and Rotary Club's Winefest on February 20th. Both of these events were created to give those in attendance a fun evening out as both organizations use those functions to generate revenue to support their specific activities.

Princeton Legion will be doing it with their upcoming Ladies Diamond Dinner and the Kokanee Summer Swim Club will also have the same thing in mind with their Pub Night Fundraiser. You really have to hand it to these people who put in the effort to create an experience in order to raise funds.

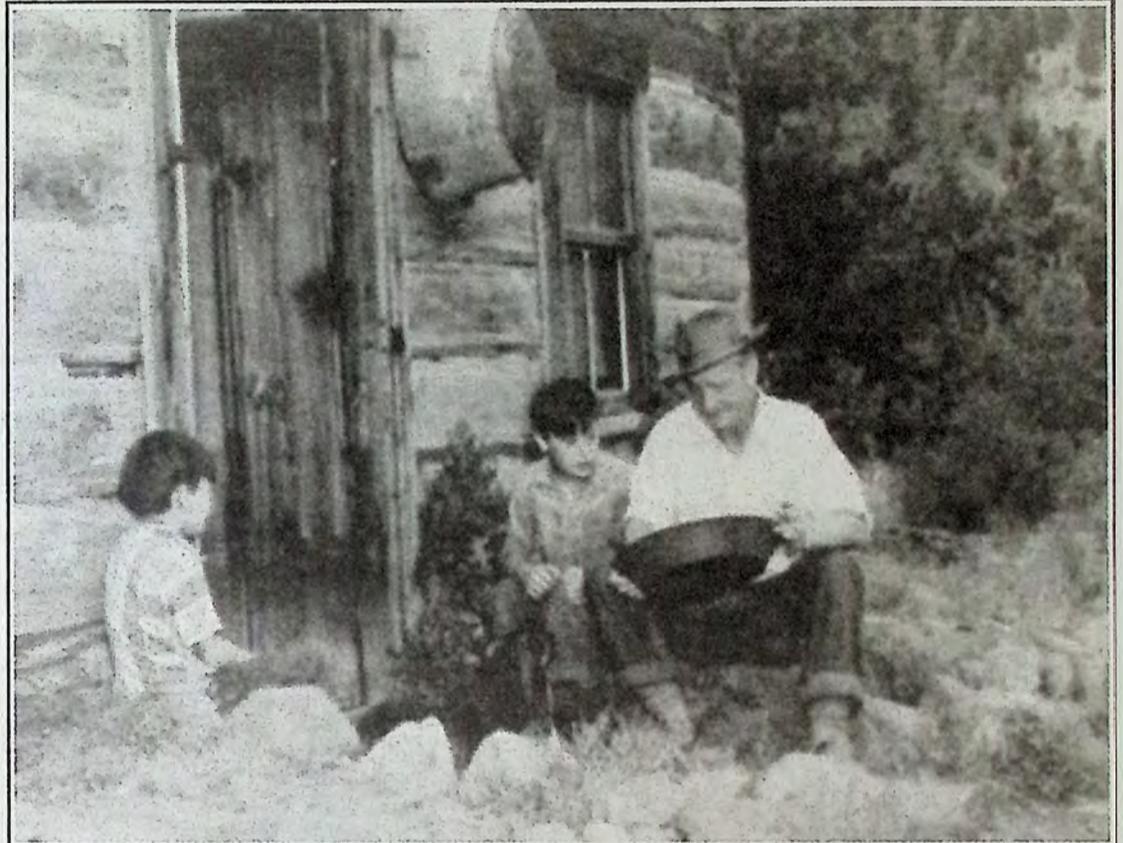
They could just go the easy way and bang on doors asking for donations but instead they all use creative means to get the money they need to keep operating. What makes this such a successful concept is that the equation is completed by the people who participate and donate.

This includes the good corporate citizens in and around our community who provide prizes and gifts for silent auctions and raffles conducted at many of these fundraising events. It's not easy putting together local events - especially those where you are trying to get people to donate money to your cause - but the hard working core groups in the area keep doing it.

Trust me, they are not doing it because the stress they experience is good for their health, either. They keep hosting these fundraising events because in Princeton they keep working. We are generally a rather generous bunch in this town and that says a lot about the character of our community.

It is not uncommon to have strangers come together to help someone in need - the Christmas Hamper Drive comes to mind - and the same goes for a local non-profit organization looking for donations.

The volunteers in these groups who put it all together deserve a great deal of thanks for presenting fun things for all of us to do throughout the year. I personally thank them because the fun I have doing my job is enhanced further by being invited to be present to document these fun events. Thank you, our community needs the support of these groups in order to grow.



The Granite Creek Preservation Society needs your help. This photo is of Bill Frew at Granite Creek in 1954. Can you assist GCPS by identifying the two boys in this photo? You can reach the group through their website at www.granitecreekbc.ca or let us know at the Similkameen News Leader office. You may be able to solve a mystery!

Three local public safety groups benefit from recent Gaming Grants

B.C. non-profit organizations dedicated to public safety received over \$5.7 million in the most recent round of community gaming grants funded by the Government of British Columbia, said Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Peter Fassbender February 19th.

Public safety community gaming grants help support the important work of non-profit organizations throughout the province that provide a range of services and educational programs to protect the safety of British Columbians in their local communities. Eligible organizations include: volunteer fire departments, search and rescue groups, crime stoppers associations, marine rescue societies and community justice centres.

The three local organizations receiving public safety grants include:

- Erris Volunteer Fire Association Community Gaming Grant Public Safety Enhancement of Public Safety \$10,000.00
- Hayes Creek Firefighters' Association Community Gaming Grant Public Safety Enhancement

of Public Safety \$20,000.00

- Princeton Ground Search & Rescue Society Community Gaming Grant Public Safety Enhancement of Public Safety \$35,000.00

"The safety of British Columbians is a top priority. We are proud to provide more than \$5.7 million in gaming grants to support the crucial work of non-profit organizations that deliver a range of protective services as well as a variety of educational and training programs for their volunteers - to help ensure assistance is available when residents need it most," says Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Peter Fassbender.

Public Safety Minister and Solicitor General Mike Morris adds, "It is gratifying to see so many organizations in B.C.'s public safety sector benefit from community gaming grants. These not-for-profit groups play such a central role in providing important, locally-based services that strengthen safety measures, tools and resources in our communities." Minister of State for Emergency

Preparedness Naomi Yamamoto says, "The presence of these organizations in our communities is valuable. The public safety services they provide protect the lives of British Columbians and their families - and create peace of mind in times of crisis. Once again, we are pleased to support this vital work in communities across B.C. through the Province's community gaming grants."

Quick Facts:

In 2012, Premier Christy Clark increased the annual base budget for gaming grants by \$15 million to \$135 million per year into the future.

- Every year, the B.C. government approves \$135 million in gaming grants benefiting over 5,000 local organizations representing virtually every community in the province.

- Eligibility for community gaming grants includes agricultural fairs, local festivals and celebrations, heritage associations and museums, arts and culture, sports, environmental organizations, human and social services, public safety, parent advisory councils and district parent advisory councils.

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