

Touchstones Nelson – Countdown to the Celebration Fun and Festivities

In just a week-and-a-bit, Touchstones Nelson will open. No doubt staff and the board of directors feel like new parents faced with an impending birth. Terrified and overwhelmed, and when there's a moment to spare, excited and elated.

The volunteer Opening Events Committee, a small but talented group, have been working alongside the staff and volunteers at Touchstones to organize a bang-up celebration to honour this occasion.

It all begins with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday (October 14). It's a privilege to have the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor of BC, attend this event, along with other dignitaries. The south side of Vernon Street will be closed for the day, so the public can gather for the short speeches in the October sunshine that's been ordered.

You won't want to miss Tobi Jenny playing his alphorn, the piping of Alistair Fraser, and the soaring soprano of Kathleen Neudorf leading us in O Canada.

Once the formalities are completed, Touchstones Nelson opens fully to the public for the first time. All exhibitions are open until 7 pm on Saturday, and from 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

A large tent on Vernon Street will house various activities, including for your luncheon pleasure a giant cake. A heritage fire truck and some Road Kings muscle cars will be on hand.

Music performances will occur throughout the weekend. They include jazz vocalist Cheryl Hodge, the Heritage Harmony Barbershop Chorus, Shenango vocal ensemble and the Nelson Community Band Brass Quintet.

On the movement side, the dynamic Moving Mosaic Community Samba Band will liven things up Saturday afternoon. And on both afternoons Thomas Loh, Hiromoto Ida and Amber Pratt-Macintyre will perform a specially commissioned dance piece.

On Saturday afternoon the Memory Page project will give people a chance to create their own scrapbook page of memories from archival photos from Nelson's past. And Sunday afternoon, Ken Morrow will sign copies of his new book *Leaving Nelson - Beyond Toad Mountain*.

For the young folk, Jeff Forst has lined up a fabulous Children's Party, from noon to 4:30 pm on Saturday. Come meet Touchstone the Miner who tells stories in rhyming couplets. Add to the Gargantuan Scrapbook, the Touchstones Wish Sculpture and the Present Banner. Watch as Simone Varey's puppets bring Kootenay characters to life. Don't miss Whiz Kid Photographs and Amberosia Butterfly's heritage tea party. And what children's party would be complete without Bubbles the Clown?

Just a reminder that on Sunday afternoon, Touchstones is hosting a special high tea luncheon for seniors and their friends. Sittings for 'Hats, Handbags and Gloves,' are at noon and at 1:30 pm at

the Nelson Seniors Centre on Vernon St. Following lunch and music, seniors will be escorted down to Touchstones for a tour. Advance registrations are required for this event, so call Brenda (352-6241) or Lucy (352-7078) and reserve a table for yourself, family and friends. The luncheon costs \$5 per person, and reservations close October 10.

For more information on Touchstones Nelson, check out the website at www.touchstonesnelson.ca.