

Ukee Days -- fit for an active community; [Final Edition]

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You'll find music, food and plenty of fun at Ucluelet's upcoming Ukee Days festival July 27 to 29. The annual festival highlights the community's active community on Vancouver Island's West Coast.

According to Ucluelet Mayor Dianne St. Jacques, the community was recognized in 2006 for having a sustainable and livable community. A big part of what makes a community livable is active and fit citizens, she said.

"So this year we thought 'what better way to celebrate Ukee Days than with a festival about Active Communities?' We invite people from big cities to small towns to come and celebrate active living with us."

Ukee Days places a strong focus on the importance of a fit community and is host to a number of events like logging sports, salmon barbecues and fun for the whole family.

Friday night kicks off the festival with a salmon barbecue on the Village Green followed by a street dance featuring the Lisa Guest Band. Saturday begins with a pancake breakfast, followed by a parade with Kids Zone and Fairground activities continuing throughout the day. Logger Sports, aboriginal dance and drumming workshops, and presentations highlight Saturday's activities. Music Fest featuring Ucluelet musicians begins Saturday night.

Music Fest continues on Sunday. There's more family fun for young and old with kids' games and face painting, local live entertainment, a great selection of food, crafts, contests, prizes and more with the continuation of Kids Zone, fairgrounds, the beer garden and Logger Sports.

Funds raised from this year's event will go towards the new community centre.

Abby Fortune, Ucluelet's director of recreation, said Ukee Days is not just a fun social event but also a fundraiser for community projects.

"Our projects are conceived and built with active community involvement," she said.

For more information on Ukee Days and other Ukee events, visit www.ucluelet.ca or call Abby Fortune at (250) 726-4772.