

Ukee Days full of Maritime Magic; [Final Edition]

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Full Text (430 words)

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UCLUELET -- Ucluelet celebrates "Life on the Edge" on Vancouver Island's West Coast with music, food, and events from July 28-30, 2006. Logging sports, a salmon barbecue, and activities for the kids are just some of the family fun activities of Ukee Days.

"We have a magnificent community - - we're excited by the progress and the prosperity we're enjoying, and we want to share that with people from big cities to small towns," says Ucluelet Mayor Dianne St. Jacques. "We live in one of the most beautiful towns anywhere and we invite people to come on out and celebrate with us - - an invitation we've been extending for the last 32 years."

Each year, approximately 1,500 visitors from Port Alberni, the Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Parksville, Victoria and Vancouver gather in this "edgy" West Coast location to experience Ukee's many charms.

The theme of this year's Ukee Days is Maritime Magic. Friday night kicks off the festival with a salmon barbecue on the Village Green followed by a street dance featuring Fishnet Stalkers.

Saturday begins with a pancake breakfast, followed by a parade and Kids Zone activities continuing throughout the day. Logger Sports highlight Saturday's activities with Canadian championship events scheduled including the Open Underhand Chop and the Ladies Single Buck.

A Music Fest kicks off on Sunday featuring local musicians. 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.

Funds raised from this year's event will go towards furnishing a teen room and seniors area the new community centre.

"Ukee Days has typically been used as a fund raiser for community projects," says Abby Fortune, Ucluelet's Director of Recreation. "Our projects are conceived and built with community involvement."

The common thread knitting the visitor-based influences to this ancient village is the inextricable connection to the wild and untamed west coast environment. And nowhere is that tie better exemplified, or the wild maritime world better accessed, than by the remarkable Wild Pacific Trail, also an example of a community- driven project.

The Wild Pacific Trail curves round the rugged and rocky shoreline of the Ucluelet Peninsula with astonishing views of the expansive Barkley Sound, the Broken Group

Islands and the open Pacific Ocean.

Ucluelet offers everything from great B&Bs and luxury cabins to discount motels. More hotels, lodges and eateries are currently under construction with even more planned.

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

-- Dianne St. Jacques