

Beach Boys Canada Day Bash!

By Maurice Rees

Truro area will be rockin' for Canada Day celebrations, when the Beach Boys come to the RECC to add to other local ongoing July 1st celebrations. Large crowds, weather permitting, are always expected for the parade organized in Bible Hill, the Victoria Park family activities planned by the Legion, the fireworks organized by the Downtown Truro Partnership (TDP), and more. Those attending the Beach Boys Concert will not miss Truro's fireworks, which are rated near the best in the province, because the concert starts at 7:00 pm.

The staff at RECC are pulling out all the stops to ensure the large crowds are handled quickly and efficiently, either to attend the concert or to see the fireworks. The Colchester Transportation Cooperative Limited will shuttle people from the Colchester Legion Stadium to the RECC leading up to the concert and back after the concert. The shuttles will begin at the Stadium at 5pm and go back and forth until the concert begins at 7pm.

As soon as the concert at the RECC is over, CTCL will start transporting over to the fireworks area at the stadium.

Those who get to RECC early, or via the CTCL shuttles at 5:00 pm will not be idle, nor will they have to sit in their seats for a couple of hours. Local entertainment on a second stage outside RECC will keep the crowds occupied until showtime for the main concert

at 7:00 pm. No need to go hungry, RECC's internal food service-Nourish Bistro & Catering, will be hosting a BBQ.

Stuart Kia, Inglis Jewellers, Elegant Steps, Hampton Inn & Suites, and Sell Off Vacations are just a few of the local firms who are sponsoring events on Canada Day in Truro. To add to the hype of Canada Day in Truro, RECC has partnered with Sell Off Vacations to offer a \$2,000 travel voucher to one lucky ticket purchaser. If folks purchase by April 15 at 4pm, they will have the chance to win.

A sold seat will be selected at random and the seat number will be posted on the event website and social media page. The winner will collect their prize at the RECC Welcome Desk. The event will be a family friendly event. The bowl seating sections will be dry and family focused. The floor seating area, labelled the 'Wet Beach Zone', will be for people aged 19+.

Tickets to annual RECC members went on sale on March 16. To non-members, tickets went on sale March 17 and are available at the RECC Welcome Desk, online at ticketpro.ca, by phoning 1-888-311-9090, or at any ticketpro outlet, including MacQuarries on the Esplanade and the Marigold Cultural Centre.

The Beach Boys are led by Mike Love and Bruce Johnston, who along with Scott Totten, Jeffrey Foskett, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill and Brian Eichenberger continue the legacy of the iconic American band. This tour will not feature Brian Wilson, Al Jardine or David Marks.

A Honeymoon ... Not to Remember!

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later the pilot announced the flight had indeed been rerouted to Paris, stating it was due to a "terror threat" at the airport in Brussels.

Trish and Colin didn't think this was too serious, knowing threats happen now and again. They figured they would have a bit of a delay in Paris and be on their way. When the plane touched down, and cell phone service was obtained, the reality became clear. "Everyone started getting news updates on their phones and you could tell by the looks on the crew's faces, they were just getting the news, as well," says Trish. "This was no terror threat, it was multiple terror attacks with many people killed and injured."

The plane had to land away from the terminal, as there were no gates left, and passengers were loaded on to crowded buses to drive over to the terminal. "Inside the airport it was chaos," says Colin. "There were military personnel with machine guns everywhere and no one knew where to go."

"We were told to go to the Air Canada counter. They suggested we could fly to Amsterdam for another 500 Euros which was not something in our budget. The border to Belgium was shut down and everyone was being told to stay off of trains and buses and to avoid public places, so there were not many options," says

Trish, noting how helpful the Air Canada agents tried to be, but that no one had any plan in place to deal with passengers in such a situation. "Our travel agent said she couldn't get us back to Canada until Saturday, so we again tried looking at other travel arrangements but nothing was feasible."

Air Canada gave them a voucher for a free night in a Paris hotel but otherwise they were on their own. Trish, who still gets emotional talking about the ordeal, says it was very frightening. Their phone wouldn't work, they were scared to leave their hotel room and they had no idea what to do.

"It was a complete mix of emotions," says Trish, "On the one hand we felt so lucky we were alive and safe. If not for the delay due to the brake problem, our plane would have landed just a half hour before the bombs went off. But then we can't believe we have spent close to \$3500 for our dream honeymoon and here we are trapped in a small hotel room, scared to go anywhere and no idea when we are going to get home."

"But we got to see a whole lot of French firearms," says Colin, who tries to lighten the mood a bit.

As the news updates continued to come in online, with more terror threats throughout Europe, the honeymooners realized they just want to get back

home as soon as possible. Since they were only given one free night in the hotel, they returned to the airport the next morning and went to the Air Canada desk. "They were able to get us on a flight later that day, if we didn't mind an overnight in Montreal and we jumped at the chance," says Trish. And they allowed them an overnight in Halifax on route to Deer Lake, so Colin and Trish were able to get some well needed hugs from friends and family at the MacMicheal home in Debert.

Beth and Terry MacMichael had just returned from a vacation in Central America at 2AM, the morning of the bombings. "When my clock radio came on at 7AM with the news and I heard about Brussels my first thought was, this can not be possible," says Beth, who was enjoying every minute of having her son and his wife home safe and sound.

Colin and Trish had posted messages online to their families as soon as they had landed and Beth was very relieved to know right away the couple were in Paris, not Brussels and they were safe. "The ironic thing is my parents wanted us to cancel the trip after hearing of the attacks in Paris," says Trish. "We told them not to worry and felt security was high and we would be safe."

Colin and Trish met a woman from Ottawa, trying to get home, as well. "I was rather emotional

and this kind woman heard we were on our honeymoon and offered to buy us lunch. She was feeling very lucky as she had missed being at Starbucks, close to where one bomb was detonated, because her cab was 15 minutes late. She lived in Brussels, as her husband works for NATO, but said they are moving home, as it just not safe," reports Trish.

Fate certainly has a way of intervening, and Trish realizes the significance. "Here I was complaining about our late flight and missing breakfast and it turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to us."

The non-honeymoon is certainly a disappointment, having worked and saved to pay for their trip, even buying trip insurance, they are doubtful they will get much of their money back. "There is a clause in my insurance contract that says they will not cover for acts of terrorism," says Colin, who was shocked to hear this. "No one reads all the fine print in these contracts. Not that I would have ever expected to need to read a terrorism clause."

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In keynote remarks, on March 7th, at the opening ceremony of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange, The Honourable Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, highlighted the sector's importance as an essential economic driver and source of good jobs, including in remote communities and for Indigenous peoples. He emphasized the Government of Canada's key priorities for the industry, including the need to invest in innovative clean technologies to ensure sustainable natural resource sectors.

Nova Scotia Business Inc. announced on March 8th, two newly approved productions through the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund. The documentary *Body Language Decoded*, produced by Body Language Films Inc., has received a funding commitment of \$134,421. The television pilot *Mikmaw Customary Law Circle*, produced by Houston Productions Inc., has received a funding commitment of \$15,492.

County staff are working on a joint project with the Town of Truro to review energy efficiency and consumption costs for all facilities.

Craig Johnson has tossed his hat into the ring to become the Liberal Candidate for the Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River riding in the next provincial election. He held a public meeting on March 22nd, to discuss the nomination process at Lokal, 604 Prince Street, Truro.

If you have a minor at-fault accident without resulting injuries, you may be able to reimburse the insurance company for the cost of the resulting damages. Once a voluntary payment is made, the accident is registered as not-at-fault, and doesn't affect the driver's record. The changes were announced on March 8th. Nova Scotia is the first province to allow voluntary payments. This regulation clarifies that drivers can use voluntary payments to control their driving records and insurance ratings due to minor accidents.

Nova Scotia Power announced on March 7th it will not file a General Rate Application for the next three years. The utility is seeking only fuel cost adjustments at less than the projected rate of inflation through to the end of 2019. The details are contained in NSP's Rate Stability Plan, filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB). If approved, the Rate Stability Plan would extend the period of stable, predictable electricity rates that began last year through to the end of 2019.

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