

South Shuswap summer events for 2010

June 4 & 5

10th Annual Shuswap Lake Accordion Festival. Come and enjoy solos, duets, bands, jam sessions and dancing at the Sorrento Centre. There is a cost for admission. For more information call Dianne at 250-675-2531.

June 19

Donkey Days is an annual celebration that brings people out to the Turtle Valley Donkey Refuge for a hands-on visit with the donkeys. Hear the stories of how the donkeys came to live in the refuge. It's a family fun day, with crafts for kids, antique farm equipment displays, a blacksmith, live music and spinning wool. Visit the other farm animals and Chase Lions Club concession. This event, held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is held as a fundraiser for the refuge and last year Donkey Days raised enough money to cover the costs of the winter hay and a few farrier visits.

The refuge is located at 1125 Ptarmigan Road, Chase. There are two ways to get there. You can turn off the Trans Canada at Tappen on to Skimikin Road or at the Squilax Bridge turnoff and go left on to Turtle Valley Road. Then just follow the signs. For more information call Shirley at 250-679-2778.

June 20

Treat Dad to breakfast (and you don't have to cook). Go to the **Father's Day Lion's Pancake Breakfast** at Sorrento Memorial Hall, 1147 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento.

July 1

South Shuswap Canada Day on July 1 is an annual free festival for families and tourists and one of the biggest and best in the B.C. interior. The action takes place at Centennial Field on the corner of Blind Bay Road and Centennial Drive right across from Shuswap Lake.

The day of fun activities and entertainment begins with a delicious pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. sponsored by the Lions Club. The antique car parade begins at 10 a.m. followed by the main parade at 10:30 a.m. going from Mountdale Place, down Balmoral Road and along Blind Bay Road to Centennial Field. This local parade provides great entertainment with horses, hot rods, children and pets, square dancers, line dancers, RCMP, fire trucks, bands, bagpipes, and other surprises. Awards for floats and other entries are presented at the opening ceremonies on the field where the Canada Day cake is served. Old-fashioned children's games, races and other attractions will draw the youngster's attention. The "motocross guys" who thrilled the audience with their spectacular feats will be there again this year.

Local talented musicians, "The Cats and the Fiddle" and a repeat performer, Stan Foster, will entertain along with other performers. There will be craft vendors and food concessions plus a beer garden where people can visit while listening to the music.

Organizers suggest that people bring lawns chairs and please leave the pets at home. There is a shade tent and water is available.

The fabulous fireworks display set off by the special fireworks crew begins around 10:30 p.m. and can be seen from many vantage points. The reflection off the bay is incredible!



July 1 - 3

The Blind Bay Painters Show & Sale is an exciting display of local talent, which ties in with Canada Day festivities.

There are new and original works, prints, cards, and a variety of items in various mediums including watercolours, acrylics, oils, pastels, charcoal and graphite. Meet the artists who get their inspiration from the natural beauty of the Shuswap.

The show, which is held over three days, is located in Blind Bay Hall, 2510 Blind Bay Road: July 1, 1-5 p.m.; July 2, 10-5 p.m.; July 3, 10-5 p.m. Admission by donation includes refreshments. For more info contact Nancy at 250-675-5375 or Lil at 250-675-2667.

July 10 - 18

Shuswap Festival of the Arts hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Friday, July 16th with the hours extended to 8 p.m., and on the closing day, Sunday the 18th, when the doors close at 4 p.m. It all takes place at Sorrento Memorial Hall on Passchendaele Road in Sorrento. Come and enjoy the creations of local artists.

A special children's day is planned on Wednesday, July 14. The gift shop will have originals and reproductions for sale.

July 10

Benefit concert for the Sorrento Food Bank. A talented group of musicians and singers is performing for the benefit of the Sorrento Food Bank on Saturday, July 10 at 7 p.m. Gospel Song Sorrento will be held at Sorrento Centre, 1159 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento. This evening of music is offered in folk, country and bluegrass styles and it all starts at 7 p.m.

Admission is your generous donation of non-perishable food and/or money for the Food Bank. The venue is a covered outdoor building, so come dressed for an outdoor event, but with assurance you will be dry in case of rain. Parking is available onsite but no pets permitted. For more information call Lynn at 250-675-4431.

July 31 - August 1

High Country Pottery Sale. The August long weekend wouldn't be the same without this sale. It runs from July 31 to August 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sorrento Memorial Hall at 1148 Passchendaele Road in Sorrento.

It features some of B.C.'s finest pottery. Look for functional pottery, raku, sculpture, porcelain and crystalline glazed pieces. And this year you will also find iron work, weaving, fused glass, silver jewelry, and handmade paper.

Enjoy meeting and chatting with the artisans. Admission is free.

August 29

Sorrento Bluegrass Festival. This 21st annual festival at the Sorrento Centre is a day full of good music, good people and fun times. It's the highlight of the two-week music workshop. You might get to hear people like Tony Furtado, one of banjo's all-time greats, and Russ Barenburg, one of the world's most talented and renowned guitarists. Also, back by popular demand is the Foghorn Stringband from Oregon and a local favourite, Chris Stevens. There's a full slate of musicians and bands who play all kinds of instruments like the mandolin, dobro and fiddle. Bring your lawn chair because you're going to want to stay all day. You'll be toe-tapping and humming along because this music won't let you sit still. For the complete line-up go online to musicworkshops.ca

October 1-3

"Turning the Tide" - African Textile Art Exhibit. Come and see this beautiful collection of original handmade art quilts that is on tour as part of a fundraising effort for Grandmothers to Grandmothers. The exhibit will be at Sorrento Centre (1159 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento) 2-7 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The quilts will be auctioned off in Victoria in March 2011 to raise funds in support of families, grandmothers and communities dealing with the impact of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Admission by donation. For more information contact Kathy at 250-675-4141 or Bernadette at 250-832-5454.