

Boat rentals and marine services

Shuswap and Mara Lakes are the drawing cards that make the Shuswap a great tourist destination. While people enjoy coming in the summer for those lazy sunny days of rest and relaxation, there is plenty to do in the shoulder seasons.

The fishing is great in May in the morning. In the afternoons, although it is still a little cool, it's warm enough to enjoy being outside.

If you like to spend time on the lake but still a little peace and quiet, try coming in June. You can have the best of both worlds.

July and August are, of course, the busy boating season on the lakes. But the fun is contagious and there's nothing to lift the spirits like being in the midst of a crowd who are all in a festive vacation mood.



The boating is great on Shuswap Lake.

Safe boating

There's always a lot of traffic on the lake so here are a few reminders of boating safety.

Just as it is dangerous to drink and drive on land, being in a boat is no different.

Everyone on board should wear lifejackets.

Watch for changing weather conditions.

And remember to have with you personal identification, a licence for your boat if it's 10 hp or more, and some kind of proof of competency which includes a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, or proof of having passed a boating safety course in Canada before April 1, 1999, or a specified marine certificate or a completed rental-boat safety check list. For more information go to www.boatingsafety.gc.ca



Sicamous celebrates

Sicamous is celebrating its 125th birthday this year. Along with a few other town celebrations lined up, there's going to be a lot of fun, entertainment, food and music.

June 28 - July 4: To start off, there's the popular Eagle Valley Brush and Palette Club Summer Arts and Crafts Show. This is its 31st year and, as usual, it is all at the Red Barn Arts Centre, 1226 Riverside Avenue.

On **July 1st**, Sicamous puts on a spectacular fire works display. But the fun begins in the morning with a strawberry pancake breakfast at the Red Barn Arts Centre parking lot. Show up at 8 a.m. to get them hot off the grill.

Watch for fliers listing additional activities on July 1st but definitely on the agenda is a concert and fireworks.

Scarecrow will be playing on a barge in front of Beach Park from 7 to 10 p.m. When they stop, the fireworks begin.

August 6 to 8 Sicamous will begin its anniversary party in earnest. A big Homecoming Weekend is planned. The Red Barn Arts Centre will be the Welcome Centre. Bring your old photos as the Sicamous and District Museum and Historical Society will feature displays and have an opportunity to exchange old photographs.

On the Saturday, it's all family fun with a Mousemouse Sandfest on the beach.

Saturday night promises to be the highlight as Sicamous' own Elton Lammie will take the stage from 7 to 9 p.m. for his 'From Opry to Opera Concert.' You'll get a taste of Lammie's vocal talent as he belts out country, rock & roll, Broadway tunes and opera. For those who don't know him, Elton Lammie won the 2006 Bravo television show, So You Want to Be an Opera Star: Bathroom Divas thus becoming a Canadian opera star. Although he spends a lot of time touring North America, Asia and Europe, Lammie is coming to perform here for Sicamous' special celebration.

Splats'in dancers will open the show and perform during intermission. This is a free concert followed by an impressive display of fireworks. Rumour has it Elton might be at the Red Barn Centre on Sunday afternoon as well.

For more information go to sicamous125.net

On **November 10 - 11** there will be a lovely and fitting salute to the veterans. Residents remember the war years in the annual 'We'll Meet Again' tribute with songs of the war years, displays, dramatic readings, vignettes, dances of the war years and a dry canteen. It all takes place at the Red Barn Arts Centre.

The tribute will focus on the Canadian Navy, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

For tickets or more information call Carla at 250-836-4705.

Sicamous always has a Christmas concert. It will be a choir concert with a variety of instrumentalists and solos etc., plus a rousing audience carol sing-a-long. For info call Fred at 250-836-0167.