

August 24, 2011

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### **High quality drinking water celebrated at Waterfest**

Waterfest 2011 showcased the power of community when Campbell River celebrated the high quality of drinking water in the watershed at Mclvor Lake on Aug. 20.

The River Spirit Dragon Boat team proved their mettle when they pulled together to haul two water skiers out of the water – an amazing feat of team work. They then continued to give dragon boat rides and paddling instructions throughout the event.

Beaver Aquatics and Campbell River divers scoured the lake to clean up any garbage. They have participated in underwater clean-ups since 1997, and their efforts are working, with far less garbage at the bottom of the lake these days.

Freeman Mary Ashley addressed the crowd at noon, and shared photos of a drinking water project in a small village in Africa. Drinking water is a different story there: muddy, scarce and potentially lethal.

Children then gathered for a snorkel treasure hunt organized by Beaver Aquatics, who also provided prizes.

Stereo Fitness exercise instructors worked out the crowd with an energizing class.

Outdoor Addictions brought kayaks and water boards for people to try, and CR Paddlers had kayaks and information displayed.

Active Campbell River and two City of Campbell River lifeguards joined the fun and provided games for youth who were not in the popular Bounce-A-Rama giraffe.

BC Hydro let us know that while energy consumption in BC is expected to rise by 40 per cent, 60 per cent of the additional supply could be obtained through energy conservation.

The Baba Gannouj concession offered delicious food, plus drumming and a belly-dancing lesson to close the festivities.

The City of Campbell River's displays offered tips about responsible recreation in the watershed, and the free bus rides were popular, with many of the buses filled to capacity.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this high-energy event at Mclvor Lake that promised good things for the Campbell River watershed. Anything is possible when a community pulls together!

To further protect your drinking water, join us for Watershed Clean-up day on Aug. 27. Phone 250-203-2316 or e-mail [water.wise@campbellriver.ca](mailto:water.wise@campbellriver.ca) to register.

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