

Media Release
April 19, 2010
For Immediate Release

Bastion Block Party Planned for Downtown

Business owners on Church, Chapel and Front Streets in downtown Nanaimo are ready to party.

The reason they're all in such a celebratory mood is because many of the improvements taking place around the block over the last several months are now complete. The other reason they want to whoop it up is to raise some funds for the Passion for the Bastion restoration campaign being organized by Nanaimo Museum.

Called the Bastion Block Party, the event will take place on Saturday, May 1. From 10 am to 4 pm it will be more family focused, but in the evening the adults are invited to come out and play from 5 pm to 8 pm.

"We want to celebrate all the new improvements as well as our new neighbours in our neighbourhood," says event organizer Willow Chandler of House of Indigo. "We also want to help an old friend who needs some uplifting.....the Nanaimo Bastion."

After more than a century and a half of service as the sentinel of the community, the Bastion is suffering from exposure to prevailing winds and rain. In particular, the timber walls and corner posts facing the harbour are succumbing to wood rot. While the project is still out to tender, it is expected that the final price tag will be well over \$200,000.

"The Nanaimo Bastion is in need of some major structural repairs and businesses in the Church, Chapel, and Front Street area are teaming up to help," says Chandler.

The Bastion Block Party includes a silent auction, a Pirates Stamp Map that will give you a chance to win some "booty", Bastion themed window displays, evening shopping, hot dogs, art, dance, music and more. This is a free event, but there will be numerous ways to participate in the fund raising aspect.

Participating businesses so far include House of Indigo, Nanaimo Maps and Charts, Dream With Me, The Loft - Dave Hamilton Photography, Rickwood's Menswear, A to Zebra, Perkins Coffee, The Stitchers Muse, Vanilla Alley, Gallery 223, Hill's Native Gallery, and Coast Realty with more coming on board every day.

Anyone interested in contributing to this community building fundraising event should contact Willow Chandler at 250-754-1022, or by email at indigo-boutique@shaw.ca.



Photo Caption: Business owners on Chapel, Church and Front Streets are planning to whoop it up during the Bastion Block Party on Saturday, May 1 starting at 10 am.