

# Mining Day in Princeton



Mining Day fun at Veterans Square These kids were truly mesmerized by 'The Great' Clinton W. Gray - magician. “We are here to celebrate Mining Week, the kids in our community and, in particular, to raise funds for the museum,” stated CEO Jim O’Rourke.

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By [Dierra Maynard - Similkameen Spotlight](#)

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The head table at the luncheon held Pierre Gratton president and CEO of MABC, Jim O’Rourke CEO of Copper Mountain Mining, Mayor Randy McLean, Museum Society President Bob Wicks and Regional Director Brad Hope. Ina Hartman and her staff got everyone in a good mood serving up a delicious lasagna, caesar salad and garlic toast. Mayor McLean was the first to speak and thanked both Councillors Marilyn Harkness and Frank Armitage for attending. “I really wanted to thank all the businesses who have tried to make the mine workers part of our community.” McLean also stated, “Copper Mountain Mining has tried from the very beginning to make their presence of real benefit to the community. The businesses are very appreciative of the economic impact the mine has had on Princeton. It has been a major difference. Main street is busier and the clubs have been bolstered with new members.”

Pierre Gratton said of CMM, “It is an exciting time for the mining industry. Copper Mountain is the first new mine in over a decade. You have become a beacon of hope for other communities who are in various stages of developing mines. I want to acknowledge the town and regional district. Your support has made this process much easier.”

Jim O'Rourke agreed with Gratton. "What has made this development in Princeton so great is the support of the community and regional partner. Randy and his council have bent over backwards to help us. You people here have a great community."

Regional Director Brad Hope said, "There really seems to be a right and wrong way to do things. This has been a really cooperative venture. Copper Mountain has tried really hard to make this our mine. The whole experience has been nothing but positive. We are all looking forward to more youth in our community brought in by new young families. Frank Armitage has been instrumental in giving us all a focussed vision for the direction Princeton should be moving in. We need to bring in families who will set down roots here."

Wicks said, "on behalf of the Princeton and District Museum and Archives Society we are very grateful to Copper Mountain Mining for contributing to the success of our museum. The museum is going to be a brand new facility inside."

After the luncheon, things moved downtown. Veteran's Square became a flurry of activity after school. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., there was a musician, face painting, Highland Dancing, gold panning, a drawing contest and short speeches. CEO Jim O'Rourke was pleased to announce that the Copper Mountain Mining project is on schedule and that they have a great crew. "We are here to celebrate Mining Week, the kids in our community and in particular to raise funds for the museum," stated O'Rourke.

Dice, cards, wine and good food together can work in conjunction to create an atmosphere of fun and indeed fun was had by all at the first ever Casino Night fundraising event held in the newly renovated, not yet completed, museum. It was an event meant to celebrate not just the new museum, but also to celebrate the new life Copper Mountain Mine has brought to a town that needed an economic injection. The mine has brought with it good paying jobs and people to spend the money they earn. It has brought with it new hope, new construction and new business.

Copper Mountain Mine was looking for a way to give something back to a community that has welcomed them in with open arms and for the museum it was perfect timing. The museum has been in the throes of renovation for weeks now and is hoping to re-open to the public before long. The partnership fundraiser was just right.

Bob Wicks, president of the Museum Society, congratulated Copper Mountain Mine on Mining Week. "The Museum Board, members, and volunteers wish to thank Copper Mountain Mining Corporation for their significant contribution to helping make our dream of a new and exciting museum a reality. With your help, we are building it. With your help, the Princeton and District community and visitors from around the world will have an exciting museum to visit and enjoy."

The day was celebrated with style. An announcement by Copper Mountain Mining to top the fundraising total to \$10,000 for the museum renovation was the icing on the cake. "It was a great day and everybody had a lot of fun," concluded Armitage. PR Associates Account Manager Ryan Tessier who oversaw the organization of the Mining Day celebration said, "We really saw a good turn-out and people were really excited to receive an update on the mine."