

## TIDBITS:

- Our president, Chris Clarkson, is featured in his kayak in this month's British Columbia magazine, on newsstands now!
- Change of Time and Place for the April BDCC Council Meeting - Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 PM (EVENING!!) at the Golf Course clubhouse.
- Business card holders/displays are coming. If you're interested in a slot, contact Janet McCulloch at 229-5204.
- A mark of Spring - Blue Sky Clothing is now open (Balfour and Nelson) from 10 to 5 every day.
- Look for new doings at ferry landing businesses!

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## Meet Barrie McWha, Golf Course General Manager

After a nationwide talent search, the Balfour Golf Course has taken the next step in its evolution and hired Barrie McWha as General Manager.

Barrie has a full 40 years of experience in the golf industry as a player, instructor, manager, media spokesperson, and association executive member. For 20 years he was in golf management on the Island, including Gleggarry/Pheasant Glen (Executive Professional and General Manager) and Fairwinds (Director of Golf), and for 21 years before that was a golf professional and general manager in Winnipeg.

We're lucky that Barrie and his wife, Sheila, after having seen the area for the first time this winter, made the decision to move to Balfour. Sheila is a gardener, and will assist in the horticultural landscaping around the clubhouse and golf course.

Barrie has a lot to offer - he's an expert in club repair and custom club fitting, experienced in real estate project design and

zoning, and he administered a Canadian Tour event for six years, among other things. (But can he putt?? We think so - he held the course record [64] at the Southwood course in Winnipeg for ten years.)

We asked Barrie, You've been here a few months now; what have you been doing?

"I've spent most of my time putting our team together, and the rest learning about the course and the Balfour community. One thing I've learned is that the Balfour Golf Course is a major employer and a major economic driver of this incredible area, and it's in everyone's best interest to see it thrive.



Barrie McWha

## See You at the Season Kickoff!!

Our first annual Spring fundraiser is a Goddess of the Lake Fashion Show, presenting the new designs of Marilyn Cavanaugh of Blue Sky Clothing Co. (We'll have a golf tournament and dinner dance in the Fall.)

### Goddess of the Lake Fashion Show

Saturday, May 26  
2:00 pm - Balfour Town Hall

Bring your inner goddess to a showing of original designs by

Marilyn Cavanaugh of our own Blue Sky Clothing Co. Be the first to see her 2007 collection of fresh, fabulous, comfortable fashions for men and women!

The Bacchus Bar will flow with wine and virgin juice drinks. Decadent morsels of nirvana and ambrosia will be served. Draw prizes and extravagances will abound.

One lucky goddess and a guest

Therefore, our priority is to increase utilization of the golf course and Osprey Mountain Grill. And that means providing great entertainment in a friendly, competent Kootenay atmosphere.

I think we've assembled a wonderful team, and have emphasized cross-training so that everyone is flexible, knowledgeable, and excited about the many duties involved in ensuring that the Balfour Golf Course delivers a memorable experience to everyone who visits or plays here regularly.

Matt Shaw is still the Head Golf Professional, and Brad Woods is back as Assistant Professional. Barry Studer, from Leduc, Alberta, is entering his second season as the Golf Course Superintendent. The Executive Chef of the Osprey Mountain Grill is Randy Davis, who is also the Senior Instructor in Selkirk College's culinary program during the school year. Our Pastry Chef and Baker, Simon Parr, is his assistant at the college. Our third chef, Erik Albrechtson, is a recent Selkirk grad. Nancy Cook, another Selkirk grad, is our Food and Beverage Manager. Brenda Gould is our Pro Shop Merchandiser, and we think you'll like what the shop will offer in the coming months. We've hired several others from hotel and tourism programs to round out the staff. We have the

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will win the grand prize: a 4-hour Goddess Tour on Kootenay Lake, courtesy of goddess-loving Kootenay Lake Adventure Tours.

Advance (only) tickets for \$20 can be purchased at Blue Sky Clothing Co. at the ferry, Blue Sky Clothing Co. in Nelson (next to El Taco on Victoria), and Balfour Golf Course Pro Shop.

For more information, contact Janet McCulloch, [murraypond@shaw.ca](mailto:murraypond@shaw.ca), 229-5204.

## From the President

Hi everyone -

With everything going on in Balfour these days, the Balfour Chamber is a great way to stay informed.

We have almost 40 members now. With more members, we as a community have a stronger voice.

If you have some skills to offer or just want to get involved to make

Balfour a safer and better place to live, we'd love to hear from you.

- Chris Clarkson

### **Balfour Families!**

**The Kootenay Lake  
Family Network**

*continues to grow and prosper. They partnered with North Kootenay Lake Community Services (Kaslo) to sponsor a Parent & Child Mother Goose program, and along with the Redfish School PAC received a \$4,300 grant for playground equipment, and are fundraising for \$25,000 more. Children's yoga classes, a singing group, and a website are coming!*

Contact them at:

kootenaylakefamilynetwork@shaw.ca



The crew from SWIZ Timber Frame Homes installing the framework for the Chamber's new tourist map/sign across from the Superette. Progress!

## BRC News

The Balfour Recreation Commission was thrilled that the golf course opened ahead of schedule on March 31 thanks to the hard work of Barrie McWha and his great team.

We'll complete some repairs and upgrades to the school-house and Town Hall based on finalizing budgets and funding.

Our AGM will be in June again this year (date TBA) so be sure to pay your 2007 \$10

dues well in advance. All paid-up members will be eligible to vote at the AGM. Existing memberships can be renewed at the golf course or BRC drop box at the Superette, or by mail to P.O. Box 139, Balfour, B.C. V0G 1C0. New membership apps are available at the golf course and drop box.

The Board is kicking off long-term planning, now that they're no longer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the golf course.

Fact-finding efforts will take a much longer view than in recent years.

Meanwhile, enjoy our existing recreational opportunities: playground and gym at the Old Schoolhouse on Upper Balfour Road; and tennis courts, baseball/soccer field, and Town Hall at 8435 Busk Road. For information on any of the facilities, contact Kurt Blauhut at 229-5321. For tennis court season or daily passes, visit the Balfour Golf Course Pro Shop or call 229-5655.

## Balfour Town Meeting

More than 75 people attended the annual Town Meeting on Friday evening, March 23.

Chris and Ted Steacy (mostly Ted!) gathered a stellar panel: Chris for the Balfour Chamber; RDCK Director Josh Smienk; MLA Corky Evans, in his third term for Nelson-Creston; RCMP Staff Sgt Steve Robertson; Marvin Pederson, president, Balfour Seniors Association; Lenora Trenamen, school trustee; Kim Boddy and Barrie McWha for the BRC/Golf Course; Chief George Mathieson, Balfour and District Fire Department; Jim Shkooratoff, board chair, Balfour Irrigation District; and Roger Ireland of the cemetery board.

Chris expressed the Chamber's interest in not only local business, but also social and health issues, cleanup opportunities, and overall growth.

Kim (on behalf of the Balfour Recreation Commission and Osprey Ridge Golf Estates, owners of the back nine) introduced the new golf course General Manager, Barrie McWha. Barrie gave an upbeat and jam-packed report on what's happening up there (see Page 1).

Jim S. said the water board had a busy year. The turbidity meter is working well, and they're meeting soon with the Health Dept. Their goal still is getting off the boil water advisory. A feasibility study is complete (forgive the writer for misstating anything!): The three ways to get off the advisory are: a dedicated line up to the tank, a dedicated line part-way up to the tank, and chlorine injection, by far the cheapest. Kootenay water has always been too cheap; we're paying for it now. Anything will be expensive.

Fire Chief George M. (firefighter for 35 years, Balfour Chief for 12) says there's a serious shortage of volunteers. They've just dropped their First Responder program, which means they'll no longer respond to medical emergencies, just fires, car wrecks, and rope rescues. For some reason, the Balfour FD was changed from Level 1 to Level 2, and are now only sent to limited calls. They also found they were getting to the scene at the same time as the ambulance. They were losing First Responders and firefighters because they felt they're not being used, and because of the time and cost commitment of First Responder training and licensing. They were also losing them because of the gruesomeness of the emergencies, especially car wrecks. The good news is that they're expecting delivery of a new water tanker truck in June,

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## Balfour Town Meeting (continued)

and they're getting fewer fire calls, which the Chief attributes partially to smoke detectors. George is actively recruiting new volunteers to supplement the 21 members they have now.

Trustee Trenamen reports that school enrollment has declined and will continue to; this year was the largest decrease ever. Redfish will become K-5.

Marvin P. says the seniors are active in national issues like seniors pensions and oxygen on airplanes, and they manage a full slate of lighter activities: their Valentine's Day Dinner is cooked by the men, and so far there've been no real disasters. Then there are the quarterly birthday lunches, coffee party fundraiser, weekly crib, Halloween costume party, catered Christmas dinner, a library, 47 members to party with, . . . whew, they're busy.

SSgt. Robertson, with 30 years of experience, mostly in rural BC, again tells us that Balfour is a low-crime area. / His unit (Nelson Rural) covers Balfour as well as Nakusp, Kaslo, Salmo, New Denver, and the highway from Coffee Creek to the junction and up to Winlaw. Five constables, one corporal, and one sergeant patrol our roads (SSgt. Steve mans the office), and 22 emergency officers are available from Trail and Castlegar. / There were 107 calls in the last 15

months. / SSgt. Steve says that residents' priorities are very important to them. Priorities this year are youth, traffic, and police presence. National priorities include organized crime, which means marijuana grow ops. After we all chuckled, he said it's not the mom and pops anymore, it's international gangs.

The highlight of the meeting was Roger's cemetery board report. Yep, that's right. The serious topic was hilariously presented. / Descendants of the original (February 1930) board members are still around. / A 10x10 plot is only \$20; only cremated remains are allowed. / The new fence came from timber sale money, and Kurt Blauhut built the masonry posts. / The Covenant Church recently held a cleanup party. / Also on the board are Hugh Blackstock and Shirley Walgren, and they're always looking for new board members (Roger would have a funny line here).

Josh Smienk has asked BC Transit to investigate doubling the bus service and adding Harrop and Procter. IHA wants people to be able to go from Kaslo to the hospital in Trail and back in one day. Ridership is now about 1200 people a month. / The budget increase for Area E is minimal this year (.02%). We don't know yet what impact the assessment increase will have on provincial and school taxes. Right now we have the second lowest tax rate in the regional district. / From 2001 to 2006 there was an average 5.5% increase in RDCK population. Balfour's increase of 50% was the second

highest in the area. / The tax money we're sending to Victoria (\$700,000/yr) is not being fully returned in services, so forming a District Municipality is something to be considered.

Corky Evans, our MLA, says Balfour has the best town meetings, and other communities should copy our format! / Snowpack is 140% this year. Clean out your driveway gutters, ditches, and culverts. / Summers will be drier; make your houses salvageable (by the Fire Dept.) in a forest fire by clearing trees and brush around your house, creating a defensible perimeter. / Since pine isn't our dominant species and our forest is mixed, people will begin to come to our area to escape beetle-collapsed forests elsewhere. / Two new hardrock mines have started production here (molybdenum and lead/zinc).

After some Q&A, we adjourned the meeting and left much more informed.

Next year we hope to also have representatives from Highways, IHA, Conservation, and others. Have a suggestion? Speak up! [info@balfourcanada.com](mailto:info@balfourcanada.com).

## Meet Barrie McWha (continued)

coverage now to allow Matt and Brad to develop instruction programs for all ages and abilities, and to provide club fitting services for those golfers wishing to make certain their equipment fits them properly. Isn't it time to tune up your skills with some lessons?

I'd say to all area residents, if you haven't been out lately, give us a try - our goal is to provide services and products that will encourage you to come back again and again. Our local residents are our most important market.

We will be putting on Men's and Ladies' Nights, which will have shotgun starts at

5:30 pm (men on Tuesday and ladies on Thursday, both starting the first week of May). Singles and two-three-and-foursomes are welcome. We guarantee a good time, with nine holes, dinner, and prizes.

We're also aggressively attracting golfers from a wider area. This year the Balfour Golf Course is featured on three pages in the Tourism Rockies magazine, and we're working on other marketing programs, including our robust new website, which will launch in May. It'll have special events news, menus, club event results, and more.

Tee times are available daily, and the Osprey Mountain Grill is open from 8 am

until 9 pm. We look forward to providing you with hours of high quality fun. Meet friends here for breakfast - you couldn't find a more peaceful, scenic place to start the day. Get your kids into Junior Golf. Hit a bucket of balls on the range. Come out for Men's Night or Ladies' Night. Have a beer and some appys and watch players come up the 8th and 9th holes. And then please tell us how we're doing and how we can ensure that you all enjoy this great community asset - the Balfour Golf Course and Osprey Mountain Grill!" (Breaking news - the Grill served 120 happy people for a sold-out Easter Brunch!)

## Balfour and District Chamber of Commerce

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The Balfour and District Chamber of Commerce was founded in July 2006 by a core group of business owners who recognized that it was time for Balfour to get organized.

The objective of the Chamber is to promote and improve trade and commerce and the economic, civic, and social welfare of the district.

The Chamber strives to work closely with not only Balfour business owners, but also Balfour residents, BRC, RDCK, RCMP, the ferry operator (Western Pacific Marine), the Ministry of Transportation, and our local conservation officers, forestry officials, and other government entities responsible for our spectacular area.



Join the Chamber at [BalfourCanada.com](http://BalfourCanada.com)

## Calendar

### BDCC Council Meetings:

(3rd Tuesdays - All are welcome!)

April 17, 2007 (7:00 PM -  
Golf Course Clubhouse)

May 15, 2007

June 19, 2007

July 17, 2007

August 21, 2007

September 18, 2007

### Newsletter Deadlines

Summer - Jun 1

Fall - Sep 1

Winter - Dec 1

Spring - Mar 1

(SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
[INFO@BALFOURCANADA.COM](mailto:INFO@BALFOURCANADA.COM))



### Our Growing Forest ----- of Signs

These wonderful businesses have almost no choice but to plant their signs here. And, we all know it's grown to be not only unsightly, but almost impossible to read from the stop sign. It's just an indicator of Balfour's progress! Chris is talking with Highways about how other communities have solved this common and understandable problem. Perhaps a big sign with everyone on it? One can imagine the issues involved with that. But we're working on it!

*Goddess of the Lake Fashion Show  
May 26 - 2:00 pm - Town Hall*

*Balfour Buzz is a quarterly newsletter for residents, business owners, and employees of our beautiful Balfour. If you have contributions or story ideas, please contact Sara at [info@balfourcanada.com](mailto:info@balfourcanada.com).*