

Hayes Fireworks Show Set To Light Up Next Weekend's Pacific Energy 12-Hour Relay

Duncan, BC – Hayes Forest Services Limited's annual fireworks show at the Pacific Energy 12-Hour Relay is only days away! Hayes "Fifteen Minutes of Flame and Glory" fireworks show at the end of the relay next Saturday is a well-deserved treat for relay participants and community members alike. Last year's fireworks wowed hundreds of families at the Cowichan Sportsplex.

"Fireworks have a way of bringing people together and expressing community spirit," says Hayes President Donald P. Hayes. "We are pleased to join with Pacific Energy and the Cowichan Sportsplex to put on this exciting showcase of fireworks and music."

As in previous years, Cam Drew will emcee the fireworks show and choreograph the music. Neil Sedman of Celebration Fireworks will take charge of the colourful, dazzling display. Neil, a certified master pyrotechnician, has been pleasing audiences around BC for over 10 years.

Neil's show at the Pacific Energy 12-Hour Relay will involve 150 different kinds of fireworks, and 200 firings. With the help of an assistant, he will hand light the fireworks with a torch, having laid out a firing sequence in advance. He gets his pre-made fireworks from suppliers in the United States, Spain and China.

Fireworks have their origin in China, where it is said that a cook accidentally invented gunpowder by mixing three common kitchen ingredients – potassium nitrate (or salt peter), sulphur and charcoal – and lighting it. The result was colourful flames which – when enclosed in a hollow bamboo shoot – made a tremendous explosion. Later gunpowder was used to launch carved wooden rockets, employing a technique still used today.

Since then, any event – a birth, death, wedding, coronation, or New Year's Eve celebration – has become a fitting occasion for noisemakers. And the Pacific Energy 12-Hour Relay is no exception!

....2

Neil became a pyrotechnician by accident, which is thankfully the only accident he has had since. "People always ask me how many fingers I have," says the master of fireworks. "I quickly show them that I have all ten!" He first got involved in fireworks at a Hallowe'en party at his children's school. As his skill and reputation grew, he was asked to help out with Vancouver's Symphony of Fire (now the Celebration of Light). He is also the official fireworks guy for the BC Lions football team and the Vancouver Canadians baseball team.

Neil is certified by the BC government, and has taught courses to other up-and-coming pyrotechnicians. Neil's son Jonathan is the second generation of Sedmans hooked on fireworks, and helps out at many of his father's shows throughout the year.

"We've been working with Neil for 4 years, and over that time he has put on at least a dozen Hayes fireworks shows," continues Hayes. "From what I've heard about what Neil has in store, next weekend's show is bound to be the best yet!"

Recognized in 2004 for the fourth consecutive year as one of "Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies", Hayes is the leading forest services provider in British Columbia. With the broadest service offering in the industry, Hayes has been known for innovation and integrity since 1922. Based in Duncan, British Columbia, Hayes continues to be privately held by the Hayes family.

> For further information contact:

Caroll Taiji,
Vice-President, Organization Development
Tel 250-709-6300
Fax 250-709-6327
caroll.taiji@hayes.bc.ca

www.hayes.bc.ca