Halalt plans an Honour Our River Day in September

The people of Halalt First Nation are inviting their neighbours to an Honour Our River Day on Friday, Sept. 14.

Residents of the many communities around the Chemainus River are invited to attend the event to learn more about the river watershed and habitat and the effect of human impact on all the species that live in and along the river.

Chief James Thomas said the purpose of the event is to show how important the river is not only to the Halalt people, but to everyone living around the Chemainus River valley.

“Not too long ago, the Chemainus River was deep and healthy,” he said. “In our brief lifetime, we have seen our river go from richness in water and wildlife to being poor. There were hundreds of thousands of salmon; now we’re lucky to see 100.”

Communities invited include the neighbouring First Nations of Penelakut, Lyackson and Chemainus who once shared the river’s wealth.

Chief Thomas said the Chemainus River has been under suffering for decades from the pressures of forestry, marine, industrial and agricultural activities.

“All the recent developments around Chemainus have increased the demand for water. The Municipality of North Cowichan wants to pump water from the Chemainus River aquifer in order to supply water to the growing number of developments.

“This is the same aquifer that provides Halalt First Nation with our drinking water. But even more important, the entire Chemainus River watershed supplies us with fish, medicinal and food plants and has important cultural significance for our people.

“We want to tell people about these things on Sept 14 and show how the health of our river affects the health of everyone and everything living around it.”

The event runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Halalt administration building on Chemainus Road. Activities include a salmon barbeque, river walks and information booths.

Cops for Cancer breakfast Oct. 12

The annual Breakfast with the “Cops for Cancer” is coming up in early October.

The always popular event will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 2, beginning at 7:30 a.m. That’s the time the cyclists are expected to arrive in Chemainus.

Hosted by the Chemainus Seniors Drop-In Centre, the breakfast is a chance for people to mingle with the riders.

Admission is $12 per person. For more information contact Sandra Heydon at 246-3110.

Antiques Road Show on the way

It’s true! The Antiques Road Show is coming to Canada again! It will start off in Ontario then move on to Nanaimo, British Columbia.

If you are reading this column then chances are good that you have seen the show but, just on the off chance that you haven’t, here is a little history about it.

The Antiques Road Show is part adventure, part history lesson and part treasure hunt. People bring in their finds and treasures and have them evaluated by antique and collectible specialists from Canada and from Britain’s leading auction houses – Christie’s and Sotheby’s just to name two.

These specialists together with independent dealers and appraisers from across the country offer free appraisals of antiques and collectibles. Viewers watch as owners discover the history – and financial value – of family heirlooms, flea market bargains, car boot sales and long neglected items salvaged from the attic.

The series began in the United Kingdom in 1977. It was originally a BBC documentary about a London auction house doing a tour of the West Country in England and evolved over time into the format we see today.

The last time they were in Canada was in 2005 and some of the finds were quite surprising to the appraisers. For example, Howard Roloff was given an 18th century Eastern Woodlands feather box to appraise. The box’s owner told him that it had belonged to her grandfather and that someone had brought papers to his office in the box.

Howard informed the guest that the box was originally meant to hold eagle feathers and was both extremely rare and valuable.

Howard classed the box as a national treasure and suggested that it was valued between $3,500 and $4,000.

Closer to home a Reed and Barton lamp was purchased on Fort Street in Victoria in 1965 for the sum of $1,500. Reed and Barton, New York, were primarily makers of silver plate but also made fine art nouveau lamps. Toronto-based appraiser Bill Kime said the lamp was worth between $3,000 and $5,000.

Alas! I can’t find anything to take there myself. I have an old cat, an old dog and an even older husband but I don’t think they would be too interesting to the appraisers.

Antique Road Show dates.

Nanaimo B.C. Country Club Centre, Sept. 20th 21st 22nd.