

TravelCourierWest TravelCourierWest



Sutton Place 'Just for Fun' tourney July 14

Vancouver's Sutton Place Hotel will host its 4th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament on July 14 at Furry Creek Golf & Country Club with all proceeds going towards Canuck Place Children's Hospice. To obtain more information about the tournament, visit www.vancouver.suttonplace.com/Golf_Invitation.htm.

Sun Peak skiers monitor on-slope performance

Skiers and boarders who just have to know how much terrain they have covered and how much "vertical" they have accumulated over a day can now do so with exact precision at Sun Peaks Resort in BC. The "flaik" is the world's first real-time GPS tracking system for the ski industry, and it has been introduced at the BC resort near Kamloops.

Activated by a cell phone, the flaik is a small, lightweight tag that straps to the arm and utilizes Global Positioning System technology to track positions on the slopes. It automatically uploads information over a wireless network to the rider's profile on flaik.com, a web site specifically designed for the ski industry. At flaik.com, one can track their maximum and average speeds for

the day or per run, scroll through to find their spills and check out the number of vertical feet and the distances they have covered. Riders can also access their stats at any time of the day by texting from their cell phone. The system is currently for rent at Sun Peaks for \$6 per day. (www.flaik.com; www.sunpeaksresort.com)

Vine Seekers seeks goodness of the grape

Vine Seekers is a new tour company offering a number of west coast excursions and culinary adventures, including walking and boat tours around Vancouver Island and BC's Gulf Islands. The three guided tours include Vine Seekers, a culinary adventure focused on visiting vineyards; Trail Seekers, a guided experience of local landscapes and cuisines; and Wave Seekers, an opportunity to experience the "Wine Islands" by boat. Tours are available to a minimum of two guests to a maximum of 12 people and include transportation and a gourmet picnic prepared from local Vancouver Island produce. Custom tours for larger groups are also available. (www.vineseekers.com)

Four Seasons unveils renos

The new Yew Restaurant and Bar at the Four Seasons Vancouver has opened and is the first stage of a \$5.3-million renovation of the hotel property. Named for the rare indigenous Pacific Yew

tree, the room features lofty six-metre ceilings, wood-panelled walls and a floor-to-ceiling sandstone fireplace. The contemporary "raw bar" is made of stacked alder wood with granite surfaces, while the communal table for 20 is a slab of hand-hewn western maple. The menu includes ingredients from the entire Pacific region. Yew is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and cocktails. (www.fourseasons.com/vancouver)

Management co. named for S. Okanagan resort

Bellstar Hotels & Resorts Ltd has recently been contracted to manage Indigo on the Lake, the newest waterfront resort in the South Okanagan region. This 171-unit luxury property is situated on over 100 m. of Lake Osoyoos beach and incorporates one-, two- and three-bedroom residences. Each unit has custom-designed interior finishes, including high-end stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, overhead glass doors and vast patios – some with outdoor gas fireplaces and barbecues. Indigo also



features a geothermal outdoor heated pool and hot tubs, fitness facilities, steam and sauna rooms, café and bistro, business centre, water sports room and vaulted “great room” with a fireplace.

Calgary-based Bellstar develops and manages resort properties in BC and Alberta. Its collection includes 13 resorts in the

Okanagan Valley, Vancouver Island and Canmore. (www.bellstar.ca; www.indigoonthelake.com)

Villa Marco Polo to open new spa

The Villa Marco Polo Bed and Breakfast Inn in Victoria will open a spa next month for the exclusive use of its guests. The

Villa Marco Polo has always offered spa treatments to guests in their rooms, but the new spa will provide a dedicated space for these treatments. Foot reflexology, aromatherapy facials, massage of various types including hot stone massage, manicures and pedicures will be offered.

(www.villamarcopolo.com)