The Motherlode

Hume retraces Simon Fraser’s steps in lecture series

Inspirational, challenging, thought provoking. That’s what audiences are saying about Stephen Hume’s lectures on Simon Fraser. Some 200 years after Fraser’s epic voyage, journalist and poet Hume brings this blunt, tenacious explorer to life in a series of free talks from Prince George to Vancouver.

The series started May 22 in Prince George and will end after 800 kilometres later in Vancouver at Simon Fraser University’s Downtown campus in the Segal Centre, 500 Granville Street. In between, Hume is speaking in venues as varied as a First Nations longhouse to a bowling alley and stopping in communities like Quesnel, Boston Bar, Soda Creek and Sk ethos (Skokoamuch). Hume says that while many British Columbians know Fraser’s name, few know much about the man himself or what drove him to trek from the British Isles to the mouth of the river with the help of B.C.’s Aboriginal peoples.

“As a fur trader working with powerful First Nations, Simon Fraser laid the foundations for modern B.C.” said Hume. “As an explorer he charted the wild river that’s been called the soul of the province.”

Becelit in the bicentennial of Fraser’s journey, the series is sponsored by the New Pathways To Gold Society, the BC150 Secretariat, Harbour Publishing, Budget and the Vancouver Sun. The tour is also made possible by many community organizations and bookstores that are providing venues, publicity and other support.

Hume will be in the Fraser Valley, Fraser Canyon and the Hope-Barkerville corridor from July 9-August 31.

For more information on the Stephen Hume Simon Fraser Lecture Series, please call Gallu cher at 230.392.1400 or visit www.newpathwaystogold.ca and click on Events.

Pathways to Gold Symposium • Sept 26 • 100 Mile House

Educators will get a fresh perspective on how to teach students about B.C.’s rich and diverse history at the Pathways to Gold symposium. Designed to provide new teaching strategies and resources, the symposium is ideal for school teachers, particularly those teaching grades 4 and 5, as well as Social Studies 10 and 11.

The symposium is funded by BC150, the Northern Development Initiative Trust, District of 100 Mile House, BC Social Studies Teachers Association, Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC and Fraser Basin Council. For more information on the symposium, please contact Paula Wastaline at 250.758.6543 or paulaw@shaw.ca.

Audiences feel the rush as The Motherlode hits the road

Feel the rush! Audiences across B.C. are being treated to a mix of music, myth and history as The Motherlode troupe hit the road on May 27.

Kicking off the tour with rave reviews in Prince George, the five-actor troupe was touring venues in Barkerville on May 25 for their dress rehearsal, followed by the opening on May 27.

“The cast did a great job of selling the gold rush sizzle,” said Producer Richard Wright of the Newman & Wright Theatre Company.

“Folk’s were impressed with the attention to the accuracy and depth of the story and how the music wove the whole thing together.”

Financed by BC150, The Motherlode is a musical drama wrapping the stories of the Fraser River corridor from Hope to Barkerville around an English gold seeker, a roadhouse keeper, a black poetess, a hurdy dancer and a Mexican packer. They tell stories of Native encounters, Chinese miners, the early years of Yale, the Cariboo Road and the gold fields.

The troupe is made up of Caitlin Hayes, Enrique Barragan, Keisha Haines, Laura McNaught and Syd Sengotta. The company will hold workshops for two days in each community they visit where they’ll collaborate with residents to develop a 10-15 minute local segment about community, making each show unique.

The Motherlode tour will be the CP Spirit of 150 Rail Tour from June 12-July 6 followed by performances and workshops in the Hope-Barkerville corridor from July 8-August 31.

The show is produced by Wright and directed by Ross Desprez. The script was developed by Desprez, Wright and Don Haucka. Musical direction is by Alison Jenkins and the tour technical director is Aaron Wicks.

For more information on the tour schedule and workshops, please call 1.888.994.3225 or visit www.theatreroyal.ca.