

News Release

Cancellation of Quiltfest in the Crowsnest

Cozy Corner regretfully announces the cancellation of its Premier Event, Quiltfest in the Crowsnest 2008 to have taken place September 4th through September 7th 2008. The organizers deliberated long and hard before making the difficult decision to abandon their plans.

On April 15, 2008 Municipal Council voted 4 to 3 to deny the balance of the Crowsnest Centre Society's budget request creating uncertainty as to the Centre's future. This action would force closure of the Centre. Even though Council subsequently restored and approved the Crowsnest Centre Society's funding in the Municipality's 2008 Budget, it did not resolve the Centre's uncertain future. A proposal to close the older wing is still unresolved. The Municipality gave no public statement to reassure users that it would endeavor to underwrite any shortfall in expenditures should unforeseen circumstances occur for the balance of 2008. Suggestions of the facility's closure could once again surface with the possible breakdown in mechanical equipment or deficiency in the integrity of the building's construction. This lack of assurance has eroded our confidence in the continued operation of the facility

Quiltfest in the Crowsnest was to be a four day event with approximately 200 attendees plus spouses, friends and/or family members. We needed multiple large sized conference/meeting rooms, on-site catering, banquet and breakout rooms, on site and off-site accommodations. High speed internet access and backup generators were also desired. This excellent facility, owned by the Municipality of the Crowsnest Pass and operated by the Crowsnest Centre Society, is the only suitable venue in this area for an event of this magnitude. No other single building in the Crowsnest Pass, either privately or publicly owned has the capacity of the Crowsnest Centre for 200+ people.

The Crowsnest Centre venue has been booked for two years. Advertising and promotion for this event has been ongoing in the tourism media for well over a year. Internationally known designers and instructors have been contracted for two years.

Not only are we at Cozy Corner very disappointed, the larger quilting community will be disappointed because so many people from outside of the Crowsnest Pass were looking forward to attending this event. The business community in the Pass will lose spin-off business. Consider also the loss of added prestige that this caliber of event would have brought to the community. Our municipal council doesn't have a long range plan for the destiny of the Crowsnest Centre. The energy, time and money that has been spent on this event is wasted, but we have decided to cut our losses now rather than risk additional expenses as there is still an uncertain future over the Crowsnest Centre.

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