

**COWICHAN
VALLEY**

Optimism is a key theme throughout the MNP Business Leaders Survey



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**VANCOUVER
ISLAND**

4Refuel Vancouver Island Goes the Distance for its Customers



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Comox Valley Contingent Invades Vancouver

Fanny Bay Oysters to open retail store, Invest Comox Valley event promotes BC Shellfish & Seafood Festival

BY MARK MACDONALD

VANCOUVER – Fanny Bay Oysters is opening a new location – in Vancouver.

Brian Yip, General Manager of Fanny Bay Oysters, whose headquarters are in Fanny Bay, received a delegation from Invest Comox Valley March 2 to tour the under-construction premises at 762 Cambie Street, a stone's throw from BC Place Stadium and Rogers Arena.

Yip started planning the oyster bar/retail outlet eight months ago, as part of the company's ambitious plan to market over one million dozen oysters this year. When open in mid-May, the Vancouver outlet will feature a 50 seat restaurant and 2,700 square feet of space for product, retail sales and demonstrations for customers. It will employ 15 full and part-time workers, added to the 80-plus at the Fanny Bay operation on Vancouver Island.

Yip's visitors were in Vancouver to promote the June 9-19, 10th Annual BC Shellfish & Seafood Festival in the Comox Valley, which they did in style to a packed VIP Launch Event attended by well over 200 people at the Vancouver Fish Company restaurant on Granville Island.

The event, organized by Invest Comox Valley (the Comox Valley Economic Development Society), was an immense success, introducing lower mainland VIPs and foodies to what the Festival is all about – and invite them to attend. The evening started at The Lobster Man, and guests were led to the Vancouver Fish Company for the main event.

"Team Comox Valley" consisted of members of CVEDS including President Richard Hardy of Salish Sea Foods, Comox Valley Development and Construction Association

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From left: Tricia and Ronald St. Pierre of Locals Restaurant, Kevin East of Ambassador Transportation, Brian Yip, General Manager of Fanny Bay Oysters, and Lise MacDonald of Business Examiner Vancouver Island in front of Fanny Bay Oysters' new location in downtown Vancouver.

Able Auctions Opens New Nanaimo Location

Commercial / Industrial Auction House has sought an Island venue for many years

BY DAVID HOLMES

NANAIMO – March 19 will be a history making day for Vancouver-based Able Auctions, as it marks the first time this commercial auction house has staged an event in their new building on Vancouver Island. "A key change that's happened is that we've recently expanded, having just opened a division in Nanaimo. We've actually been

looking to locate there for the past two years but the challenge we've had was in finding a building big enough for our needs that had the appropriate zoning," explained company President Jeremy Dodd.

Founded in the early 1980s Able Auctions has grown into one of the largest and most successful auction houses in Western Canada, specializing primarily in serving the commercial and industrial marketplace. "I joined the

company in 1986 before purchasing it from the previous owners in 1991. The owners of the day decided they were going to close it down as they had other businesses and they simply didn't have the time to devote to this one," Dodd said. "They decided that they wanted to focus on other aspects of their business so I told them I'd take it off their hands and I've been doing this ever since."

Able Auctions, operating out of

facilities in Vancouver, Surrey, Abbotsford, Langley and in Calgary has over the past few decades become one of the premier destinations for bargain hunters looking for used business and industrial equipment and inventories. "Our focus is simple; we buy assets off of businesses, we then turn around and auction them off to other businesses as well as

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FANNY BAY

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President Murray Presley, Invest Comox Valley Economic Development Officer John Watson,

Comox Mayor Paul Ives, Kevin East of Ambassador Transportation, Tricia and Ronald St. Pierre of Locals Restaurant, Mark and Lise MacDonald of Business Examiner Vancouver

Island, Roger McKinnon of the Old House Hotel & Spa, Yip of Fanny Bay Oysters, and Chef Jasen Gauthier of Avenue Bistro in Courtenay.

The St. Pierre's and Gauthier shared their talents, along with other well-known chefs, by cooking fresh seafood at stations under the outside awning of the waterfront eatery. Joining them was Chef Hidekazu of Tojo's Restaurant and Food Channel fame, who will be a Celebrity Chef at the Comox Valley event in June.

The food was a phenomenal assortment of tastes and varieties, earning kudos from attendees, many of whom vowed to attend the Festival.

Seafood was supplied by Macs Oysters, Creative Salmon,

Golden Eagle Aquaculture, The Lobster Man, Grieg Seafood, Albion Fisheries, Hollie Wood Oysters, Fisher Bay Seafood, Fanny Bay Oysters and Salish Sea Foods, with wine and spirits tasting from 40 Knots Vineyard and Estate Winery Inc. and Wayward Distillation House.

Hardy said the Vancouver evening did a "tremendous job of promoting the Comox Valley, and we should all applaud the CVEDS staff for their efforts."

McKinnon, Old House owner, agreed, saying "You could tell a lot of effort was put into the event, and it showed. The Shellfish Festival will be another success due to the hard work being done."

Comox Mayor Paul Ives added

it was "an amazing event. I very much look forward to seeing everyone again in Comox for the Festival."

Watson couldn't be more pleased with the outcome, and added "The Comox Valley seafood industry is set to gain an even stronger foothold amongst Vancouver's high quality culinary and restaurant community with the opening of a new Fanny Bay Oysters tasting room at Cambie and Robson this spring.

"This is a significant expansion for the Fanny Bay Oysters Brand and will result in increased recognition of the BC Shellfish Industry and the Comox Valley and central coast region."

www.bcsheffishfestival.com



A Fanny Bay Oysters employee demonstrates how to shuck an oyster before offering a taste test



Tricia and Ronald St. Pierre of Locals Restaurant cook up a tasty dish for patrons at the event in Vancouver to promote the B.C. Shellfish Festival in the Comox Valley

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