

May 27, 2003

To all Participants of Pacific Forest Rally,

Welcome to Merritt, the Country Music Capital of Canada!

The City of Merritt is very excited to be the location chosen for the Pacific Forest Rally. We look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate our hospitality to all the participants and volunteers of this event.

Merritt is situated in the heart of the Nicola Valley and includes the surrounding communities of Quilchena, Douglas Lake, Aspen Grove, Lower and Upper Nicola. Merritt is host to the Mountain Music Festival each July and the Nicola Valley Pro Rodeo and Fall Fair in September. For sports and outdoor enthusiasts, the Nicola Valley provides a wide range of activities for each season, such as; fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, baseball, hockey, swimming, horseback riding and bicycling.

Merritt has a bright future as a centrally located and accessible community with an abundance of opportunities. The development of the NVIT/UCC College Campus, Active Mountain Raceway and a host of other exciting projects currently in planning stages, suggests a fresh start to our diversification strategy addressing “Community Sustainability”.

We look forward to having you “Explore the Opportunities” and “Flourish Under the Sun” at the Pacific Forest Rally, here in the heart of the Nicola Valley and are delighted to add rallying to our calendar of events.

Have a great event!

David Laird,

Mayor