

Summer has finally arrived and it is only mid-July.

Actually, our cooler temperatures have been a bonus given what is going on throughout most of the North American continent.

The sun is a nice addition, though, and we who live by the ocean can count on a fairly steady breeze to make things bearable.

Mention of the ocean makes me think of the beach and, more to the point, the upcoming Beach Day event July 21 at the Qualicum beach. This is something I am quite excited about. It is the official event of my agency, the Family Resource Association. We expect this inaugural year will lead to many future Beach Days.

For the past few months, we have been working diligently behind the scenes with the QB Beach Day Committee to design a fantastic community event with something for everyone.

Qualicum Beach Day really speaks to my nostalgic sensibilities. My childhood summers were spent on the sandy beaches of the Ottawa River watching, and sometimes participating, in the weekend regattas.

The Qualicum Beach Day has all of the activities that create the perfect summer day on the beach. Beginning at 8 a.m., the Shriners are offering a pancake and fruit breakfast. By the time the tide goes out at mid-morning, the beach will be filled with fun activities such as beach volleyball, skimboarding, disc golf, sandcastle building, face-painting and giant soap bubbles. At various times throughout the day, the crowd will be entertained with live music, a vintage swimsuit fashion show, and a tug-of-war featuring challenges to all comers from the QB Fire & Rescue team.

There will be music for all tastes with many local entertainers contributing their talents.

We are expecting a big crowd for Beach Day. It's going to be busy and parking will be a challenge. It is probably best to plan for a dropoff and then parking the car up the hill. A shuttle service of electric carts has been arranged to accommodate park and ride. You might want to keep this in mind.

Yes, there will be food, including a salmon and corn BBQ prepared by Kiwanis and hot dogs and more available at the Beach Hut. Bring your own picnic lunches to augment the concessions and don't forget to bring lots of liquid to hydrate during the day. The evening ends with Gerry Barnum & Band closing out at 7 p.m.

Beach Day is happening Saturday, July 21. I guarantee lots of family fun and great entertainment. Save the date on your calendar!