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Fort St. John for winter escape?

TRAVEL B.C.:

The High on Ice Carnival a premier family winter event in the province

There'll be no better way to celebrate this winter season with your family than by visiting northern B.C.'s largest winter festival — the High on Ice Carnival and Winter Lights Symposium 2006 — in Fort St. John.

After months of snowballing anticipation, this major winter event has been announced for Feb. 10-12 and will host an impressive roster of fun winter activities for all the family, a children's winter playground, competitive and recreational sporting events and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

"High on Ice is a celebration

of our province, environment, our joyful spirit and the fun winter brings to our lives," says Fort St. John Mayor Steve Thorlaxson. "This carnival has already grown into one of the most important annual winter cultural events in B.C. and we look forward this year to welcoming even more visitors and winter holidaymakers."

One of the real attractions of the High on Ice celebration will be the second annual B.C. Ice-Carving Championship, featuring professional teams from across North America and Europe. This will star some of the top ice-carving teams in the world competing for a total of \$8,000 in prize money.

"The event is really competitive and really captured the spectators' attention last year," says Johnny Woo, who partnered with Peter Chiu to win the

inaugural B.C. Ice-Carving Championship. "It's great to see such a mix of standards from professional sculptures to amateur teams, all adding to a spectacular winter event."

Another crowd favourite of the Carnival and Symposium weekend is the Ice-Fishing Derby — and there is plenty more for sports-minded fans.

The snow will fly with numerous winter sporting activities, including speed skating, snowmobiling, dogsled races, heliskiing, cross-country skiing, hockey tournaments and curling bonspiels.

Many of the events will take place at the City's Centennial Park.

For more details on the event and registration, please visit the City of Fort St. John website at www.cityfsj.com

— *Special to The Province*