

# THE WESTIN BEAR MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

## Associate of the Month—Front of the House

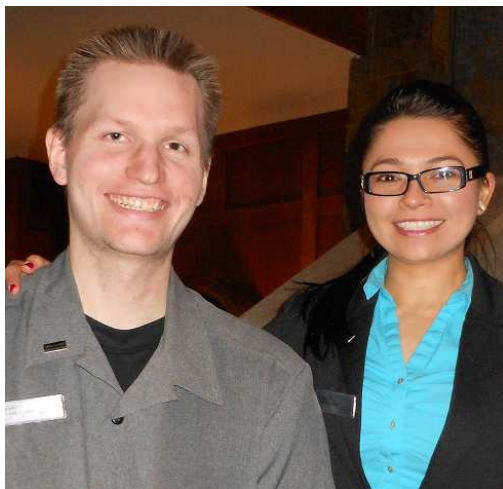


**DEMI HENDERSON,  
TARA RAMSBOTTOM  
AND MEGAN FRASER—  
MOUNTAINSIDE  
ATHELTIC CLUB**

It's not often that we bend the guidelines for our recognitions but in this case we felt it necessary as the Mountain-side Athletic Club has had some challenges to overcome over the past few months. In the absence of its manager these three individuals have been instrumental in ensuring that the club was fully op-

erational and that our guests and members were well taken care of. Pictured left to right are Megan Fraser, Tara Ramsbottom and Demi Henderson. All three of these associates have taken on many extra tasks and learned lots of new processes that they probably never considered would be part of their jobs but they have done so in a seamless manner that allowed our guests and members to enjoy the club to its full potential. Thanks to all three of these MAC associates for their hard work and dedication to the Club. For further information on our three Front of the house stars, please see Pg 6 of the newsletter. Congratulations!

## Associate of the Month—Heart of the House



**STEVE SLATER— HOUSEKEEPING**

Steve (Pictured left with Claudia Denotter, Room Checker) joined our team in April 2011 as a House Attendant in our Housekeeping Department. He was born in Prince George and moved to Victoria at the age of five. Steve has a passion for the hospitality industry and has held several positions within it over the years. His ultimate goal is to work in the front of the house in Guest Services as he enjoys getting to know people and helping their stay be the best it can be. Steve leads a very active life, he was once a competitive swimmer and still enjoys swimming as well as snowboarding in the winter. He has a passion for cars and his dream vehicle is now an Audi R8. When he is not busy with work, Steve enjoys video games, listening to all kinds of music and spending time with his two dogs a King German Shepherd named Swat and a Toy Manchester Terrier named Blitz (See Pg 2 for photos). This is Steve's second Employee of the

Month recognition since joining our team and he is being recognized for his amazing attitude. No job is too big or too small for Steve and when asked to do something his pride of work shines through in all that he does. What Steve enjoys about working at Bear Mountain is the people and the atmosphere, he feels it is like a second family when he is at work. He also enjoys interacting with our guests and meeting new people. When asked if he had a quote to live by his was "Keep calm and strive on". He tries to apply that to work and life in general and it lets him put things in perspective and get the job done. Congratulations Steve!



**January Birthdays**

Sarah Burrows...	08
Jesse Cardinal...	03
Taylor Halaburda...	09
Lori Hamstra...	27
Sarah Hughes...	01
Melody Kam...	04
Hazel Magboo...	23
Stephanie McGrath...	05
Bret Newton...	16
Bill Quinn...	22
Alex Shpeley...	27
Mark Wadsworth...	12
Tracey Webster...	22



The Greens crew huddles around their fire after roasting hot dogs and marshmallows for lunch. HR and Francis stopped by to say hi!

A bit of winter weather hit Victoria before Christmas and our Greens Team was put to work clearing broom from the course. As a unique lunchtime break they had a bonfire and weenie roast to keep them warm on the snowy course!



Claudia Denotter from Housekeeping won Best in Show for her creation "The Christmas Clubhouse".

Amazing!

Chris Currie, Golf Sales Manager took Fan Favorite for his Ginger Cart...due to some structural issues the cart came complete with a photo of a pre-accident ginger cart and an incident report for the "Cart Damage! Very Creative Chris!



EOM Steve Slater's beautiful Dogs  
Top: Swat and  
Right: Blitz. True  
Companions!



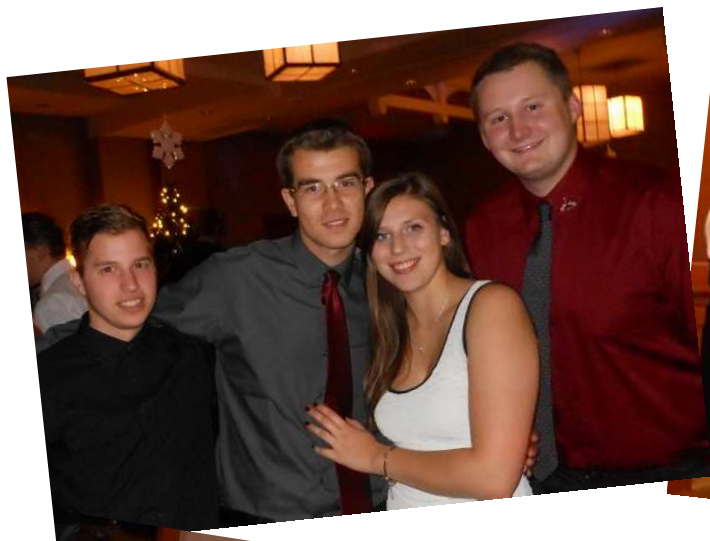
Jennifer Yarish from Accounting gets an honorable mention for her very first attempt at a gingerbread house with her "Igloo Iceland". Great job Jen!

**Gingerbread!!**



## Christmas Party 2013

Bear Mountain's annual Christmas Party was held on December 2nd and was a truly festive night. Everyone looked great and enjoyed some amazing food by our Culinary Team and a fun night of dancing and prizes. A new addition for this year was a photo booth which proved to be a huge hit! Thanks to all who joined us for a great kick off to the Christmas Season!



Continued...





## ASSOCIATE EVENT TASK FORCE

Our Social Committee will have a facelift this year as we are now calling for those who are interested and have time to assist in planning Associate events as they come up. We will not be holding a regular social committee meeting each month but instead calling a meeting if there is an event to be planned and using the task force for input and opinions around each event. Of course there will be lots of opportunity to help out at the events and we are committed to having more interested volunteers involved in staff events in 2014!

If you are interested in helping out please see Kelly in HR or email at [kelly.hillier@westinbearmountain.com](mailto:kelly.hillier@westinbearmountain.com)

Thank you!



As many of you are aware, Bear Mountain Associates can voluntarily donate to the BC Hospitality Foundation through regular payroll deductions. The Resort makes an annual donation to this worthy cause and this year our grand total of funds raised through payroll deductions was \$4015.00!!!

Donations anywhere from \$1 per pay cheque can certainly add up quickly and we are very proud to have had such an impressive total to send to the Foundation.

BCHF delivers hope, opportunity and inspiration when it supports a person whose livelihood in BC's hospitality industry is threatened by a serious health related condition or issue. We had the opportunity to see this foundation at work first hand in the past when one of our associates Kevin Ng battled cancer. Although he lost his battle the assistance he received from the foundation gave him the opportunity to fight his illness in every possible way. For this we are grateful and feel that the BC Hospitality Foundation is the perfect charity for our Resort associates. Well done everyone!

## HANNAH DAY DONATIONS

Bear Mountain Resort has committed to donating our recyclable bottles and cans for the next 6 weeks to the fundraiser to help Hannah Day and her family. Hannah is a young local girl who has been battling cancer for more than half of her life. If you would like to donate bottles from home there is a bottle drive at the Alpine Parking Lot -2832 Millstream Ave on January 11 from 10am-2pm, and there is an account at the bottle depot under Hannah's name if you wish to donate directly at the depot. You can also email:

[Hopeforhannahday@gmail.com](mailto:Hopeforhannahday@gmail.com) to arrange bottle pick ups or donations of any kind.

Any help would be greatly appreciated as Hannah's family focuses on her care.



## FRONT OF THE HOUSE STARS FROM THE MOUNTAINSIDE ATHLETIC CLUB

**MEGAN FRASER**

Megan was born and raised on the Island and attended Camosun where she received a diploma in Hotel and Restaurant administration. Fitness has been a dominant force in her life for years and making it part of her daily life by integrating it into her career seemed like the perfect fit. She is a group fitness leader and personal trainer with a passion for yoga and aquafit. In addition to training and teaching classes, Megan can also be seen as a regular at the MAC front desk assisting our guests, members and associates in a positive and professional way to achieve their fitness goals. Megan has been a member of the Bear Mountain Team since 2007 and we are lucky to have her as part of our fitness department. Her free time is spent raising her 10 yr old son Evan so she is busy with his sports teams and the PAC at school. She also enjoys concerts, movies and “coffee-ing” with friends. When asked for a quote she likes to live by hers was from Ghandi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.” Congratulations Megan.

**TARA RAMSBOTTOM**

Tara joined our Bear Mountain Team in 2008 as a weight room attendant and was soon promoted to team leader until 2011 when she returned to part time hours at the MAC in order to pursue another opportunity. The draw of Bear Mountain and the MAC was obviously too much to resist and Tara returned to a full time position in the summer of that year and has been with us ever since. Tara’s outgoing personality and welcoming manner has gained her the respect of club members who she connects with daily. It’s these connections that create memorable experiences for all those who choose the MAC to accomplish their fitness goals. In her free time Tara says she is a “Taxi Driver” for her two children, Kealy 14 and Kyle 12 who keep her busy with their sporting and social schedules. She also enjoys travelling whenever possible and most recently spent time in Oregon State at Canon Beach. When asked for a quote she lives by it was: “Living for the Moment”. One we can all do a little more of! Congratulations Tara.

**DEMI HENDERSON**

Demi Was born in Victoria and grew up in Shawnigan Lake. Fitness was part of her family life as a child as her mother Robin was a triathlete so the family spent lots of time supporting her during training and triathlons. Demi remembers spending many hours with her mother at different gyms and health clubs and helping her at work from the age of 5 years old. Demi enjoys working out and has a passion for hiking, running, surfing, snowboarding and longboarding. Her dog Tilly joins her on many of her activities including (if you can believe it) surfing! Demi joined our team in 2007 as a desk attendant and was later promoted to Supervisor. She is presently the acting manager, taking on many new challenges and tasks to make sure the club continues to run smoothly for our Guests and Members. What Demi enjoys about working at the Resort is the atmosphere and all the friendly faces. Since she lives on the mountain she enjoys the sense of community not only at work but with the residents of the mountain. She says she can walk to work everyday and has some of the best hiking in the world in her

backyard. A perfect combination! When asked for a quote she lives by, hers is by Oscar Wilde: “Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” Congratulations Demi!