

Wistful at Work?

By Jennifer Rhyne

The air is fresh with the smells of juicy, grilled hamburgers, lingering lavender, and tropical suntan oil. While nothing highlights the balmy days of summer as well as these delightful aromas, they are not exactly scents that invigorate productivity and dedicated work habits. Although usually by late August the family vacations, weekend camping excursions, and extended holidays are winding down, we are all too familiar with the feeling of reluctance, unsettled work habits, and genuine doldrums that can descend upon a workplace environment (a syndrome commonly referred to as “still in vacation mode”). Often this is the perfect time to schedule and attend a corporate retreat, aimed at getting your workplace back on track, with a positive outlook and fresh approach to the upcoming autumn season. Now close your eyes and imagine your ideal retreat - perhaps it includes relaxing under a canopy of fir trees, the cobalt sky highlighting their silhouettes, while streams of golden sunlight filter through to warm your cheeks. Clean refreshing air surrounds you and the sounds of sirens and honking horns are quickly becoming a distant memory. This is not just your imagination; this dream is all within a few hours of Vancouver, in beautiful Mighty Fraser Country.

For the workplace whose goal is to get away from the hustle and bustle of the office to a place that encourages focused meetings and creative brainstorming, (of course while throwing in a little bonding with nature, and perhaps a fishing line!), Mighty Fraser Country has many options for retreats. One of these is the Fraser River Fishing Lodge, a rustic, private log home retreat. With glistening mountain peaks surrounding you, the sounds of the flowing Fraser River along the shoreline, and the occasional cry of a bald eagle piercing the air, you'll be amazed at the amount of creativity that will be sparked. Of course a corporate retreat isn't all meeting rooms and work; you have to throw some fun in! Try your hand at fly fishing, wrangling a sturgeon, or perhaps something even more adventurous like heli- or hike-in fishing, for a corporate retreat that guarantees a rejuvenation of the workplace.

While networking is for some of us a way of life, one of the most popular networking activities is often not touched on by many corporations - that would be networking on the golf course! Get your office into the swing of things by practicing their drives, chip shots and putts, while retreating at Rowena's Inn on the River. This historic gem is located alongside the spectacular Harrison River and serves as the perfect setting for a corporate retreat. With ample meeting space to take care of the necessary retreat topics, you can then venture out to Sandpiper Golf Course and practice your game. Reflect, strategize, and take in the breathtaking scenery, and there is no doubt you will be on top of your game the next time you are showing off your skills to clients.

Perhaps your company has a wide mix of staff - some may be adventurous, some are into puzzle solving, and some just like to relax on their corporate retreat. Team Academy is a wonderful concept for customized retreats in Mighty Fraser Country. From 'Amazing Race', 'Survivor' and 'The Apprentice' style tasks, to orienteering, treasure hunts, adventure courses, and delicious barbeques, Team Academy helps your organization re-group through a balance of intellectual challenges and fun filled activities. Not only will “thinking outside the box” come naturally, but your retreat will definitely appeal to all the different personalities at your workplace.

Kick “vacation-mode” syndrome out of your office while still enjoying the balmy temperatures in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains. You may be surprised at the ideas that follow, and of course how great your autumn balance sheet looks!