

MELODY MAKERS

Sun Peaks marks national milestone as twin alpine bells officially dedicated

By **MIKE YOUDS**
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Sun Peaks is now home to Canada's first alpine bells.

With a high-tech apparatus working behind a traditional sound, the twin bells were officially dedicated by Sen. Nancy Greene-Raine during a public ceremony Sunday at Kookaburra Lodge.

Developer Jim Farrell and his family, who hail from Australia, wanted to contribute to the community in addition to the new lodge, which will be ready for occupancy this summer.

"We see it as our responsibility as developers to not just build buildings, but add to the fabric of the place where we're building," Farrell said.

The bells were cast in Holland and purchased by Kookaburra



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SENATOR Nancy Greene-Raine, left, watches Darcy Alexander of Sun Peaks Resort Corp. speak to the crowd Sunday at Kookaburra Lodge.

from Verdin, one of the oldest and most renowned bell specialists in the U.S. The resort proper contributed to the purchase of the \$40,000 bells. They are currently playing big band sounds, but can be reset to play different tunes.

Kookaburra is working with the Kamloops Symphony to develop an original musical arrangement for the bells.

"There will be a special concert in the summer to promote a special piece of music for brass and bells," Farrell said.

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— **DEVELOPER**
JIM FARRELL

In keeping with the cultural ambiance of the property, Kookaburra has installed two sculptures by Oregon artist Mick Brownlee. Moon Shadow and Sun Shadow, three and four metres tall respectively, were created from second-growth western red cedar.

As well, Kookaburra has commissioned Hefley Creek artist Lorel Sternig to create a large ceramic sculpture, based on a Brownlee design, for the lodge.

The Farrells used to frequent Whistler, where they befriended Greene-Raine and her husband, Al Raine. When the couple relocated to Sun Peaks to become part of the resort's development, the Farrells visited the new resort and were so impressed that they, too, relocated their vacation property.