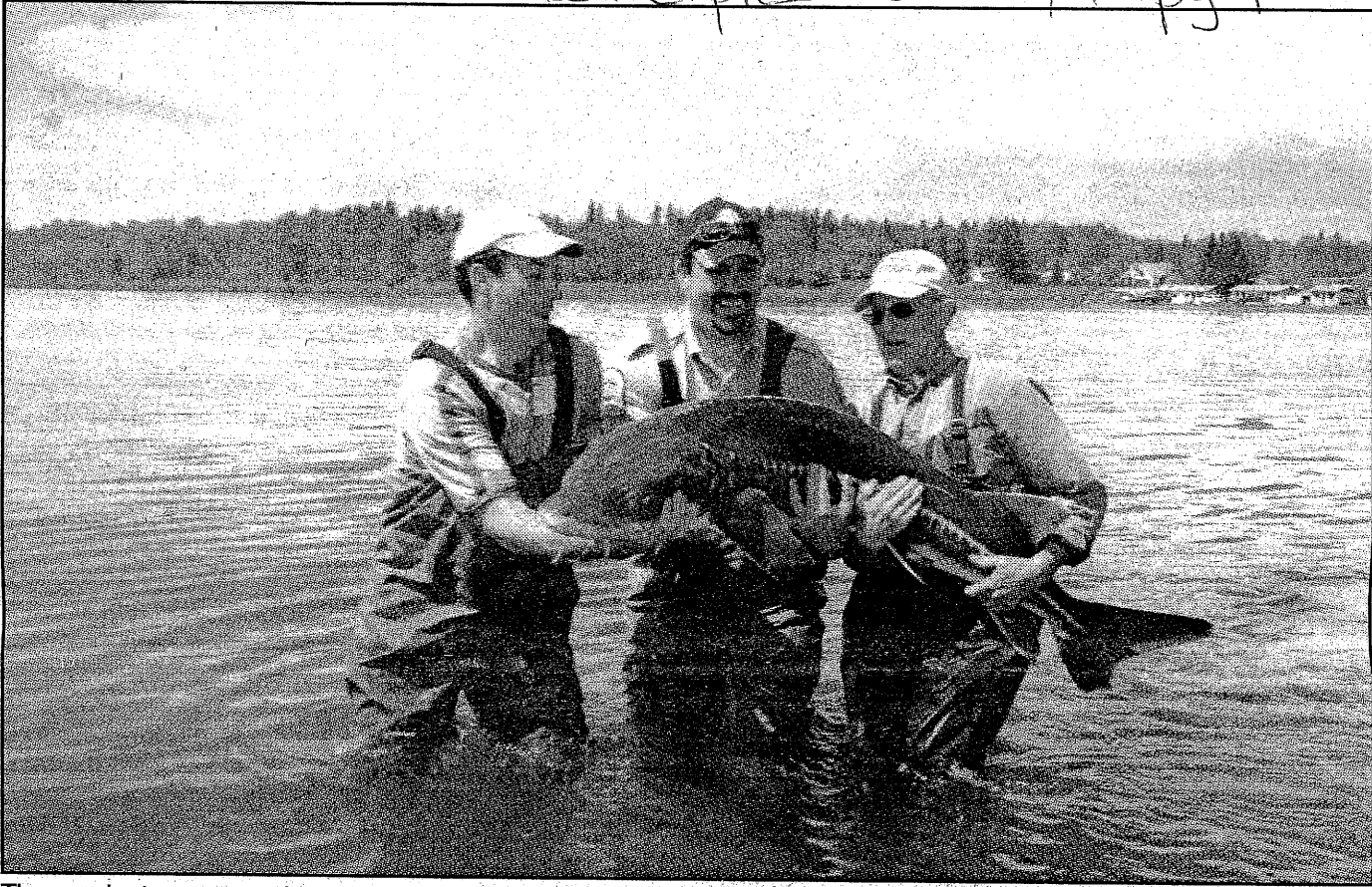


Sturgeon release

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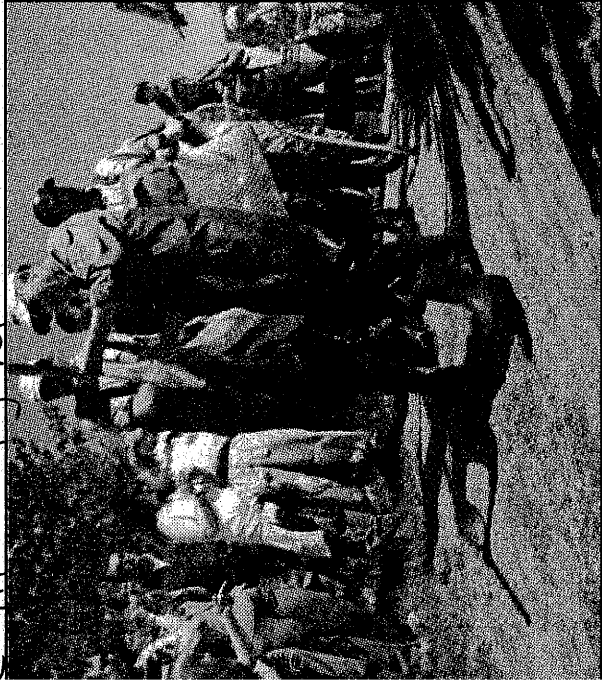


Three volunteers struggle to hold on to a wriggling sturgeon for a photo opportunity at this years Nechako White Sturgeon Spring Spawning Festival on Sunday in Riverside Park. Three male sturgeon were released into the river for spawning during the event. (More photos page 12)

Hannah Wright photo

Sturgeon spawning festival 2011

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Pictured left: Volunteers carry a sturgeon down to the river in a net. Pictured right: kids and adults alike gather at the edge of the river to watch the Sturgeon release.

Hannah Wright photos



Creek dancer smiles at the crowd performance in Riverside Park.

Hannah Wright photo

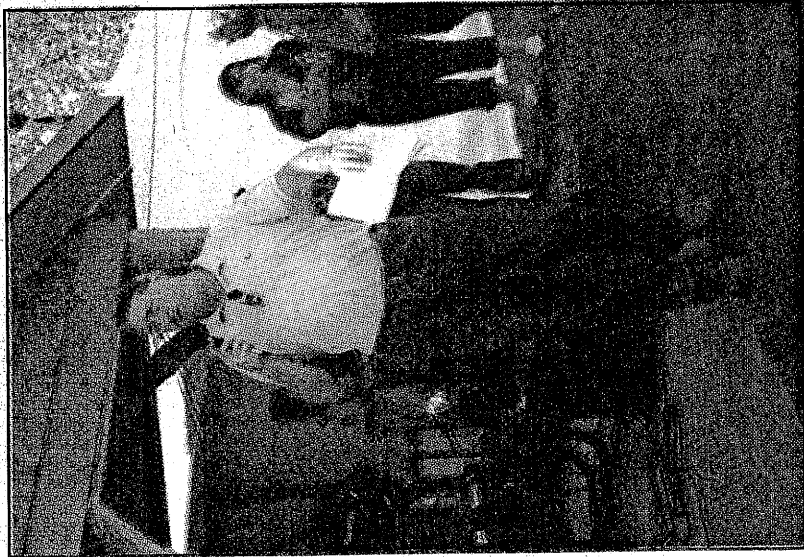
Hannah Wright Omineca Express

Beautiful weather facilitated a great turnout at this years Nechako White Sturgeon Spring Spawning Festival on Sunday in Riverside Park.

There was plenty to see and do at the event which ran from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., including a performance by the Stoney Creek dancers, an interpretive walk of the sturgeon spawning grounds, a variety of different sturgeon information display booths, a video

tent, children's activity centre and a bouncy castle. A free barbecue served up hotdogs and burgers for all in attendance. There were speeches by Chief Jackie Thomas of Saik'uz First Nation, Vanderhoof Mayor Gerry Thiessen and Brian Frenkel, Chair of the NWSRI Community Working Group. Both Thiessen and Frenkel spoke about the desperate need for a Sturgeon conservation facility in town in order to prevent the extinction of the species.

The highlight of the event was the release of three male Sturgeon into the river for spawning.



Brian Frenkel

Stoney Creek dancer



A Stoney Creek dancer waves to the crowd before a performance at the 2011 sturgeon spawning festival on Sunday.

Hannah Wright photo