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### **Why Everyone Needs Exspearnce The Vernon Winter Carnival**

The Vernon Winter Carnival is the best place to bring your whole family. There is truly something for everyone. My parents own Vernon Teach and Learn, and they have been a gold sponsor for the Vernon Winter Carnival for a number of years. Our family loves to help out with the winter carnival. From games to prizes, food, snow sculptures, and supporting our local small businesses, there are a vast amount of activities sure to bring a smile to everyone's face.

Growing up, the Vernon Winter Carnival has been a core memory of my family's tradition. I've attended every single Vernon Winter Carnaval. My sister Lynza, my dad and I all dressed up as chefs and have even been in the Winter Carnival parade. The nostalgia I get from remembering the excitement of candy would be thrown out to all the kids lining the sidewalks is euphoric. Sipping hot cocoa and eating handfuls of popcorn from Vernon Teach and Learn while eagerly waiting for the parade to begin is one of my favourite moments. The excitement would build as I would eagerly wait for the parade floats to come into view, and when they did, they were breathtaking. Each parade float is decorated uniquely, fabricating the overall theme of the year. I adore the Queen of Silver Star float and the Ogopogo-themed float. My favourite Vernon Winter Carnival theme has to be the Wild West. We must remember the Shriner cars running around too.

Another significant aspect of the Winter Carnival is seeing the hot air balloons take off in Polson Park. You would think that hot air balloons are small when they fly hundreds of feet up in the sky, but they are tremendous in reality. The hot air balloons start as a bunch of deflated fabric and turn into bright, colourful breathtaking hot air balloons that blew my mind! The best part about these hot air balloons is that they are no ordinary balloons; they glow at night and twinkle in the sky as they rise up into the dark night.

As I grew up, I got a job downtown in one of the local shops. My parents own Vernon Teach and Learn. Here, I could express my creativity toward the Winter Carnival theme. Last year in January, I learned about the annual best-decorated window display contest, which was put on by the Winter Carnival. I expressed my interest in the winter carnival contest to my parents and was tasked with decorating the window. A few weeks later, in February, I was incredibly enthusiastic as I learned I had won a trophy for making such a brilliant window display! I took this learning experience and wrote about it in my careers class at school; needless to say, my teacher was very impressed.

Seeing my favourite Winter Carnival mascots was another excellent interaction; Jopo and Josette are blue and white mascots that play a significant role in the Vernon Winter Carnival; seeing them will definitely put a smile on your face.

The fun with the Vernon Winter Carnival continues beyond downtown; I encourage everyone to go to Silver Stare and check out their incredible snow sculptures. These sculptures are handmade and breathtaking. These sculptures take days to create. The sculptures are known

as the VWC Snow Sculpture Competition; each sculpture tells a story as it's an arts and culture event, and best of all, it's free! I always felt so inspired seeing all the life-sized snow sculptures, and as soon as my family and I got home from seeing these breathtaking sculptures, my siblings and I would attempt to make our own. Even in 2021, the Vernon Winter Carnival still took place in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; they adapted so that the carnival could be enjoyed by everyone from a drive-through event. In 2022 the Winter Carnival still took the needed precautions to put on excellent events such as the winter playground and snowglobe concert.

The great thing about the Winter carnival is that it supports so many small businesses. I loved walking around and seeing all the fantastic local shops and activities downtown. Businesses such as Vernon Teach and Learn, Okanagan Restoration, Great West Equipment, Predator Ridge, Innerspace water sports, Kaltire, Tim Hortons, Subway, Manulife Securities, Lake City Casino Vernon, Nixon Wenger Lawyers, Prestige Hotels and Resorts, The Stor-It Place, Shaw Spotlight, A&W, Westland Insurance, Destination Silver Stare, and more all pitch in to help support and sponsor the Vernon Winter Carnival. I've lived in Vernon my whole life and have been to every Vernon Winter Carnival there has been since 2006. "Well, everyone that's graduating this year was born in 2005" well, I'm an exceptional individual who has proven to have stellar academic skills as I am graduating a year early. I believe I am a great candidate for your scholarship, and I would love to win a scholarship for my future goals at UBCO.