

Taylor's Gold Panning Days A Fun Event For The Whole Family!

By Keir Gervais,
Taylor Gold Panning
Event Coordinator

The 36TH ANNUAL WORLD'S INVITATIONAL GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS are set to unfold in Taylor August long weekend – August 2nd & 3rd! Whether you're a wee one or a 'wiser one', there's something for everyone at throughout the weekend. Never panned for gold before, but thought about it? How about trying your hand at Claimstaking, Bannock Baking or bring your Metal Detecting skills to Peace Island Park? Looking for that memorable picture of your child's first touch of an animal at a Petting Zoo, or the joy on their face after creating a beautiful craft? And there's nothing better than rolling out a picnic blanket and savouring a juicy burger, fries and a soda in the sun at a park, right? How about a hay ride behind a horse and wagon? Oh, and let's not forget about the Taylor Gold Panning Days parade that kicks the weekend off – everyone loves a parade!

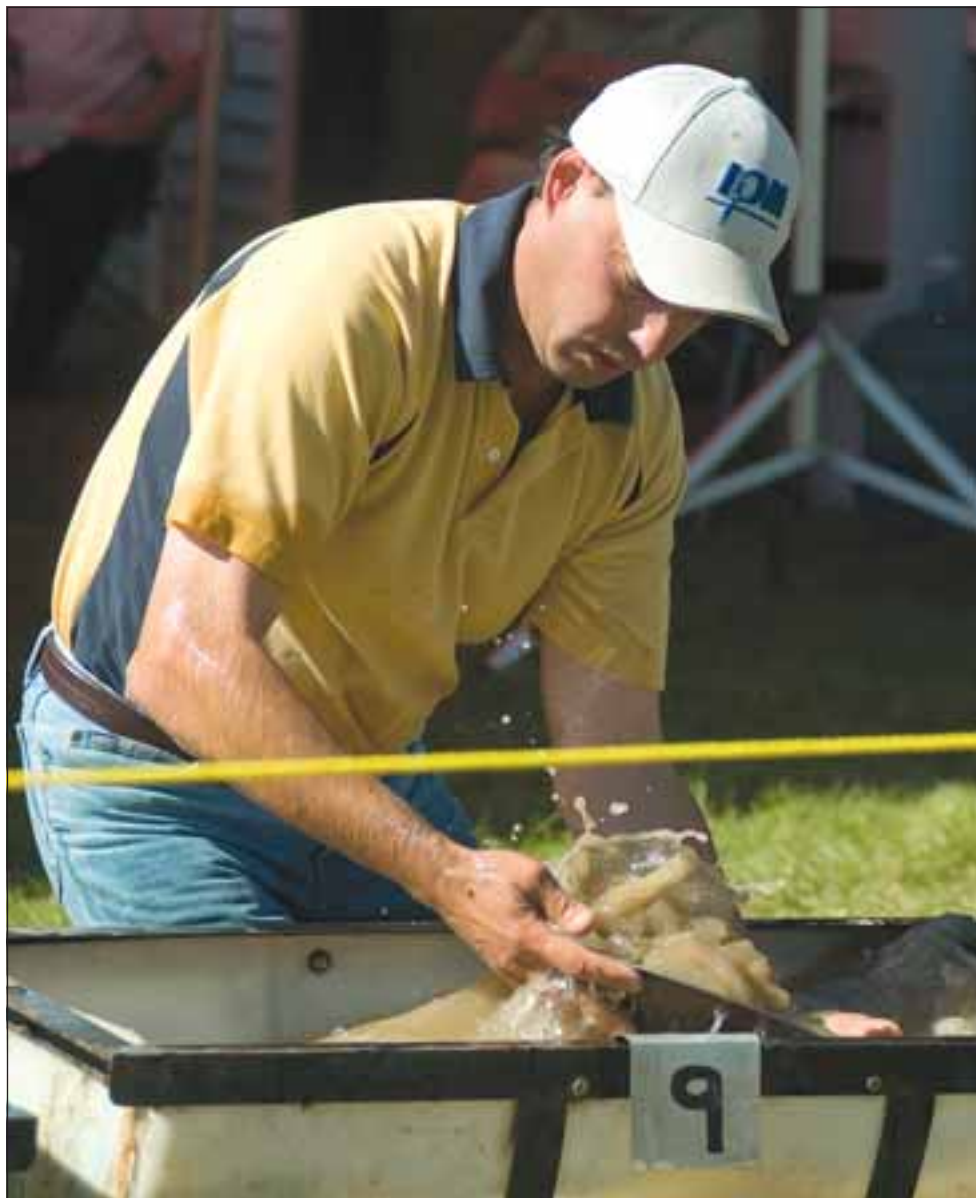
Taylor Gold Panning Days – the host event for the World's Invitational Gold Panning Championships – has been happening in Taylor for 36 fantastic years. Run by the Taylor Gold Panning Society – a not-for-profit group - the event embraces a "fun for the whole family" planning philosophy event. Everett Clark, Taylor Councilor and President of the Taylor Gold Panning Society says, "Our

Society, in conjunction with so many 'family-minded' supporters/sponsors, sets out each year to plan an event that is not only a professional calibre event for the world-class panners but also one that allows the everyday person to participate and/or watch in an fun and enjoyable manner. From the feedback we receive each year, we know that every person who comes and takes in the event walks away saying, 'I'm sure glad I came!'"

Keir Gervais, District of Taylor Community Services Director and the event's Coordinator claims (no pun intended), "Gold Panning Weekend isn't just for the seasoned panner". Because Taylor is known for hosting this great event, Gervais says he receives many inquiries from locals and tourists alike wondering where they can pan for gold. "While I've been told gold can be found in the Peace River, there is no doubt that a persons chances of finding a colour (the term used to describe a piece of gold) increases during the weekend at one of the organized panning areas." Gervais encourages people of all ages to come to Peace Island Park and try one of the many activities that are organized for the everyday first-time as well as the seasoned veterans. Many of the same competitions that occurred in 1972, plus many other fun and entertaining activities that have become popular with the public over the years, will attract hundreds to Peace Island Park.



Gold Must Run in the Blood of Defending Class "A" Champion



Kelly Gejdos shows off his World Championship gold panning skills.

The 2007 World's Invitational Class "A" Champion Kelly Gejdos will be back this year to defend his title, and if you know anything about gold panning it wouldn't surprise you in the least if he succeeded! You see, gold panning runs thick in the blood of the Gejdos family, and Kelly is only part of a long line of the events supporters, participants and champions. Last year was the sixth time Kelly stood and received the coveted Class "A" Champion's sterling silver buckle, and one needs to look no further than to his father to realize why Kelly has been so successful. Frank Gejdos Sr. was a long-time event ambassador and 4-time Class "A" Champion. His cherished legacy lives

on in part through the inclusion of his picture on all Taylor Gold Panning pins, shirts, winner prizes and more. Kelly's brother Frank is also highly involved through Panning and Metal Detecting, and both Kelly and Frank's children Tyson & Taylor and Garrett are multiple Junior Winners in various events and are well poised to follow in their fathers' footsteps as their grow into the adult categories. True to their beginnings, the entire Gejdos family continues to play an integral role in organizing the events and mentoring first-time panners. Taylor Gold Panning Days wouldn't be the same without the contributions and dedication of entire Gejdos family.

Class "A" Championship the Stanley Cup of Gold Panning!

The highlight of the weekend for "A" Championship was first won by many is watching the thrills & spills associated with the Class "A" panning event, which will be held Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Participants from near and far will compete in the Class 'A' Panning Championship and making there bid to win the coveted sterling silver winner. The World's Invitational Class

Fort St. John's Mel Clark and names such as John Tanasiuk of Edmonton, brothers Frank Gejdos of Charlie Lake and Kelly Gejdos of Grande Prairie and Scott Rae of Quesnel have won the event multiple times since then, joining winners from California, Alaska, Australia the Yukon and throughout Canada.