



MEDICINE HAT NEWS

An early St. Patty's Day? Just call it luck o' the Irish

March 8, 2008

VICTORIA, BC

Like a couple of gold pieces tipping off a pot o' gold, Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub and Guesthouses is kicking off an extended celebration to St. Patrick's Day with its own lucky strike.

This month Spinnakers received endorsements from two beer aficionado groups: the Northwest Brewing News Reader's Poll that once again named Spinnakers BC's Best Brewpub, and the members of Victoria's Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) who have again awarded Spinnakers Pub of the Year.

"These kinds of awards are an important acknowledgement of the work that we are doing to further the art of craft brewing in Victoria and British Columbia, and we're grateful," says publican Paul Hadfield.

"We always want to be pushing ourselves, creating something new, taking chances and doing what others aren't doing. It's not easy, but that's where the fun comes from."

So it's in the vein of doing something different and having fun that Canada's oldest brewpub is serving up two new hand crafted beers to celebrate St. Patrick's Day throughout the month of March.

On tap will be an Irish Red Ale, and a perennial favorite, a Dry Irish Stout. "Why ramp everything up to this one day where everyone tries to squeeze their celebrating into one evening," asks Paul Hadfield.

Brewmaster Rob Monk says both brews will be special limited editions that offer more complexity in taste and aroma than simply their color. He describes the Irish Red Ale as having light hop bitterness and aroma

balanced with a moderate caramel malt flavour and sweetness, a smooth, easy-drinking beer.

“When you hold it up to the light it has a beautiful reddish hue, the colour characteristics coming from the use of caramelized crystal malt,” he says. Monk describes the Dry Irish Stout as a stronger, thicker, richer stout with very little residual sugar, so it provides an interesting contrast to the lighter, sweeter Spinnakers Honey Stout, also now on tap.

“We’ve deliberately played down the chocolaty sweet flavour and concentrated on a full-bodied mouth-feel,” says Monk. But your luck doesn’t end with special St. Patty’s brews. Chocolatier Crystal Duck has come up with a new hand made chocolate using Baileys Irish Cream liqueur that she calls “Lucky Me”?

Both the stout and the new chocolate are paired together in Spinnakers Beer and Chocolate Pairing menu offering.