

MEDIA RELEASE

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CATHERINE VOLKERING CARLILE OF RICHMOND WINS BCRPA AWARD OF MERIT

Vancouver, BC (May 2, 2018) - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) today presented its Award of Merit to Catherine Volkering Carlile of Richmond. BCRPA's Award of Merit gives recognition for achievement at the municipal, regional, and/or special interest area level. The recipient provides a significant distinct contribution to the enhancement of local recreation and parks, or a specific interest area.

Cathryn was the General Manager of the Community Services Division for the City of Richmond for 16 years. She retired in October 2017 after serving 43 years in local government. Beginning in 1974, Cathy worked in four municipalities - Vancouver, Burnaby, Whitehorse and Richmond. She started her career as a recreation trainee with the Vancouver Park Board and ended up at the top of her field.

She was involved in shaping major events in Richmond. **The Richmond Tall Ships event** in 2002 attracted more than 400,000 attendees and then the **Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games** hosted the world in Vancouver and Richmond. Cathy brought the concept of the **speed skating Oval to Richmond** and championed its development as part of the senior leadership team for the City.

More than 550 affordable homes for needy individuals were developed during Cathy's tenure and a new, much needed men's and women's shelter is about to open. She also championed and facilitated the development of artist affordable living units which are now occupied. A further 500 more affordable homes are planned to come with development.

Relationships with community partners and a strengthened volunteer program have continued to flourish and partnerships have grown to meet growing community needs with Cathy's leadership. The relationship-based approach her team engineered in 2005 has been very successful in maintaining good working relationships with Community Association partners. The work of her team has won international, national and provincial recognition. The Community Services Division is known for its leading practices throughout Canada and around the world for parks, active living, arts, sport, wellness and partnership programs.

"It is our honour to present the Award of Merit to Catherine Volkering Carlile, a person who has not only dedicated an incredible 43 years of service to her community, but who has set the leadership standard for how to work in partnership with others to achieve innovation, serving to strengthen and advance best practices in the entire community services sector," said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association.

The Award of Merit is one of five provincial awards presented at the BCRPA's annual Symposium today in Vancouver. The conference brings together members of the recreation and parks sector from across

BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others interested in building and sustaining active, healthy lifestyles and communities in BC.

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Images Available

Background included

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BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is a not for profit organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life in our province. The Association and its extensive network of members, in the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector support the development of healthy individuals and communities and sustainable environments and economies.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local health and physical activity priorities. www.bcrpa.bc.ca