

RECREATION & PARKS BC

MAGAZINE

SPRING / SUMMER 2017

UPDATED EDITION



EXPLORE BC'S REGIONAL PARKS

Page 14
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JENNIFER WILSON



LIKE MANY OF YOU, I am still buzzing from the learnings, networking, and inspiration of the 2017 Symposium. For those who attended, wasn't it an awesome gathering?

One of the most rewarding responsibilities of the President-elect is to chair the BCRPA Annual Provincial Awards Selection Committee. The awards celebrate and inspire excellence within our Association. The four recipients are listed on page X. However, I'd like to urge those working in communities with a population under 15,000 to make a submission next year so we can be awed by your creativity and impact. We didn't have any nominations this year and yet we know some of the most creative initiatives happen in our smaller communities. Many thanks to the selection committee comprised of: Karin Carlson, Heidi Enns, Ron Higo, Stacey Miranda, Shaun O'Neill, Gord Pederson, Clayton Postings, and Cheryl Wiebe.

We also presented the DB Perks/BCRPA student scholarships to four students who demonstrated academic strength and commitment to recreation and parks leadership in BC. Students are from the recreation post-secondary programs around the province. The recipients are listed on page X. A huge thank you to Doug

Perks for his ongoing generosity and support to our leaders of tomorrow.

Casting our gaze forward...

As your newly elected President, I can report that your 2018 Board looks forward to a year of renewal, realignment and relationship-building. This coming year we will finalize our Association's Strategic Plan based on our outreach to you at the information gathering phase, at the Harrison Administrator's Workshop and most recently at Symposium. The Plan focuses our energies on:

- Membership Support & Services by strengthening and expanding the Association's support of you, our members,
- Organizational Prosperity so that our Association both thrives and is resilient; and
- Leadership by continuing to advance recreation and parks at the local, regional, provincial and national forums.

We will continue our efforts to work closely with the Recreation Foundation as outlined in our 2017 Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, we have informally discussed with the Recreation Facilities Association of BC ways in which we could be more mutually supportive. This coming year we will identify potential ways to accomplish this.

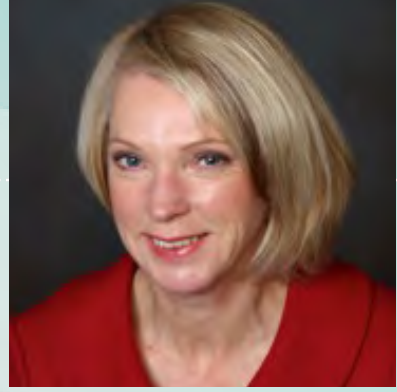
At the 2018 AGM, we will bring forward the option to create a new membership category - retired membership. This idea came from the Board's outreach to the membership as part of our strategic planning process. It is a way to honour the contribution retired members have made to our Association, to continue to connect with them, and to seek their advice from time to time. A second item for the 2018 AGM is the option to extend the term of President beyond one year as a way to strengthen the role and impact. This suggestion came from the Lifetime Members.

Looking within...

The topic of this magazine is particularly poignant for me.

- It is the 50th year of regional district parks being established and they are unique to British Columbia.
- It is a testament to the variety of ways our field contributes to health, wellness ... and awe in our communities; and
- On a personal level, it is when I visit a park or walk a trail that I experience the truly transformational benefits of being in nature.

What always astonishes me in the needs assessment and master planning I have done is the consistent and compelling evidence that parks are priorities in every community.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

REBECCA TUNNACLIFFE

GET OUT AND PARK IT! This cold, wet spring is one most British Columbians would rather forget. Record rainfalls, snow, gloomy skies, and unseasonably cooler temperatures tempted many to stay inside. Except those of us who love our parks.

This edition of Recreation and Parks BC provides insight into four of our regional parks, enviable gems we enjoy in BC. From Vancouver to Kelowna, and Victoria to Duncan, the regional district parks stories in this issue will inspire you to get outside no matter the weather.

As outdoor enthusiasts, you'll be dismayed to learn that Canadian children in Grades 6 to 12 spend

almost 8 hours per day at a screen. BCRPA and our members seek to reverse this nature deficit by messaging one and all to get re-energizing outside in a park. Nature advocates have long claimed that parks and open spaces play an important role in overall human health. At Symposium, we heard pioneer researcher for the health effects of nature, Francis Kuo, list the dozens of illnesses that a dose of nature prevents or alleviates, from mental health and addiction, to ADD and insomnia, and all the conditions that benefit from a robust immune system.

The old adage about the benefits of "fresh air and exercise", is now scientifically proven.

With World Parks Week (April 27 – May 7) just passed, Recreation and Parks month in June, and Canada's Parks Day on July 15, our Parks theme this issue is strategically timed to celebrate our unique regional parks. We thank BCRPA member David Leavers, Metro Vancouver's Division Manager - Visitor and Operations Services, Regional Parks - for guiding this edition from concept to closure.

Let's go play outside and play in a regional park, British Columbia!

REBECCA TUNNACLIFFE
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - CONTINUED

They are the rallying point of pride and quality of life and yield the highest use of all recreation assets. Perhaps the most significant confluence of purpose and "parks" was when I was hired to prepare a Quality of Life Community Needs Assessment and Community Plan in my hometown of Prince Rupert. It was a full circle moment to go home and contribute to the most wonderful place to grow up. One of the key priorities the community rallied around was to rebuild the historic "thousands stairs" up the side of Mount Hays. It is nestled in

a mature forest, and overlooking the ocean. Ok – that might not sound exceptional. It was that those who spoke about them passionately included those who had never climbed them. They knew about the "thousand stairs" through the stories and reminiscences of their parents and grandparents! They had been in disrepair for decades but youth, newcomers and long-time residents alike wanted them repaired. It was a focal point for the community to rally around. It was a nod to the past that had contemporary value. And, it was something that contributed to

a shared sense of community. Every community in our province has a similar story.

Parks and open spaces touch us deeply. They are threads that bring communities together. They are the rallying points for our identity. And interestingly, sometimes the benefits are not only through our direct experience but through their ability to weave our past into the present.

JENNIFER WILSON
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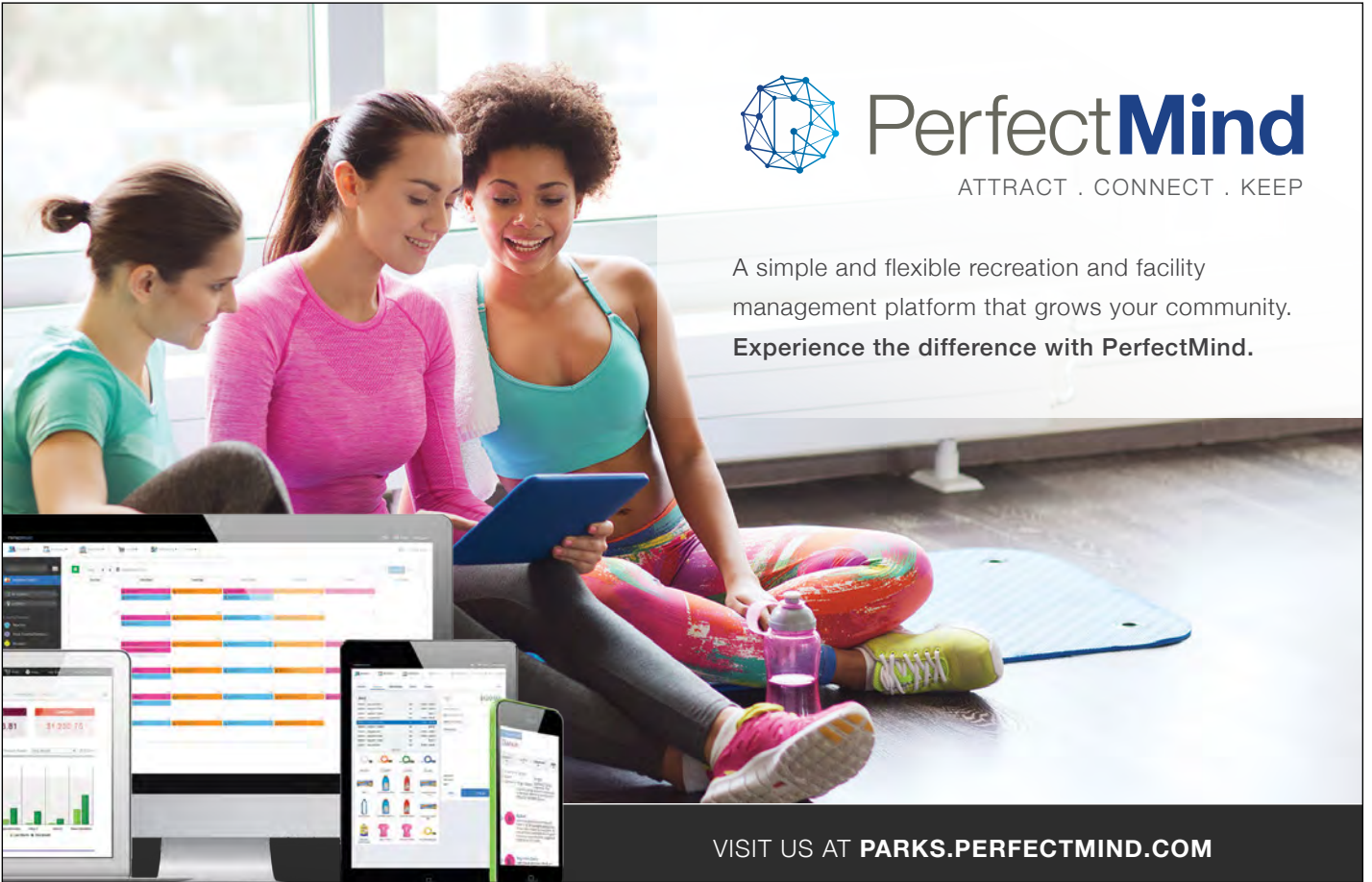




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POSITIONING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL PARKS ON THE CANADIAN PARKS AGENDA



THE LANDS we now refer to as Canada have been home for First Nation peoples for millennia. Over the past 400 years, thousands of “parks” have been identified throughout the Canadian landscape. Most of these parks have a complex establishment history. Many of Canada’s parks were founded based on initial ideals of either natural wilderness or a significantly altered landscape for the protection of nature, or for improving personal and community health. Many 18th and 19th century municipal parks were set aside predominantly to address poor community health conditions that were often directly related to industrial activities that supported the economic growth of these communities.

Parks were viewed as refuges that could help alleviate the unsanitary conditions found in growing settlements, towns and cities. This European or Western concept of a “park” was not shared by the Indigenous communities across Canada who shared the view that humans are to be much more integrated with the natural world. Georges Erasmus, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations reflecting on past Aboriginal concepts and land values in his 2003 research report “Honouring the Promise: Aboriginal Values in Protected Areas in Canada” noted that “to us, on these continents now known as the Americas, all the land was virtually a conservation area - one large ‘park’ if you can imagine it that way - and that was how our ancestors wanted it maintained”. Sadly, early governments and their associated park

agencies often forcibly displaced many Indigenous residents to create desired park spaces across Canada.

EUROPEAN INFLUENCES & PARKS IN CANADA FROM THE 16TH – 21ST CENTURY

The European concept of setting aside land as a “park” in Canada can be traced back to 1583 near what is now St. Johns, Newfoundland. Shortly after his arrival, Sir Humphrey Gilbert promulgated several “laws” to be observed which included setting aside a small wild garden with roses and raspberries in concert with annexing of the surrounding lands now known as Newfoundland for England. In 1763, the “Halifax Commons” were also set aside by England’s King George III granting the 235 acres of common land “for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax forever.”

Many of Canada’s first public parks were established in the mid-1800’s.

These included Garrison Reserve in Toronto (1848) and Kingston’s City Park (1851). Ontario’s first park enactment dedicated Gore Square to the City of Hamilton in 1852 by Provincial Act. This individual park statute was followed some 30 years later by the Public Parks Act of 1883 – the first of its kind in Canada. This act set out the authority for municipalities to establish and manage a “system of parks, avenues, boulevards and drives” for public use, and has remained essentially the same over the last 143 years. Provinces and Territories across Canada have all adopted similar



CONTINUUM OF PARKS

We are a mosaic of cultures from all corners of the earth, with diverse, and sometimes uncomfortable views of our great wilderness. We spend 90% of our time indoors, leading increasingly sedentary lifestyles that are contributing to a host of chronic health diseases and rapidly escalating health care costs. Our community ties are being strained, as our lives become busier, more structured, and more inward-focused. Our children are facing alarming rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, stress, attention deficit and depression.

Canada's natural environment is facing equally concerning and complex challenges. The health of all Canadian ecosystems is trending downwards. With some remarkable exceptions, Canada's species at risk are facing uphill challenges. Increasing competition for land use is decreasing opportunities for new parks and threatening the integrity of existing parks. While the most significant threat to nature is from the loss and degradation of natural habitats, this is being compounded by other major threats such as climate change and invasive species.

THE 2015 – 2017 "PARKS FOR ALL" PROJECT

www.cpra.ca/parks-for-all
 Parks for All is a groundswell initiative in Canada formed in 2015 by people that see, believe and recognize the very complex history of Canada's

legislation in an effort to formally establish public park areas throughout the country.

In Canada, the earliest park statutes were passed to establish individual parks. These included:

- High Park in Toronto (1873)
- Mount Royal Park in Montreal (1876)
- Stanley Park in Vancouver (1886)

Moving from the local scale, the first regional level park legislation in Canada was passed in 1880 to enable the federal government to establish a park at Niagara Falls. In British Columbia, the Parks (Regional) Act was first adopted in 1965 and set the stage for regional park systems in British Columbia to contribute to the establishment of public park areas both within and outside of municipal boundaries in B.C.

Park statutes to establish "park systems" were passed in Canada,

the Provinces and Territories beginning in 1911 (Canada) and concluded in 1979 (Yukon).

PARKS TODAY

Canada's incredible diversity of parks is no coincidence. We are blessed with an abundance of nature. We have more lakes than the rest of the world combined. We have the longest coastline. We are home to one fifth of Earth's forests and one quarter of its wetlands. And we are a northern nation, with 40% of our landmass in the Arctic.

But the Canada of today is not the Canada of yesterday. Demographic and social changes across the country are fundamentally changing our relationship with the outdoors; changes which are having profound personal, community and societal impacts. We have become an urban nation, with 80% of us living in cities, where nature is much less present.



MURRAY KOPP

Parks for All is a groundswell initiative in Canada formed in 2015 by people that see, believe and recognize the very complex history of Canada's landscape and how parks have been established over the past 400 years.



landscape and how parks have been established over the past 400 years. We are trying to gain a better understanding of the essential values found in parks, the outdoors and nature that support our current and future well-being. So who are 'we'?

So far, we are Indigenous people, urban and not so urban people, non-government agencies, educators, advocates and all levels of government. We are practitioners, administrators, professionals of all disciplines, as well as people of no specific affiliation. We have been somewhat uncomfortable bedfellows learning how to speak together about parks, which is an issue of mutual interest, but we have at times found trouble finding the right words to make a connection. We are the people who live on this land now, who welcome the gift of new beginnings through truth and reconciliation, and recognize the role of nature in being a place to teach us about our past so that we can move forward together.

So what is Parks for All? It is a plan and a call to action for the parks community being led by a team of dedicated volunteers and supported through the Canadian Parks Council (CPC) and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA).

Parks for All is a Strategic Framework based on evidence, which has been developed through conversation, debate, and sometimes uncomfortable realizations about the assumptions we each bring to the table.

In April of 2016, 200 delegates met in Canmore at the Canadian Parks Summit to review a first draft of Parks for All that resulted in rich feedback and insight. This was followed by the very successful Canadian Parks Conference which hosted over 350 delegates in Banff, Alberta this past March (2017). The current draft of Parks for All (#2) tells our story and identifies priority actions that individuals and organizations across Canada need to undertake to make a difference in bettering Parks for All, today and for generations to come.

Now some Indigenous leaders see the same parks they were excluded from as places where reconciliation can take root. This was evident in Banff, Alberta earlier this year where Indigenous delegates, public agency staff, and conservationists converged. Many delegates who attended the 2016 Canadian Parks Summit and

the 2017 Parks Conference are now considering how Canada's system of parks could be places where a broken relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians can begin healing.

Those invested in the initiative are hopeful that First Nations representatives, individuals, governments and organizations from across Canada will find a shared position enough to endorse a Parks for All Strategic Framework later this year. And those of us charged with the oversight of Canada's parks systems will take up the call to seek new beginnings, using nature as a safe space for cultural exchange and understanding. Visit www.cpra.ca/parks-for-all

MURRAY KOPP is the Director of the Parks Services Department at the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) and currently volunteers some of his time in a role as Chair of the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association's (CPRA) Parks Task Group. A major focus of Murray's recent "corner of the desk" activities have included acting as Co-Chair of the 2016 Canadian Parks Summit event held in Canmore, Alberta (April 2016), a continuing role as Co-Chair of the 2016 – 2017 "Parks for All" initiative as well as his recent appointment to a Parks Canada led National Steering Committee - Pathway to Target 1 (Canada's Commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity - Aichi Biodiversity Targets). mkopp@cord.bc.ca.

REGIONAL PARKS

CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE IN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT



THE RECENT MARCH 8-11, 2017 Parks for All conference in Banff, Alberta highlighted the important contribution of local and regional park systems to the overall network of parks and protected areas in Canada. This is particularly timely in light of Canada's commitment to meet its *2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada* to protect at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas. To meet this goal, it is necessary to look beyond the contributions of national and provincial/territorial park systems and consider the contributions of other protected areas systems, such as regional parks, in protecting Canada's lands and waters.

In the case of regional park systems, they connect people with nature right where they live, work, and play. This close link to nature is vital for individual health and well-being, and for building community cohesiveness and resiliency. In an era in which an ever-increasing percentage of the global population are urban dwellers, it is essential to create ample opportunities for people to connect with nature close-by and in easily accessible ways.

Regional park systems also play a critical role in protecting essential ecosystem services, including contributions to storm water filtration, climate regulation, air purification, and carbon storage through the protection of forests, wetlands, meadows, and other natural landscapes. A well-designed regional park system facilitates protection and movement

The CRD Regional Park system encompasses four park types:
1) Recreation Area; 2) Conservation Area; 3) Natural Area; or
4) Wilderness Area

of species in response to habitat fragmentation, invasive species, climate change and other impacts through strategically located connectivity corridors.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) located on southern Vancouver Island has developed an outstanding regional park system over the last 50 years that helps deliver on these protection, connection, and well-being

goals. CRD Regional Parks comprises approximately 13,000 hectares of regionally significant landscapes and natural features, playing an essential role in conserving local biodiversity and in offering outstanding recreational opportunities in its 30 regional parks and three regional trails.

The CRD Regional Park system encompasses four park types, classified by management focus. Depending on a



Park visitors enjoying a summer day at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park. Photo Credit: Deb Kerr Designs.



LYNN WILSON

park's predominant characteristics and purpose, it falls into one of four distinct classifications including: 1) Recreation Area; 2) Conservation Area; 3) Natural Area; or 4) Wilderness Area. Regional Recreation Areas provide the largest range of outdoor experiences, activities and events, and are managed to accommodate a relatively high number of visitors. Regional Natural Areas and Regional Conservation Areas have a graduated emphasis on protection of the natural environment and low-impact recreational activities.

Regional Wilderness Areas are generally reserved for parks 1,000 hectares or larger. The management focus is on the conservation of ecosystems with minimal human interference. Regional Wilderness Areas provide opportunities for backcountry recreation where the visitor experience is one of remoteness, solitude, and harmony with nature. Although CRD Regional Parks has several large landscapes classified as Regional Wilderness Areas, in actuality, these landscapes can more accurately be considered "near-wilderness" due to their proximity to regional population centers¹. This proximity makes these parks largely accessible to the general public, even though they feature rough and remote terrain, include the

presence of large carnivores, and offer limited facilities and services. To get the most out of their near-wilderness park experience, visitors need accurate information and proper preparation to confidently venture out into these landscapes. This makes it imperative for park managers to understand public perceptions of "wilderness" and what visitors think about and expect from these regional parks.

Social science is an essential tool to build awareness and understanding about park visitors—essentially, social science research can help us to understand the relationship between humans and nature. This knowledge in turn helps park managers improve conservation practice and outcomes, and it enables us to better connect with and serve the public. CRD Regional Parks is in the process of building a solid social science program that will help us understand and respond to current and new audiences. This is especially important for supporting informed public enjoyment of our Regional Wilderness Areas.

One of the most exciting aspects of park system planning and management is acquiring and opening new park

One of the most exciting aspects of park system planning and management is acquiring and opening new park lands.

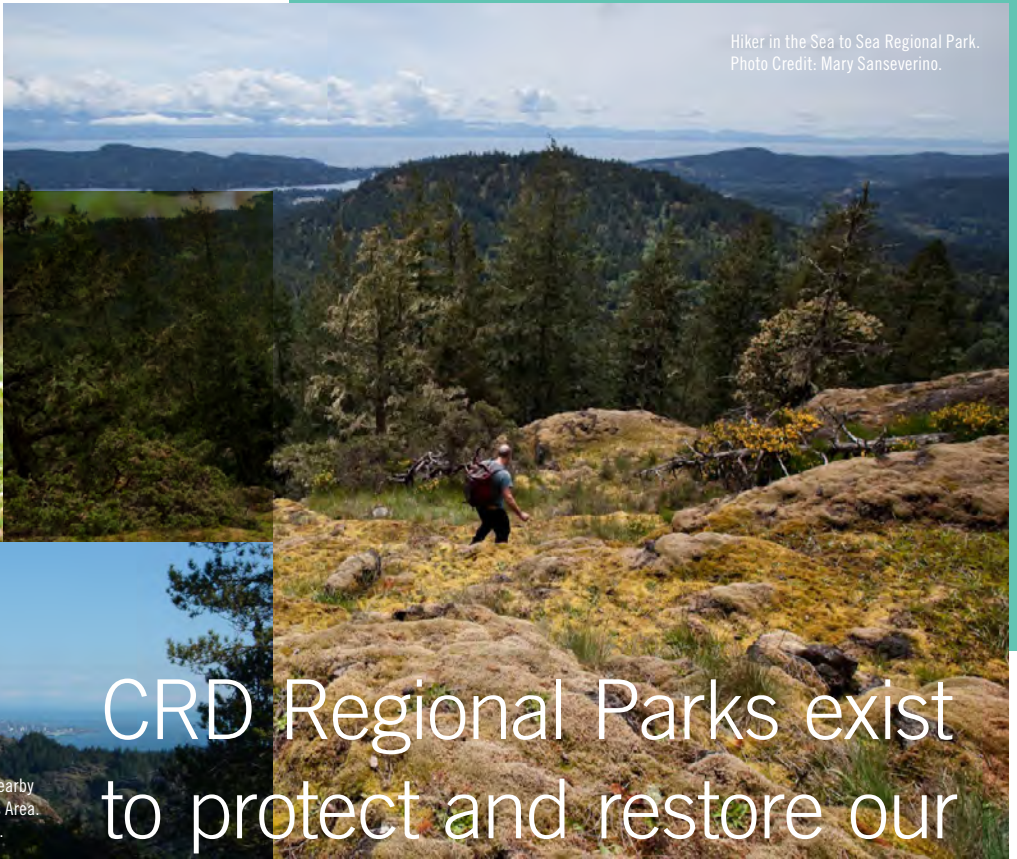
lands. CRD Regional Parks is in the process of opening one of our largest Regional Wilderness Areas. Known as the "Sea to Sea Regional Park" (Sea to Sea), the park land was acquired between 2000 and 2016, and is currently about 3900 hectares, making it the second largest park in our system. The Sea to Sea is a rugged landscape that offers park visitors the thrill of hiking in a beautiful coastal temperate rainforest where they will encounter a wide variety of native plant and animal species and diverse ecosystems and habitats. That being said, the landscape is still recovering

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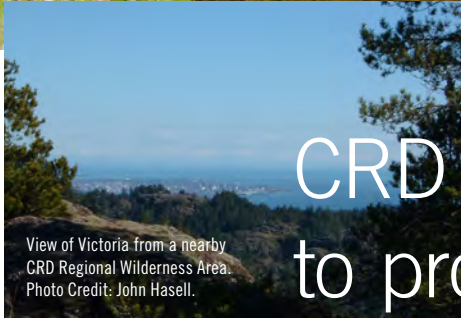
REGIONAL PARKS CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE IN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT



A young black bear eating fresh spring growth. Photo Credit: iStock.



Hiker in the Sea to Sea Regional Park. Photo Credit: Mary Sanseverino.



View of Victoria from a nearby CRD Regional Wilderness Area. Photo Credit: John Hasell.

CRD Regional Parks exist to protect and restore our region's biodiversity

from logging in the past century and unregulated public access before becoming a regional park.

CRD Regional Parks is opening the Sea to Sea in a phased process over several years. A key direction from the park's 2010 management plan is to prevent the decline of wildlife in the park (which includes bears, wolves, cougars and their prey), while establishing a multi-use trail network and a backcountry camping opportunity. It is challenging and exciting to successfully integrate these objectives. Studies show that wildlife can be displaced by human presence and it is critical that park trails and facilities are developed in such a way that both people and wildlife can coexist in relative proximity to each other.

As we have seen, regional parks are important contributors to Canada's commitment to protect at least 17% of its land base by 2020. They are also important contributors to local, provincial, and national efforts to address climate change impacts, protect essential ecosystem services, and prevent habitat fragmentation and species decline. And just as importantly, regional parks contribute to individual and community health and wellness by providing access to natural areas close to home.

CRD Regional Parks has been a leader in securing these essential benefits for people and nature for over 50 years. The vision for CRD Regional Parks sums this up well: "...regional parks

and trails support the health of our region, its inhabitants, and the planet as a whole."²

In short, CRD Regional Parks exist to protect and restore our region's biodiversity, offer compatible outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and provide accessible, joyful connection with the natural world. This is something to celebrate!

LYNN WILSON at lwilson@crd.bc.ca is a regional park planner with CRD Regional Parks. She prepared the 2010 Sea to Sea Regional Park Management Plan and is involved with opening up the Sea to Sea Regional Park over the next few years. She is a frequent writer on parks and protected areas topics.

CONTINUED:
REGIONAL PARKS CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE IN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Wilderness to Recreation CRD Regional Park Classifications

Wilderness Area | Conservation Area | Natural Area | Recreation Area

Degree of protection and conservation focus

Primary Focus

Less Focus

- Very high natural environmental values
- Natural environment features require protection

Degree of intensity of outdoor recreation

Low

High

- More developed generally
- High visitation

Examples

East Sooke Regional Park

Mill Hill Regional Park

Horth Hill Regional Park

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park



Above: The CRD Regional Parks System. Image: CRD.

Right: CRD's Regional Parks' classification continuum. Image: CRD.

REGIONAL PARKS

(1) The CRD is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on Southern Vancouver Island and the nearby Gulf Islands. Its jurisdiction is 237,000 hectares and the regional population is about 360,000. Most of the regional residents live in the Victoria urban core and in the rapidly growing “West Shore” communities of Sooke, Langford, and Colwood. (2) CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012–2021 outlines the vision, mission, purpose and strategic goals for the regional park system over a 10-year period.



A REPORT FROM THE 2017 CANADIAN PARKS CONFERENCE

BANFF, ALBERTA, bounded by the majestic Rocky Mountains high above and the birthplace of Canada's national parks system was a fitting locale to host the first-ever collaboratively focused Canadian Parks Conference on March 8-11, 2017. The conference featured over 100 speakers and attracted delegates nation-wide from all levels of government representing Canada's vast system of parks and open spaces. First Nations, ecological stewardship NGO's and post-secondary institutions rounded out a strong diversity of interests attending to discuss the celebration, protection and significance of municipal, regional, provincial and national parks that characterize Canada's protected landscapes.

Key themes of the conference focused on continuing to build upon a shared vision for Canada's system of parks that originated from those stakeholders that participated at the 2016 Canadian Parks Summit, the precursor to this year's conference. Ideas amongst conference delegates were generated and circulated with regard to strategic directions and priorities for our nation's collective community of parks and protected areas. Workshop sessions brought together a range of stakeholders involved with Canada's efforts to achieve its land and sea conservation targets as committed to in 2010 with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (the "Aichi Targets") and Canada's adoption in 2015 of the "2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada". The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, shared a renewed focus and commitment on the ecological

integrity of national parks, concluding with statements that the best way to celebrate Canada's 150th year is through more protected natural spaces. Encouraging words indeed from the Federal Minister that meaningful efforts are underway towards the 2020 target objectives!

Of focus as well was attention to work underway by the Canadian Parks Council and Canadian Parks and Recreation Association on the 'Parks for All' strategic framework intended to "build a shared vision, define guiding principles, develop strategic directions and priorities, and implement a bold and coordinated strategy for Canada's parks and protected areas." An engagement process to reach more Canadians on developing this strategic framework continues, inclusive of opportunities during the conference for delegates to provide insight and input.

More information about this initiative can be found at www.cpra.ca/parks-for-all.

The importance of parks and open spaces to health and wellness through connecting with nature was intertwined through a number of presentations. "Healthy Parks/Healthy People" is one such initiative aimed at influencing a cultural shift to value parks for physical, spiritual, social and health benefits. The 2015 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth identified that "the biggest risk is keeping kids indoors", of significant concern given Canadian youth are ranked as some of the least active in the world.

The past century has seen a steady migration from rural to urban living in Canada, with 82 percent of Canadians now residing in medium to large cities (Stats Canada 2016). However, the



Banff Conference Centre



Delegates at the Canadian Parks Conference



The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Photo credit: A. Holtby, ARPA



BRIAN FARQUHAR

social, spiritual and physical well-being of our societies remains dependent upon access to healthy ecosystems. Parks and open spaces managed by municipal and regional governments are therefore well positioned to foster reconnection of city dwellers with nature. Mike Walton and Brett Hudson from Regional Parks - Capital Regional District shared the benefits and challenges of managing near wilderness areas close to urban centres and balancing public demand for outdoor recreation access with nature conservation. The development and accessibility of trail infrastructure was also a notable topic of a number of presentations. Health and wellness benefits of parks was not the only quantifiable measurement discussed throughout the conference, but also the efforts of parks providers to quantify the economic value and benefits of green infrastructure. Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (www.greeninfrastructureontario.org) provided highlights of work underway to develop science-based metrics to measure the economics of green infrastructure versus traditional built (grey) infrastructure, from incorporation into climate change and asset management planning, to imbedding into stormwater management design analysis.

Interesting reflections provided by Jamie Vala and Jeffrey Fitzpatrick on

The importance of parks and open spaces to health and wellness through connecting with nature was intertwined through a number of presentations.

50 Years of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks commented on the challenges and pressures experienced in 1967 given competing uses for lands, natural areas, species and habitats diminishing, population growth, increasing land values and diversifying recreation habits and interests, themes that continue to resonate with many communities today. Moving forward, the conference provided a strong foothold and recognition that nature is not governed by boundaries; rather that by collectively working and collaborating together on parks, protected areas, open spaces and public spaces, these efforts can strengthen the public's connection to and appreciation of the intrinsic values of our natural environment. Parks and natural area systems managed at the regional jurisdictional level are well positioned to deliver on building this public awareness and understanding by providing affordable and accessible experiences to the majority of Canadians living in urban centres.

Through four days of the conference, the numerous workshop sessions and keynote speakers were inspirational in

unifying and encouraging interaction and resolve to continue efforts on improving collaboration and support of natural areas management across Canada. The success of the inaugural Canadian Parks Conference was indicative of the shared values and goals of land management agencies at all levels and the importance of securing, protecting and ensuring these landscapes remain viable and healthy for generations to come. For more information about the conference and selected workshop presentations visit the LIN Network at www.lin.ca/collections/canadian-parks-conference-2017-papers.

BRIAN FARQUHAR has been the Manager of Parks and Trails with the Cowichan Valley Regional District for the past 15 years, Brian has worked with the community and Board to develop and implement a regional parks and trails master plan focused on acquiring and protecting significant outdoor landscapes and completing the ambitious 120 km Trans Canada Trail route through the region. Time away from work includes a passion for travel to less touristy destinations and hiking adventures, inclusive of multi-day excursions to places such as the Lakes District in the UK.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS

THIS YEAR, METRO VANCOUVER is proud to celebrate 50 years of regional parks. When the system was created in 1967, the regional population was just one million compared with 2.5 million today. Thanks to a sense of urgency that drove early planners in a race against the urbanization of undeveloped land, these regional park pioneers had the foresight to start acquiring and setting aside parkland. In 1969, the first six regional parks opened to the public. A decade after, regional parks began offering nature education programs. Now, a half-century later, a robust team of park interpreters continues to connect people to nature, inspiring the hearts and minds of well over 50,000 participants every year. Thanks to the ongoing support of the Board, staff and community groups, Metro Vancouver's regional parks now protect 14,500 hectares of diverse important natural areas and see over 10 million parks visits annually.

A recent survey found that 80% of residents claim to know of Metro Vancouver as a regional district. However, few of those surveyed named regional parks as one of the core services. Many residents have been to a regional park, they just don't know it. Driven by this low awareness level, Metro Vancouver supported the creation of a regional parks sub-brand.

POSITIONING

- Unlike municipal parks which are usually smaller and used by residents for active sport and recreation use, regional parks are generally larger and attract visitors from across Metro Vancouver desiring to connect to nature. Regional parks serve a purpose to protect natural areas.
- Provincial and national parks are much larger than regional parks and

preserve massive areas that contain provincially or nationally important natural and cultural features. They provide access to wilderness untouched by humans. Visitors spend at least a full day in them, if not many days.

OUR ROLE

Protecting Metro Vancouver's natural areas and connecting people with them.

Our extensive and diverse network of ecosystems should be enjoyed, valued and protected as a key asset for the residents of Metro Vancouver.

BRAND ESSENCE

Protect and Connect

[Excerpts from Regional Parks Brand Book]

With a renewed clarity of role and position, 2017 provided a key opportunity to leverage the 50th



Metro Vancouver Regional Parks have been offering nature interpretation programs since 1979



Backside of the new inflatable mobile tent that will travel to > 50 events across the region



CANDACE NG

anniversary milestone and launch an awareness campaign. Guided by the new regional parks brand book, an anniversary toolkit was crafted with two primary identifiers of the campaign:

1. CELEBRATION BADGE:



2. CAMPAIGN SIGN-OFF
(acts like a tagline, concluding communications):

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF REGIONAL PARKS

As the flagship engagement tool, the regional parks passport was designed to be an exploration guide, encouraging visits to 18 of our 23 regional parks in 2017. Filled with historical facts and nature notes, the passport also serves as a keepsake and souvenir.



The transit shelter outside the Metro Vancouver Regional District head office proudly promotes the milestone.

23,000 passports were distributed with each copy of the special spring edition of Check it Out! – Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ program guide: 7,500 to residents subscribed to the mailing list and 15,500 to community centers, libraries and regional parks locations for pick-up.

To collect a different stamp in each of the 18 regional parks, passport holders bring their hard copies to an event, program or nature house. For those who prefer to visit regional parks on their own, the passport is also available as the MV Passport smartphone app,

The regional parks passport was designed to be an exploration guide, encouraging visits to 18 of our 23 regional parks in 2017.

downloadable on the Apple App Store and Google Play. An incentive program has been initiated where participants earn rewards and are eligible to enter prize draws as they reach each of three tier levels of engagement.

A travelling exhibit will extend the reach of the campaign, making special appearances at more than 50 events in regional parks and our member municipalities. The exhibit will tell the story of regional parks and the significance of the 50 year milestone. The goals are that visitors will know we are celebrating 50 years of the regional parks system, understand the breadth and diversity of landscapes and ecosystems in regional parks, and leave inspired and wanting to become involved.

Celebration videos feature the story of our 50 years as told through the voices of five regional parks “champions”,

At the media launch, Metro Vancouver Board Chair, Greg Moore, invites everyone to pick-up a passport, download the app and come visit the regional parks tent as it travels to local municipalities.



people who have made significant contributions to regional parks over the past 50 years. These videos are part of the archived legacy of the anniversary. A historical video chronicling the creation and evolution of the regional parks system is in the works.

Inspired by the viral success of the “Humans of New York” blog, “Humans of Regional Parks” gives a glimpse into the lives of regional parks visitors: why they are coming and what they value about regional parks. Interviews will continue throughout the anniversary year, and will be released as posts on Facebook and published on the 50th anniversary webpage. This trickled release of the stories will provide ongoing profile and engagement throughout the year. To ensure consistent and constant outreach, a social media strategy is in the works as part of the marketing campaign.

More traditional forms of marketing have not been forgotten. Advertising is being placed in transit shelters and municipal leisure and recreation guides, as well as existing regional parks collateral including kiosks and program guides.

On March 15th, six media outlets attended an invitation-only launch



#MVRP50



Cookies sweetened the enticement to visit the regional parks 50th tent at the media launch.

featuring official speeches, celebration videos and ribbon cutting of the new tent. Opportunities to interview the regional parks champions, film families engaging with the passport and the park at the public event following and refreshments featuring branded cookies further sweetened the deal for media attendees. The goal was to generate a media buzz around the big reveal, and it worked! Newspaper, radio and local television all began telling the story of regional parks – the historical significance and the call to pick-up a passport, get out and start collecting stamps. The energy and excitement for the anniversary year is now tangible.

As with all major programs, there are challenges along the way. The 50 year celebration was marked with not-unfamiliar challenges of limited finances and staff resources coupled with justification of milestone celebrations and marketing and a healthy dollop of historical fact-finding. These were all surmountable. Armed with an approved regional parks brand book and a dedicated, determined and professional team of regional parks staff, librarians, communications specialists, film makers, technology experts and many other helping hands, the challenges were all met head-on and the milestone program made a reality.

The camaraderie from working across departments was one of many positive by-products of the campaign. So were staff pride and motivation, team building amongst regional parks staff and increased profile for regional parks within the corporation. The 50 year campaign has brought with it a renewed sense of pride for regional parks’ role in protecting Metro Vancouver’s natural areas and connecting people with them.

I invite you to connect with us and celebrate 50 years of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

www.metrovancouver.org
(search ‘celebrate parks’)

FB.ME/MetroVancouverRegionalParks
#MVRP50
@MetroVancouver

CANDACE NG has been connecting people with nature for over 20 years. Her experience spans from hands-on connections during her career as a park interpreter – when she guided visitors on foot, snowshoe, canoe, kayak and even alongside llamas – to her more facilitative, multimedia approach in her current position as Park Programs and Outreach Coordinator for Metro Vancouver Regional District. Candace strives to enable and entice all ages and abilities to reconnect with nature in regional parks. She would like to acknowledge that this article is based on the collective work of a large and amazing team of staff and partners.



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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO BUILD A RECREATION LEGACY

THE CONSTRUCTION of the 48.5 kilometre Okanagan Rail Trail began as a ‘yes we can’ notion four years ago. It was borne when the CN railway line from Kelowna to Coldstream was officially decommissioned and the question, “what will be done with this track of land?” was posed to the community. The vision is to create a scenic and accessible trail through the Central Okanagan that will connect communities between Kelowna to Coldstream, taking users along the shores of three local lakes; Duck, Woods and Kalamalka Lake. Fast forward to today and this project is more than halfway to its funding goal of \$7.86 million.

The development of this magnificent trail has brought communities together and has been driven completely by dedicated volunteer trail ambassadors, supportive and generous donors, business and campaign partners, and committed municipal and First Nations governments. Collectively, they are continuing to work toward reaching the fundraising goal.

BC Recreation and Parks Association was one of the earliest partners to support this campaign. In April, 2014 the Association provided a place for Okanagan Rail Trail to display a poster presentation at their annual conference. This helped generate early awareness and gave an indication of how important partnerships would be in developing this trail.

Since fundraising began last May, over 3,353 individual donors have stepped

forward and 39 business partners and 15 campaign partners have come on board. Contributions have come with inspirational stories: from a 95-year-old donating 95 metres to an eight-year-old selling lemonade to fund her metre of trail. Many service clubs, organizations and businesses have also provided donations and other support.

Communities along the trail and donors from far and wide have contributed to this magnificent legacy trail. There have been many creative and innovative donations and volunteer ideas. Special events like teas in backyard gardens; and beer and pizza events by business partners such as Tree Brewing; the donation of products such as Rancho Vignola’s ‘Rail Trail Mix’ to be sold by donation; and donation matching by incredibly generous philanthropists, community members and anonymous

BC Recreation and Parks Association was one of the earliest partners to support this campaign.

contributors. The many donors and their contributions are listed at <https://okanaganrailtrail.ca/trail-supporters/individual-donors>.

In the coming months volunteers are working to find as many ways to get the word out and raise additional funds, including the following events:

- A Bike to Work Week food truck and beverage garden June 3.
- Conquer the Lake Run is taking place in Lake Country on June 11.
- The Silver Star Rotary Club cycling event in Vernon on July 23rd.

MLAs Steve Thomson and Norm Letnick (centre), flanked by volunteers announcing funding of \$500,000 from the BC Rural Dividend Grant.

RAIL TRAIL



HEATHER STEWART



48.5KM OKANAGAN RAIL TRAIL

Local governments of Kelowna, Lake Country, Regional District of the North Okanagan and the Okanagan Indian Band are working together to develop engineering and construction plans and to get the trail built. Stages 1, 2, and 3 of trail construction are now scheduled to be completed over the next year. It's fitting that this trail construction will begin during Canada's 150th year of Confederation.

Donations are received by the Community Foundations in the North and Central Okanagan, through Canada Helps, or through the Foundation offices. Donations are held in trust and are dispersed as funds are raised to begin construction phases. The estimated cost to build a compacted aggregate trail is \$7.86 million, or about \$160 per metre.

The successes so far, and there have been many, have come from dedicated individuals and organizations who want to have this trail constructed. Business and campaign partners have helped in so many ways, and their creativity will ensure that the full amount is raised.

This project will attract visitors from all over BC, Canada and afar. Plan on visiting Kelowna, Lake Country and Coldstream in 2018 and come and check it out for yourself.

HEATHER STEWART has enjoyed working with a committed and engaged group of community members, business and campaign partners. As a long time Okanagan resident, she is looking forward to cycling and walking the magnificent 48.5 km long Okanagan Rail Trail, with other people who want to enjoy being outside in nature.

Vernon philanthropist, George Galbraith, has generously offered to match donations received between April 3 and July 1, 2017-up to \$150,000. Contributions of any amount are being accepted online at okanaganrailtrail.ca, with tax receipts for any donations of \$25 or more.

You can follow the Okanagan Rail Trail's progress on social media at www.facebook.com/okanaganrailtrail/

2017 BCRPA PROVINCIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

The BCRPA would like to again congratulate each of the 2017 Provincial Award recipients and recognize them for excellence and innovation in the field of recreation as well as for their exceptional efforts to enhance recreation facilities, programs, parks and services in British Columbia.

AWARD: **FACILITY EXCELLENCE FOR PROJECTS OVER \$1 MILLION DOLLARS**
CITY OF SURREY:
GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS AQUATIC CENTRE

The City of Surrey has developed an iconic destination facility attracting athletes, international sporting events, and families alike. Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre's distinctive architectural elements such as an undulating roof and its multiple accessible features make it a favourite for everyone. This multi-use facility is able to meet the needs of all users. The 10 lane, LEED silver standard, and international competition level 50 metre pool has many moveable features, creating variations in competitive and programmable space. From birthday parties riding the water slide to elite athletes on the 10 metre diving platform, Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre has provided both a community space and competition hub in this fast-growing community of South Surrey.

▼ Left to Right: Jennifer Wilson, BCRPA President;
Laurie Cavan, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture, City of Surrey;
Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA CEO



AWARD: FACILITY EXCELLENCE FOR PROJECTS UNDER \$1 MILLION DOLLARS
CITY OF WEST KELOWNA:
MEMORIAL PARL AMPHITHEATRE AND SKATEBOARD PARK

▶ *Left to Right: Jennifer Wilson, BCRPA President; Doug Findlater, Mayor of West Kelowna; Mark Roberts, Parks Planner / Project Manager, City of West Kelowna; Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA CEO*



This state of the art amphitheater, with its well-designed sound system, lighting and layout to make every sound engineer, parent with a stroller, and senior with walker feel perfectly accommodated has been a huge success hosting over 7000 music lovers last year. Recently dedicated to Annette Beaudreau, the project's beloved and respected recreation leader, the space is a cultural hot spot. The skateboard park is a big success as well. By engaging the users from the start in the design process, utilizing them during the fund-raising stages, and keeping them on board through ongoing partnership and dialogue – the city has a win-win. They also have found a way to generate revenue from the space by hosting events such as the BC Interior Cyclocross series.



AWARD: PARKS EXCELLENCE
CITY OF RICHMOND:
TERRA NOVA NATURE ADVENTURE PLAY ENVIRONMENT

▶ Left to Right: Jennifer Wilson, BCRPA President; Jamie Esko, Manager, Parks Planning, Design and Construction, City of Richmond; Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA CEO



Terra Nova Nature Adventure Play Environment connects families to nature and offers adventuresome play for users of all ages. Emerging from the results of an in-depth community engagement process, the site's history, as well as its significant natural features, the design for the park features a unique landscape that embodies the principles of adventure nature play. Incorporating a super-fast slide, two zip lines, a 10 metre tall treehouse and so much more, the elements are contained within 25 hectares of remnant agricultural fields and hedgerows, habitat for resident and migratory wildlife, heritage buildings, walking trails, a nature preschool, an urban farm and community gardens.

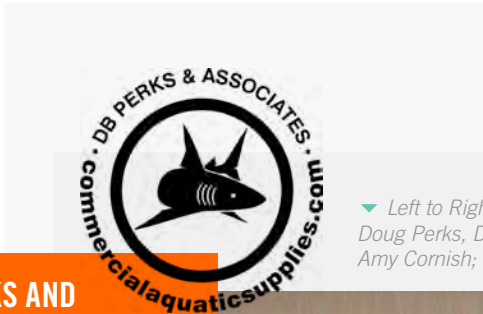
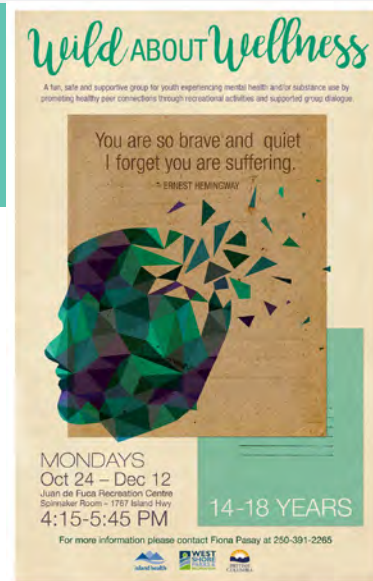




The Wild About Wellness program was developed when West Shore Parks and Recreation staff identified a dramatic increase in anxiety and mental health issues among youth in the community. Given the documented benefits physical activity has in reducing anxiety and depression, the program aimed to combine these benefits with a therapeutic group process. The free program was created using a youth-centred approach which allowed clients to identify the activities and topics most relevant to them. The program was noted for its many positive attributes: partnership model, creativity, responsiveness, low overhead cost and especially impact on the program participants.

AWARD: PROGRAM EXCELLENCE
WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION:
WILD ABOUT WELLNESS PROGRAM

▲ Left to Right: Jennifer Wilson, BCRPA President; Amy Cooper, Recreation Programmer and Youth Engagement Lead, West Shore Parks & Recreation; Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA CEO



▼ Left to Right: Jennifer Wilson, BCRPA Board President; Doug Perks, DB Perks & Associates (Award Sponsor); Amy Cornish; Lauren King; Britta Peterson; Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA CEO

BCRPA'S DB PERKS AND ASSOCIATES GRADUATING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the recipients of BCRPA's 2017 DB Perks and Associates Graduating Student Scholarship Awards:

- Amy Cornish, Langara College in the Diploma program
- Lauren King, University of Victoria
- Britta Peterson, Vancouver Island University
- Rachel Venner, Langara College in the Bachelor Degree program (no photo)



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WHEREABOUTS... PEOPLE AND PLACES OF BCRPA

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VERSION

New placements in Richmond include: **Sean Davies**, Community Facilities Coordinator; **Carol Lepine**, Community Facilities Coordinator; **Louise Blais**, Fitness and Wellness Coordinator; **Alex Kurnicki**, Research Planner; **Mark Synan**, Park Planner; and **Trevor Shaw**, Arena Maintenance Supervisor. The City of West Kelowna Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is undertaking a minor organizational change. **Kevin Bouchier** has been to the position of Recreation Supervisor overseeing all aspects of the Recreation function within the Department and the two Community Recreation Coordinators. The City is currently going through a search to backfill the Coordinator position. Municipal of North Cowichan Council recently adopted a parks and trails master plan with a large focus on managing public recreation within our forest reserves. Stemming from this, **Jason Blood** is moving up to be Manager of Recreation (formerly Manager of Aquatics) for the Municipality and **Don Stewart**, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, has been tasked with the implementation and management thereafter of the Master Plan recommendations. In Oak Bay **Janet Welham** leaves the role of Sports Coordinator to take over the Community Recreation Coordinator role out of Henderson Recreation Centre. She replaces **Nicky Brown** who has left for West Shore Parks and Recreation. **Caroline Lawrence** is the new Sports Coordinator. Prior to this Caroline was the Sports Programmer. **Jen Pero** and **Braeden Varney** are currently job sharing the role of Community Recreation Programmer – Licensed Care. Jen's former job-share partner **Erin Layfield** has left for a position with the Oak Bay Fire Department.



SYMPOSIUM 2017 HIGHLIGHTS: (1) The intrepid Bike and Brew tour guides who led lunch time participants on a rain-or-shine tour of breweries via bikes, complete with specially made 2017 Symposium event tee shirts - love it! (2) Networking with exhibitors and other delegates over varied and numerous games held at each trade show booth. (3) Winners of the lunch time Photo Scavenger Hunt - background photo bombing compliments of the organizers, Reagan & Russ. (4) Our delegate mission winners: Team "Coastal Stoke" completed their mission board and represented their new community - Congratulations! (5) The fun and games that were had during the Tradeshaw Street Party & Neighbourhood Eats. (6) Outgoing President, Heather Turner, (left) passes the gavel to Incoming President, Jennifer Wilson during the AGM. (7, 8 & 9) Delegates representing their communities at the 'Meet your Neighbour' themed Neighbourhood Party Banquet & Dance.

LOWER MAINLAND



Heidi Enns
604-851-4195
henns@abbotsford.ca

CHILLIWACK

The City of Chilliwack is working on a number of capital projects. The construction of a new eight sheet rink will include a two story “front of building” housing a kitchen, lockers rooms, multipurpose room and a pro-shop. The upstairs of the facility will contain a lounge, viewing area, meeting rooms and a banquet facility.

Another capital project includes the addition of a third sheet of ice on the existing Twin Rinks facility, a multipurpose area for dryland training and meetings, an extra dressing room to accommodate multi gender team members, spectator seating, offices and storage. In addition, the City of Chilliwack is constructing a new outdoor water playground at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, a popular gathering place for the local community.

The City of Chilliwack is also constructing a public art piece for the Evan’s Road roundabout, which is one of the more visible and highly travelled arteries within the community. This project marks the first public art piece commissioned by the City of Chilliwack.

The new Neighborhood Grant program has over 70 requests from the community for assistance in both special event and block party planning.

Chilliwack will be the host of the 2018 RBC Cup, a high profile Junior A event with primary partners including the City, Chilliwack, Tourism Chilliwack and the Sto:lo Tribe.

The aquatic facilities in Chilliwack have offered programs, free events, and educational activities to engage the community in Water Safety Week, Drowning Prevention Week and National Lifejacket Day. Recreation Excellence owner, Tom Watson, was profiled in the ‘Future Shapers’ speakers at the TEDx Chilliwack.

MAPLE RIDGE

The City of Maple Ridge is developing a new Cultural Plan that will guide the City’s role and investment in arts and cultural services over the next ten years. The cultural community has continued to develop and is at a point where a new strategic plan will be instrumental to move the cultural development of the community forward. The timing will be beneficial with other key projects underway including branding, a tourism strategy, a proposed new civic infrastructure and other civic plans. A public engagement process is in progress and will include a cultural forum for the community, focus groups/workshops for both internal and external stakeholders, a survey, pop-up displays with writing walls and a cultural champion’s summit. For further information please see <https://www.mapleridge.ca/parksandrec>.



Figure 2 Maple Ridge’s Cultural Plan

A new Cultural Facilities Rental Grant program was launched and offers assistance to non-profit, community-based performing arts organizations for some of the costs (including technical and front of house labour). The program is intended to assist with artistic development, increase the arts profile and expand audiences for organizations by providing access to a well-equipped, professional ACT Arts Centre venue and other community based civic venues.

The City of Maple Ridge renewed its partnership with the Vancouver Foundation in providing a Neighbourhood Small Grants Program that helps build community and strengthen connections where residents live. There are two program streams available – neighbourhood block

parties and matching grant projects.

During the last year, staff have facilitated the MEND program in the community. Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture (MRPRC) ran a fall session of MEND (7Y-13Y). Several families from the first intake completed the program and received the bonus completion credits to use with MRPRC.

In January, a YMCA partnership began with the Healthy Heart program at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre. This YMCA program helps participants recovering from chronic diseases, heart failure, diabetes, and obesity through a guided transition to an active lifestyle after open heart surgery, heart attacks, or stent placements. There has been a steady increase in participation since the program began. Access to the Healthy Heart program is strictly via referral of a physician.

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in the region, the City has a high proportion of youth who face a challenging and ever-changing world. To help support the positive physical, social and psychological development of youth (12-18 years) and emerging adults (19-24), the City, with support from community partners, has developed a Youth Strategy & Youth Development Wheel. This highly collaborative process involved over 1,000 local youth, emerging adults, parents/caregivers, and service providers through a series of surveys, interviews, workshops, focus groups, and Youth and Adult working groups. This input, along with best practice research and principles for youth development, was used to develop a number of recommendations to enhance support for youth and emerging adults, improve working partnerships between youth, caregivers and service providers, and create pathways to ensure that youth are seen as partners in their own future. These recommendations have been organized into four major theme areas: Inclusive Community Spaces & Activities; Community Engagement; Wellness & Mental Health and Transitioning to Adulthood.

In December of 2015, Maple Ridge City Council began the process of identifying and prioritizing the need for community recreation and culture facilities to meet the long term needs of a growing community. Most of these projects were identified in the Parks, Recreation & Culture

Master Plan which was endorsed by Council in 2010. The projects include the following:

1. Multi-Use Wellness Facility with an Aquatic Centre & Curling Facility
2. Synthetic Sport Field & Covered Stadium
3. Ice Facilities Expansion
4. Neighbourhood Amenities Including a Community Centre & Retrofits to Existing Facilities
5. Civic & Cultural Facility Including a Museum, Archives & Post-Secondary Education Space

Community Engagement is an integral component of these projects and will provide citizens with the opportunity to participate in the Community Facilities Conversation. Stakeholder consultations are complete and concept designs for each of the projects are being displayed online, in pop-up displays around the community, and more. The City is now conducting a robust community consultation process to enable City Council to set facility priorities. For more information about the projects, community engagement processes, project costs/payment options, visit www.mapleridge.ca/1676. For further information, contact Don Cramb at dcramb@mapleridge.ca.

LANGLEY

Langley Township has been focused on designing the new Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre. Ground was officially broken on February 3, signaling the start of construction. The centre, a unique recreation complex and outdoor aquatic facility that will be enjoyed by people throughout the region, will open in the summer of 2018. The Federal Government contributed \$9.8 million as part of the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure grants.

On July 1st this year the Township of Langley takes over the operations of the George Preston Recreation Centre and the Aldergrove Arena which includes two ice arenas and a curling facility.

MISSION

Mission's first artificial turf field was completed and is now open for play. It was a 2.9 million dollar project that replaced two all-weather fields and accommodates soccer, lacrosse and football. Lights and a small warm-up field are also part of the complex which is located at the Mission Rotary Sports Park.

2017 marks the District of Mission's 125th Anniversary and several events are in the works to celebrate the milestone including a community Heritage Picnic in Fraser River Heritage Park on June 4. This starts a "season of celebration" for the community with numerous community groups hosting special events through the summer and fall. The season will culminate on October 2nd with Culture Days celebrations throughout the community.

The Department is working with an Advisory Group looking at the options for the development of multi-generational facility to accommodate seniors and youth.

The Department will be completing a Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan in 2017, in addition to a Master Plan specifically developed for the largest park in the system, Fraser River Heritage Park.

RICHMOND

Minoru Park is a well-used, highly-valued, 65 acre recreational and cultural precinct that is located in the heart of Richmond's City Centre area. Given significant recent changes in the park such as new multi-use sports fields and the state-of-the-art Minoru Complex facility (currently under construction), along with rapidly increasing residential population in the near vicinity and numerous planning and development projects underway in the area, there is need for a renewed park vision. A planning process has started that will result in the development of a Vision Plan and Guiding Principles for the future renewal of this keystone park. The Vision Plan will establish short, medium, and long-term objectives and identify priorities. Community and stakeholder consultation will be conducted throughout the process and will include public open houses, stakeholder and city staff workshops, and online surveys.

Kicking off with the Children's Arts Festival, Richmond is celebrating Canada 150 with over 60 events and community initiatives. Some highlights include: Kaiwo Maru Tall Ship; one of the world's largest tall ships, the Kaiwo Maru, built in 1989, this majestic tall ship sailing from Japan is 361 feet in length and has over 29,000 square feet in sails. Richmond's long-time residents will be celebrated at a special Canada 150 Pioneer Luncheon. The event recognizes the

contributions of current or former citizens who spent 50 years or more living in Richmond and who have helped shape our community. With an expected guest list of over 750, the free event will include a catered lunch, live entertainment, interactive displays, and words from the Mayor. Through the City of Richmond's Canada 150 Community Celebration Grant Program, over \$150K has been awarded to local groups to support projects and events that will create lasting memories of Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation.

Richmond's South Arm Community Centre is undergoing a \$1.5 million renovation and fitness centre expansion. The improvements to South Arm's fitness centre will help broaden the health and wellness opportunities offered to the community through the centre, particularly for the residents of Richmond's southern neighbourhoods. \$500,000 funding has been provided by the federal government's Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The City of Richmond will also contribute \$500,000, with the South Arm Community Association funding the remaining \$500,000 portion.

SURREY

February 21st saw the launch of Surrey's Canada 150 celebration. Surrey's Canada 150 will include community-led events, volunteer opportunities to foster civic pride, diverse programming and event opportunities for residents and lasting legacy projects including a Surrey History Book and a New Accessibility Project.

Forsyth Park in City Centre area of Surrey will see initial phases of development taking place in 2017, made possible through the generous contribution of \$500,000 from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund. The focal point of the project will be a destination natural play area.

Design work is underway for two arena projects in Surrey. The North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex will feature three sheets of ice, a fitness center with weight and cardio space, and multipurpose rooms. The Cloverdale Sport & Ice Complex will include two NHL-size ice sheets, multi-purpose and meeting rooms and the potential for future expansion. Both projects are scheduled for completion in Spring 2019.

The Newton Wave Pool and Fitness Expansion is scheduled to be completed in May. New features include an additional 4,000 sq. ft. of fitness space, a new roof, new slide tower and renovated lobby space. The Newton Senior Centre has reopened after a renovation that features an upgraded kitchen, new flooring, upgraded washrooms and new paint and branding. This work was completed through a Federal Government Infrastructure Grant.

The Federal Government Infrastructure Grant was also instrumental in completing renovations to the lobby, change rooms and washrooms at the Guildford Recreation Centre. The re-designed spaces enhance facility accessibility. Work was completed in January 2017, and new entry gates will be installed later this year.

The City of Surrey has received a \$20,000 grant from the UBCM Age-Friendly Community Grants Program to host the Raising the Profile for Seniors Provincial Summit in October 2017.

Initial design work is under way for a new multi-purpose Recreation, Arts and Library complex in the East Clayton neighbourhood in Surrey. This facility will feature gymnasium and fitness spaces, multi-purpose and meeting spaces and open-concept arts and library space, all surrounded by an active park space, creating a community hub for one of Surrey's fastest-growing neighbourhoods. This project is expected to be completed in fall 2019.

ABBOTSFORD

2017 presents an opportunity to celebrate how far Abbotsford has come over the past 150 years. A cross-sectoral planning team with representation from various City Departments, Education Partners, the Cultural Community, Faith based organizations and not for profit community agencies are facilitating the events. The City provides grants for significant events and festivals to non-profit community organizations to offset City costs for staging of events, festivals and sporting events. The City is hosting "Rock the Nation" a celebration of over thirty years of Canadian music at the Abbotsford Centre - a great tribute to Canada's 150th. A roving mobile exhibit to educate the public on how Canada has changed from 1867 to 2017 will promote conversations about the vision for Canada beyond 2017. The public will also be invited

to share their personal stories about this nation and what they believe it means to be Canadian. A Northern Lights theme light and music show will occur at Mill Lake Park that highlights local entertainers and Canadian cuisine on Canada Day. A diverse selection of artists will perform on the mainstage at Abbotsford Exhibition Park throughout the night while food trucks will serve up food famous Canadian styled food. A laser light show will fill the sky as homage to the Northern Lights while an orchestra provides the soundtrack to create a memorable community experience

In partnership with Canada Community Foundation/Abbotsford Community Foundation; Celebration of 150 Grant program will see the following initiatives in Abbotsford in 2017:

- Abbotsford Community Services - Celebration of Heritage
- M.S.A. Museum Society – Abbotsford Heritage Exhibit
- Sikh National Archives of Canada - Turban Eh at Canada Day
- The Reach Gallery Museum - Decolonization and Reconciliation Project
- The Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley – Walking Together; Women's Perspective on Community Building
- The Fraser Basin Council - The Art of Storytelling
- A Project to Inspire Youth: and Abbotsford Arts Council – Aboriginal Public Art Engagement.

From a parks perspective, there will be a formal display flower beds in conjunction with the Community In Bloom as well as other display beds throughout the City that will incorporate the Canada 150 brand.

Abbotsford is one of the first Aquatic Centers in BC to implement "Rescue Tubes". Other jurisdictions have proven their effectiveness in the following situations: when trained back-up (another lifeguard) is not available, when the size of a potential victim is much greater than the size of the Lifeguard and/or when the swimming and support ability of the rescuer may be an issue.



Abbotsford lifeguard using a rescue tube

Abbotsford's Official Community Plan (OCP), adopted in June 2016, provides a vision and a framework for how Abbotsford will grow to a population of 200,000. It is now being reviewed and updated using existing Master Plans and Studies to ensure all future operations, development, infrastructure, services, amenities and programs align with the vision set out in our OCP. This project sees the coordination of 9 Master Plans, 4 Neighbourhood Plans and 7 Studies and Projects branded as Plan for 200K.



Abbotsford's Plan for 200K project logo



Abbotsford's Communities in Bloom logo

CARIBOO



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WILLIAMS LAKE

The City of Williams Lake is in the midst of construction – but moving forward on the Sam Ketcham Pool Upgrade Project. The community welcomed the new lap pool, steam room, sauna and swirl pool with huge attendance numbers. To compliment the new lap pool section of the natatorium, the recent purchase of new floating exercise mats are a hit in the aquatic fitness classes. These classes are limited due to the number of aquatic mats on hand, but have hit the top of our most popular new program in the pool. The classes with the mats range from Pilates, Yoga, to High Intensity work outs. Along with the lap pool, the new Fitness Area – with the indoor walking track, has been visited by more people in the last few months than the entire year of 2016! A couple pieces of new equipment, circuit training and TRX – Stations are just some of the features in this second floor work out area. The focus on strength and mobility for all is paramount in the recent jump in clientele of all ages. The Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex should be in full swing – and swim – in late fall 2017.

PRINCE GEORGE

Throughout 2017, the City of Prince George will be partnering with community groups and the Government of Canada to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Starting in March, the Prince George Potters Guild will inspire artists and budding artisans from all walks of life through workshops and events to design a Canada 150 patchwork pottery mural highlighting diversity and originality, true to the community of Prince George.

Canada's 150th birthday will be kicked off with an 8-day music festival at Canada Games Plaza. Canada 150 Heatwave, a free outdoor live music festival will begin the evening of July 1st after the festivities at Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park. Presented by the Prince George Folkfest Society, this "Heatwave" of music and culture will gather people from across Northern BC to celebrate Canadian culture, history, and diversity.

In partnership with Two Rivers Gallery and Mural Mosaic, the City of Prince George is participating in a national art installation involving 150

communities from July 7-8, 2017. The Canada 150 Mosaic project is inviting citizens to be a 'piece of the puzzle': to create one piece of an 800-piece mural symbolizing the Prince George community. Then the mural will be connected to 149 other murals across Canada!

Visit www.princegeorge.ca/canada150 to view more information about all of these events and activities.

The City of Prince George has been partnering with Community Associations for over 40 years to provide neighborhood events and community recreation programs. In 2016 the City of Prince George worked with RC Strategies to complete a Community Association Strategy. The purpose of this work was to determine the strengths and challenges facing Community Associations and to determine what the City, and partnering organizations, could do to help Community Associations remain healthy, relevant and sustainable. The Community Association Strategy was completed in December 2016 and is available on the City of Prince website for any person to have a look at the work.

The City of Prince George adopted a Parks Strategy and associated Park Strategy Action Plan in January 2017 to prioritize park investment and guide decision making. This work sets the stage for a playground investment program, ball diamond and sport field strategy and improvements to Masich Place stadium, the City's premier track and field facility.

The Playground Plan features a five year annual investment program with forty-eight (48) playgrounds in the Prince George area that will be added, replaced, or retained. The Ball Diamond and Sport Field Strategy that was developed for Prince George will guide the strategic investment of ball diamond and sport field facilities. The strategy will include a comprehensive analysis of ball diamond and sport field facilities, along with a consultative process to help determine priorities.

Masich Place Stadium will undergo a number of improvements in 2017 that will feature:

- Northern BC's first outdoor synthetic turf field
- National calibre track and field, jumps and throwing facilities
- Resurfaced running track
- Site amenities such as trail development

This project was made possible by a \$3.2 million investment from the federal government's Gas Tax Fund, in addition to funding from Northern Development Initiatives Trust and the City of Prince George.

The Prince George YMCA hosts many professional development training sessions for Fitness Leaders located anywhere in the province. On April 22 and 23rd the Reach for Inspiration Professional Development Weekend hosted training in the areas of S.M.A.R.T. Goals, Pilates, Core-fit, Kick boxing, nutrition and a rebooted step session! Fitness Leaders can get on this mailing list to be a part of the exciting next levels of programs coming to the area. Contact Shannon Johnson, Coordinator of Fitness Services at Shannon.Johnson@nbdy.org for more information.

NORTH COAST / NECHAKO



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KITIMAT

With Canada's 150 happening this year Kitimat has some special things in store for the community. Highlights include: a community concert by Chilliwack, drive in movie night, Kitimat Mudder Games, Kitamaat Open Basketball Tournament, and commissioning of a Haisla Nation inspired friendship totem pole to be raised in the late fall of 2017. On July 1st itself Kitimat will host its annual parade and firework show along with show and shine at the Tamitik Arena.

Other projects ramping up include installing a new playground in the Cable Car Subdivision, a new water main into Radley Park Campground, and completing the Minette Bay Park conceptual plan, giving the District of Kitimat its first community owned waterfront access. Finally the District of Kitimat is also in the midst of transitioning from the boom of Rio Tinto's modernization project to more normal levels of activity and is taking the time to update its Leisure Services Master Plan.

PRINCE RUPERT

The Prince Rupert Recreation Complex has had a few big projects approved for their 2017 capital budget. Staff are eagerly making plans to complete upgrades to the Arena and Auditorium. Projects include new lights, a low-e ceiling and updated washrooms, dressing rooms and showers in the Arena, the installation of sport court flooring in the Auditorium, and accessibility lifts on two staircases, making the top floor and fitness centre accessible to all. Office hours in the REC Office have been extended to include weekends and the fitness centre will open earlier on the weekends to serve more patrons!

SMITHERS

Phase 2 of the Chandler Park Soccer Field Upgrades will commence later this summer and will include the addition of a 3rd field to the complex. Lacrosse, tennis, and pickleball are all gaining in popularity locally and the Town is working to establish programs and adapt existing facilities to accommodate the demand. Yoga in the Park, a partnership between the Town and many local yoga studios and instructors, offers a weekly free yoga class at Bovill Square for the duration of the summer. A number of new community events and programs are being held in conjunction with Canada's 150th and will culminate with the community celebration being held July 1.

TERRACE

The Aquatic Centre has closed for major renovations and is expected to open in January 2018. Renovation highlights include a rebuild of the pools, as well as the addition of family change room and fitness centre. The city's central park is being renewed with new playground equipment including rubber impact surfacing and a new splash park. This is a community partnership project that has been in the plans for many years. Programs are starting to ramp up, with Circus Camp in May, Movie in the Park, Choose to Move and ActivAge™ in April and new programs with a focus on keeping seniors and other pool users active and engaged during the pool closure.

THOMPSON / OKANAGAN



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OLIVER

The highly anticipated expansion and renovation of the Oliver Community Centre weight room is complete. The renovation included a 1400 square foot addition to the existing weight room as well as an updated layout, new flooring, new HVAC system, installation of wheelchair accessible doors and a range of new equipment to allow the Oliver Parks and Recreation Society to meet the needs of its growing membership. To make room for the expansion, a 30-year old fenced play structure was removed, eliminating the only play equipment in Oliver Community Park. This fueled a passionate group of local parents to approach the Society and start a fundraising campaign to build a new toddler play park with special sensory equipment. Community engagement about location and desired features continues and the goal is to complete the project in 2018.

PEACHLAND

Peachland is looking forward to another successful summer at Swim Bay – the Okanagan's only lifeguarded beach. Events continue to be a major focus for Peachland with the District liaising with Mudd, Sweat and Tears which ran an obstacle course on private property in Peachland attracting over 700 competitors last year. As well, a keen group of residents is initiating a Scarecrow Festival with hopes of attracting visitors in the off season.

Peachland is gearing up to celebrate Canada 150. Successfully receiving a Government of Canada Community Infrastructure Program grant, the city will be renovating an existing tennis facility and building two additional Pickleball courts. Additionally, local community groups have embraced the Canada 150 spirit and have many projects underway. There will

be Canada 150 themed street banners, community scavenger hunt, writing contest on "Being Canadian", and the Peachland Community Arts Council is will be attempting to break a Guinness World Record with the Largest number of participants painting a 'paint by number' at one venue. Most groups have adopted the Canada 150 theme for their annual events, concerts and activities. The District of Peachland is also working with Jennifer Wilson Consulting in collaboration with Lees and Associates on a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

WEST KELOWNA

The City of West Kelowna opened both its new Skatepark and tiered seating in Memorial Park for use during Westside Daze, Music in the Park and The World Music Festival as well as other events. In recognition of Annette Beaudreau, the long-time Recreation and Culture Manager for the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO) and the City of West Kelowna who passed away in 2016 after a long battle with cancer, the City of West Kelowna named the new amphitheater in Memorial Park "The Annette Beaudreau Amphitheatre". As the creator of Music in the Park, a City liaison with Westside Daze, an active advocate for the cultural sector in West Kelowna and an individual who continually tried to bring vibrancy and energy to the community, City Council determined that this would be an excellent way to commemorate her service to the community.

A re-organization has now reunited Parks, Parks Planning, Cemetery and Fleet with the Recreation and Culture functions to create the new Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

The Suk'w̓temsqilx̓ West Kelowna Arts Council (SWAC), The City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation and Peachland Community Arts Council are hosting the Provincial Launch of National Culture Days in West Kelowna on September 30th.

VERNON

The Vernon Recreation Centre celebrated its 50-year anniversary last year and the recreation centre's \$1,375,000 project for the Bridge, Entrances & Lobby Renovation reached significant completion status. Visitors to the recreation centre can now access the facility via disabled

accessible entrances at the front and rear of the building. The project, which took fourteen months to complete, also includes an expanded lobby, disabled accessible entrance to the pool viewing area, additional storage spaces, new flooring, lighting, air handling, a new outside people space and a healthy choices food kiosk. The total project was completed with some disruptions in service but the recreation centre was able to stay open for programs, services and events. Attendance numbers remained strong considering the front entrance not being available for 10 months of the project. Program and facility revenues also seem to have been maintained through the project.

PENTICTON

The City of Penticton is finalizing a comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan which will guide planning and decision-making related to parks and recreation services for the next 10 years. The process includes an extensive communications and engagement strategy and the use of an online hub: www.shapeyourcitypenticton.ca. The engagement included a community open house, statistically relevant telephone survey of 400 residents, sixteen focus group sessions, pop-up booths at local facilities and events, tourist survey, stakeholder interviews and steering committee meetings touching well over 5000 people to date. One of the more complex issues being tackled is the issue of commercial use in parks.

Penticton's newest public-space playground is designed to serve the younger members of the community. The playground features play elements specific to children ages 2-5 years and recycled rubber surfacing to improve accessibility for all. The play space is located at the Penticton Community Centre with direct access for Bugaboo University (early learning centre) programs. Funding partners include the South Okanagan Children's Charity and Tire Stewardship BC.

Penticton hosted the grand opening of four dedicated Pickleball Courts outside the South Main Seniors Drop-In Centre. Funding was provided by a New Horizons for Seniors grant. The Penticton Pickleball Society's membership is growing quickly as the outdoor sport has proven to be extremely popular.

Recreation Penticton, School District 67, PacificSport and Canadian Tire JumpStart started an afterschool Gym Club three years ago in 3 schools. It has now grown to 6 schools and 120 kids. Recreation Penticton provides recreation leaders to go to the schools afterschool to offer free activities for children identified by the principals who could most benefit from free recreation programs. There are sports, games and healthy snacks- all expenses covered by JumpStart funding. 26 children from Queen's Park elementary school were also invited to a "shopping trip" at Sport Chek where they received a new pair of running shoes.

The City has kicked off a multi-month process to determine the future of Penticton's arenas. With Memorial Arena at 66 years old and McLaren Arena at 45 years old, significant investment is required in the next few years. A community task force has been struck to develop a recommendation on how Penticton can meet its arena needs today and in the future.

The City of Penticton was accepted as a host community to participate in the Canada 150 Mosaic Mural Project. The goal of the program is to create approximately 150 murals involving all provinces and territories with each mural representing a train car. The murals will be joined virtually to form a 365 meter long virtual "mosaic train" representing the foundation of the unification of Canada. Penticton's mural will remain in Penticton as a historical legacy to commemorate the anniversary and was installed on the outside of the Penticton Community Centre. The mural is 8 foot high and 8 foot wide with over 400 individual tiles hand-painted by residents and visitors to Penticton as well as local artists.

The City of Penticton will be launching a Public Sculpture Exhibit on May 6. Local, national and international artists were invited to apply to have their sculpture displayed in Penticton for one year at one of the five Okanagan Lake waterfront designated locations and as well as one larger sculpture in the Front Street roundabout.

Penticton celebrated Family Day with a free BBQ and Skate with Vees event at the South Okanagan Events Centre, a free family movie in the Cleland Theatre and half price family admissions to the pool. Thanks to the BCRPA for

providing a BC Family Day grant for these activities which brought out over 2000 community members.

Penticton is gearing up to host the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Multisport World Championship Festival in August. The Festival will comprise of six (6) World Championships over ten (10) days: Sprint Duathlon World Championships, Standard Duathlon World Championships, Cross (off-road) Triathlon World Championships, Aquathlon World Championships, Aquabike World Championships and Long Course World Championships with over 5000 athletes.

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Tracks, a beginner walking program, continues to grow in the Central Okanagan. This spring saw the program offered at Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park for a third time, with high registration numbers. At Mission Creek Regional Park, Tracks remains one of the most popular programs. A highlight for participants is the social connection that is built in to the program by meeting for coffee after each walk.

Roll and Stroll, took the template of the popular Tracks program and modified it for moms and caregivers with babies and little ones. The program offered parents a space to meet other parents and spend time outdoors in a family and baby friendly environment at Mission Creek Regional Park.

Families in Parks program kicked off Canada 150 celebrations with a program about camping. Parks and the natural environment are symbols that unite Canadians across the country and there is no better way to experience this than camping. Participants learned some camping basics such as plant and bird identification, how to pitch a tent and made some very colourful maple leaves.

The Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO) will host day camps for spring break. Children will spend time outside connected with nature exploring the insect life in ponds; identifying animal tracks such as bear tracks; catching rainbow trout in the children's fishing pond and investigating animals homes from crow's nests to snake hibernacula and bee hives.

ARMSTRONG

Spallumcheen Parks and Recreation's archery program has become a successful in the local indoor amenities and Pickleball is operating in a local gymnasium capitalizing on the joint use agreement. The fitness facility has also been attractive as the facility users access the space with a key fob and does not require an onsite attendant. Using local infrastructure, the department has also embarked on indoor Flat Track motorcycle racing. A partnership with the Chamber and Armstrong Seniors Society has been developed to get ParticipACTION 150 numbers to grow for the community.

NORTHEAST



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FORT ST. JOHN

Based on the popular television show, the City of Fort St. John has been developing their own "Energetic Amazing Race" for years and it is returning this spring! Teams sign up for the family or adult division and partake in a foot pursuit around Fort St. John. All teams are given puzzles and clues that need to be solved in order to complete all the required tasks within the 2.5 hour time limit. This joint initiative with the Recreation Department and the Visitor Centre is aimed at making residents more aware of the neat and unique tourism destinations within the community. In addition, local businesses partner to host various stations. This event is volunteer dependent and is FREE for families and adult teams.

Pitch in Week is about everyone doing their part to clean up the City. Community organizations, businesses, employees, and volunteers take time out of a week in May to help keep streets, parks, and sidewalks beautiful and clean. By getting out and picking up litter, these individuals contribute to a happier, healthier, and more aesthetically pleasing Fort St. John.

Fort St. John will jump on board for the third summer in a row to celebrate National Health and Fitness Day on June 3rd! Citizens will be encouraged to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle by getting out and exploring what the City has to offer. Visits to the Pomeroy Sport Centre to try wheelchair basketball, yoga, pickleball and more will all be free.

Summer vacation begins with a 2 Cool 4

School Extravaganza at the North Peace Leisure Pool. Children, youth, and families will all be invited to dive into an evening filled with games and challenges to win prizes. Also – all are welcome to test their skills on the inflatable obstacle course.

Fort St. John loves Canada Day and City staff is gearing up for Canada's 150th birthday! The day will start with the annual Canada Day parade that takes place down the most popular street in the City followed by the official kickoff ceremony. Then the fun continues with cupcakes, zorb balls, walking circus performers, live music, inflatables, rock climbing wall, henna tattoos, farmers market, wagon rides, food trucks, and more children's activities including a petting zoo, face painting, and cartoon mascots. It is sure to be the biggest Canada Day celebration that the City of Fort St. John has hosted!

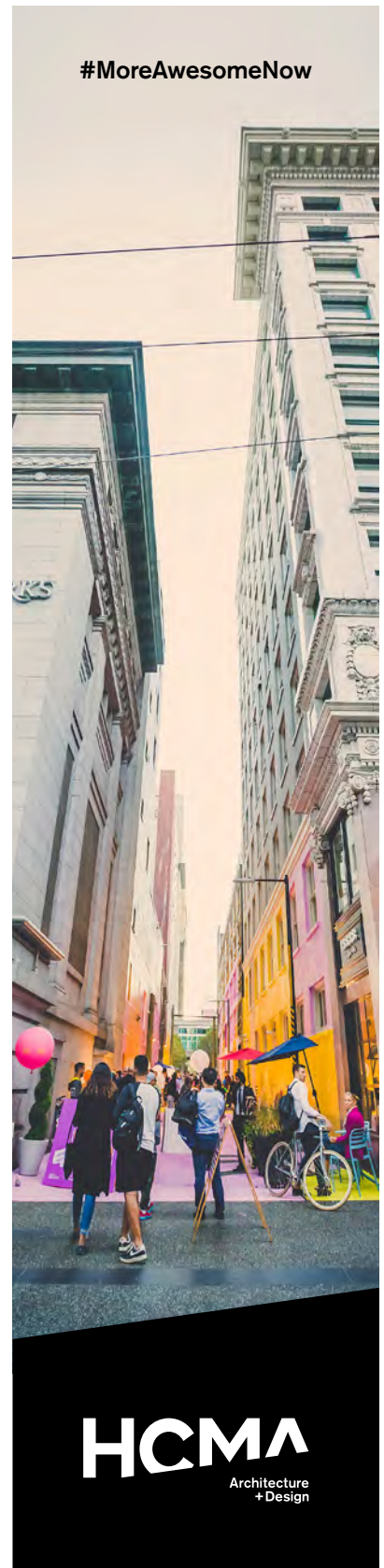
DAWSON CREEK

The Community Services Department, for the second year, will be offering the EveryBODY Active program for the spring and summer seasons. The strategy behind the City initiative is to utilize areas within our Community that are available to EveryBODY, free of charge, to encourage physical activity and well-being. The activities will assist in removing barriers for individuals, foster active and healthy living, and help people to connect with nature. This support will encourage physical and social environments, participation in recreation, and build strong, caring communities. Activities will include the EveryBODY Active kits that are available to citizens, free of charge, to promote physical literacy and social engagement outdoors, along with Park & Play events and free activities in the park such as a Story Walk, Scavenger Hunts, Creek Walks, and more.



Figure 1 Active Kits in Dawson Creek

Everyone is invited to come visit Dawson Creek this summer. There are many great events happening this summer. Check them out at www.dawsoncreek.ca or www.tourismdawsoncreek.com. One of our largest events is the 95th Annual Dawson Creek Exhibition & Stampede from August 9th to the 13th. For more information visit: www.dawsoncreekfair.com



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Cowichan Valley Regional District

The CVRD recently launched a new Sport Tourism initiative to promote the region as a sports destination. The project will provide support to sports organizations and facilities in their bids to host regional, provincial and national events. A new website will market the region's sport attributes, including more than 50 venues and 100 sport organizations. It will be of value to local stakeholders, events rights holders who may be scouting for an event location, and teams and spectators coming to the region to participate in an event. The website features several searchable databases, including sports facilities and venues; sport organization contacts, links to useful resources as well as descriptions of, and links to, community amenities and services. Organizers are able to promote their sports by submitting information to the new regional sport events calendar. A hosting booklet will further promote the Cowichan Region as a sport destination and direct people to the website. It will be available to organizers to include in bid pack-

ages. Sport event organizers will have access to a CVRD funded inventory of event hosting equipment to help stage sports functions and events, available at little or no cost.

TOWN OF LADYSMITH

The Town of Ladysmith and Stz'uminus First Nation are collaborating to develop a plan for the Ladysmith waterfront...three cheers to the design team that came together in early March for a 3-day charrette on the future of the waterfront, creating a vision for the future that all citizens will enjoy!

Coast Salish carver John Marston and Ladysmith Secondary School students designed two complementary Ladysmith Canada 150 street banners symbolizing the Ladysmith – Stz'uminus community "working together" accord, the connection between our shores, and shared responsibility for reconciliation in a common future for Canada and its many provinces, territories, and First Nations.

CITY OF POWELL RIVER

The City of Powell River was successful in applying to the BC Healthy Communities' 2017 Age Friendly Community Grant and received \$20,000 funding in support of seniors program development. As a result, the Parks, Recreation & Culture department has launched the "Seniors Together" program which is a half day program that runs once a month that helps introduce seniors to services in the community and provides activity programs that promote healthy living

and social inclusion. The free program sold out within a few weeks of the announcement.

The City of Powell River also received news that it was also successful in its application for the BC Lifesaving Society's "Swim To Survive" program. Starting this March, all Grade 3 students in the Powell River School District will learn how to survive a fall into deep water through a series of lessons put on by the Aquatics staff at the Powell River Recreation Complex.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

The District has commenced a Recreation Master Plan research project, working with PERC and RC Strategies. A resident survey was recently completed and preliminary results will be ready in early spring.

Summer hiring is complete. It is very exciting that a lot of the senior leaders are folks that started as campers, then went through the Leader-In-Training program and have worked as junior leaders for the past few years. It an example of some succession planning success in action!

The District has now been using ActiveNet for over six months. Staff report that overall the transition has been going well with only some small growing pains.

The new 'Rail Trail' connection between Parksville and Coombs is now open with a grand opening event held in May. The 7km packed gravel trail way is already garnering great reviews.

SEPT. 16, 2017



BCFIT '17

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OCTOBER 16, 2017



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ONGOING

E-LEARNING

You will find the courses very easy to follow with lots of new tools to apply in your workplace. The BCRPA's online learning site currently features six courses:

- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
- BCRPA Shared Use Agreement Guide
- Engaging the Hard to Reach
- Social Inclusion
- Healthy Choices
- Vulnerable Populations
- PoolSafeBC

<http://elearn.bcrpa.bc.ca>

ONGOING

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION SPACES INITIATIVE

BCRPA has received funding to support an increase in before and after school recreation spaces throughout the province. This is a very exciting opportunity for the 2017-18 school year to fund community programs to start up or to increase spaces in existing programs.

NEXT DEADLINE IS IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE SECOND INTAKE.

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/and-after-school-recreation-program-initiative

ONGOING

POOL OPERATOR COURSE

The BCRPA has revised and upgraded both the Level I and Level II Pool Operator Course. Training is mandatory in BC for all pool and spa operators. The new materials are designed to provide BC-specific content and to align with the new BC Pool Regulations that were released in 2010 and updated in 2012. In addition, the upgrades ensure consistent delivery of important course content across the province.

<http://bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop>

ELSEWHERE



(MIND, EXERCISE, NUTRITION...DO IT!)

Together with the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, and with support from the Provincial Health Services Authority, the BCRPA is delivering MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition ...Do It!), an internationally acclaimed program aimed at improving children's physical activity levels, nutrition and self-esteem in these communities across BC:
Abbotsford, Agassiz, Burnaby, Campbell River, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Langley, Maple Ridge, North Cowichan, North Vancouver, Penticton, Powell River, Richmond, Surrey

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/MEND
or call the MEND Regional Coordinator at 604-629-0965 ext. 241.

SAVE THE DATE

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Exceptional
Aquatic and
Recreation Design

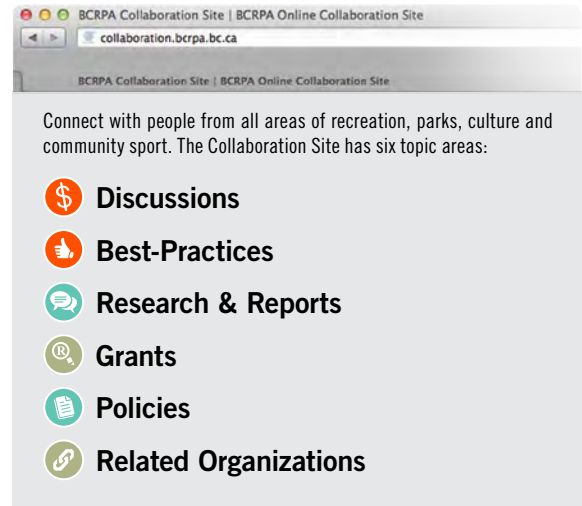
BCRPA Online Collaboration Site



The BCRPA has created a dynamic tool to help you and your colleagues come together to get more done. The New BCRPA Collaboration Site is open for you 24/7 and it's so EASY to use.

Just go to collaboration.bcrpa.bc.ca and get started – networking, exploring hot topics, searching for industry information, sharing documents, collaborating on ideas and projects, learning about grant opportunities, discussing best practices and more.

Get connected today.
The conversation has already begun...



collaboration.bcrpa.bc.ca



This year we are hosting Ripple Effects one day before the World Conference on Drowning Prevention. Discounted rates will be available if you are attending both events.

Workshops:

- Drowning Prevention
- Risk Management
- Staff Scheduling
- Staff Development
- Pool Maintenance Solutions
- And Much Much More!

OCTOBER 16, 2017
WESTIN BAYSHORE, VANCOUVER, BC

 [#ripeffects17](https://twitter.com/ripeffects17)

REGISTRATION WILL BE LAUNCHED
IN JUNE SO STAY TUNED!

bcrpa.bc.ca/ripple-effects



PoolSafeBC

NEW ONLINE FORMAT

elearn.bcrpa.bc.ca 



BCRPA, in partnership with the BC Municipal Safety Association, WorkSafeBC, Lifesaving Society and CUPE BC, is proud to present the **PoolSafeBC** course.

Why PoolSafe BC?

- Multiple hazards in aquatic environment
- Young Workers
- Injury and fatality statistics

The Goal

Aquatic centre staff will enhance their knowledge & skills to recognize, evaluate, and control hazards in pool settings in BC.

New Online Format

- Take the courses whenever, and wherever is most convenient to you
- Stop and start at your leisure, it will remember where you left off
- Print out a certificate immediately after successful completion
- Only \$40

Target Audience

- Maintenance Staff
- Lifeguards
- Aquatic Programmers

Suitable for anyone who works at an Aquatic Facility in British Columbia

Course Content

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Hazards
- Chemical Safety
- Emergency Preparation and Response
- Comprehension Test
- Participation Certificate at completion



Pool safety is everyone's responsibility!



For more information or to book a course, contact: BCRPA: 604 629-0965 ext 229 or parksandrec@bcrpa.bc.ca www.bcrpa.bc.ca

BCRPA pool operators

The BCRPA has revised and upgraded both
Level I & II Pool Operator courses.

All
pool operators
must have
appropriate
training
Sec 11.1.a of
BC Reg 296/2010

New Course Features include:

- New Participant Manuals
- BC-specific content
- References to the revised BC Pool Regulations and Guidelines



Contact the
BCRPA today!
604.629.0965
ext.229

Take a course today! View course offerings at www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop

BC RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

E-Learning thru the BCRPA

Learning where & when you want

• 24 hour access • Self-paced • Interactive

The BCRPA is now offering seven online courses.

- ▶ Aboriginal Cultural Relations – FREE
- ▶ BCRPA Shared Use Agreement Guide – FREE
- ▶ Engaging the Hard to Reach – \$25
- ▶ Healthy Choices – FREE
- ▶ Social Inclusion and Recreation – \$25
- ▶ PoolSafeBC – \$40
- ▶ Vulnerable Populations – FREE



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