

# RECREATION & PARKS BC

MAGAZINE

FALL 2017

# YOUTH

Page 12  
MOTIVATE CANADA  
CANADA'S YOUTH DRIVEN  
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



THE VOICE OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## JENNIFER WILSON



**WE, AS A SECTOR, ARE SO FORTUNATE TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, TOOLS, RESOURCES, MANDATE AND TRUST TO SHAPE THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH:**

...We are the activators of the best laid plans to foster healthy and vibrant youth.

...We provide the solutions with and for youth for many of the challenges youth face.

...We offer low cost activities to be active for life and develop lifelong skills.

...Our activities provide non-medical solutions to overcome youth depression and suicide.

...Risky play fosters exhilaration, confidence and competence.

...Our facilities provide safe places to hangout and for youth to make friends.

...Artistic pursuits increase youth's capacity for creativity, personal expressions, and intellectual development.

...Our services are often the entry point for youth employment, leadership and mentors.

Youth are the benefactors of the work that each we do - or is it us, for the privilege to make a difference?

We are so excited to bring you stories in this issue representing best practices from a national organization, a provincial entity, a big city and a youth leader himself that you can learn from and adopt in your own community.

**JENNIFER WILSON**

President, BCRPA  
Manager of Recreation & Culture Services, North Vancouver Recreation & Culture



"EXPERIENCES FROM OUR YOUTH SHAPE WHAT WE DO LATER IN LIFE"

- JAN KOUM



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# REBECCA TUNNACLIFFE



**COMMUNITY RECREATION** in our municipalities and regional districts is often our young peoples' first experience with public swimming, skating, sports, arts, crafts, and community celebrations. Our leaders in recreation and parks are keenly aware of the impact they make and the first impressions they make possible. BCRPA members are passionate about their role in the community, and particularly about their opportunity to ensure our youth feel included, welcomed, and nurtured.

Dedicating this edition of Recreation and Parks to youth shines a light on the work and impact of our community recreation sector. Indeed, community recreation started with kids, kids in playgrounds. Every community had a park, and every park had a playground. Today, we continue to lead the conversation on play and playground development. BCRPA's annual Parks Spring Training Workshop and Annual Symposium both consistently feature thought-leaders on playground evolution, and influence on community-building.

After the playgrounds, local governments built outdoor community pools. Our bi-annual aquatics conference, Ripple Effects, keeps pool practitioners on the

BCRPA members are passionate about their role in the community, and particularly about their opportunity to ensure our youth feel included, welcomed, and nurtured.

leading edge of aquatics trends and knowledge. This year was the rare occasion in which we bridged the Ripple Effects conference with the World Drowning Prevention Conference as we shared the international stage to hear from world leaders.

We round out our professional development for youth with our Youth Workers' Conference, newly branded as Empower YOUth. The conference builds skills and confidence among the leaders who in turn will empower the youth they lead.

These well-trained leaders are running many of the new Before and After School Recreation Spaces Programs this year, funded by the BC Government. In recreation centres and schools, this program creates new spaces for thousands of children to be engaged in recreation activities in the vulnerable hours between 3-5pm.

This back to school edition of our magazine offers a great chance to learn about some projects and programs happening across

Canada, provincially and at the municipal level.

From Vancouver, Erica Mark reveals some of the key initiatives happening from among 20 local associations. These best practices can be adopted in any sized community. Motivate Canada staff member, Lindsay Done, tells the story of their national youth-driven leadership not-for-profit organization in which British Columbian youth have been able to inspire their peers through their own projects in their local recreation facilities and parks. Rounding out the magazine is a profile of a youth-driven provincial body, the BC Games. Learn how this community led sport event brings out the best in communities and has lifelong benefits, especially for the youth involved.

Finally, we profile Justin Charles Wong, a BC representative on the Prime Minister's Youth Council and get his take on some pertinent youth issues for the parks and recreation sector.

**REBECCA TUNNACLIFFE**  
Chief Executive Officer, BCRPA

# COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD

**HOW DO WE CONNECT** with youth in a time when they are constantly plugged into technology? What does success in community youth development look like? How do we ensure youth are supported? These are questions professionals working with youth are constantly considering. This article will discuss how the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB) and its Community Youth Development Team have been working with community partners to address these questions.

While one can argue that society is more connected than ever, VPB Community Youth Workers have seen considerable changes in their youth's ability to connect and engage with peers and caring adults. The importance of relationship building, accessibility, inclusion, cultivating critical thinking and providing opportunities for youth to create and be involved in all aspects of program, event, and initiative development has become critical. It is no longer enough to plan a program, advertise it in a brochure and expect that youth will attend. Relationship building must occur and interactions need to be place based. To ensure we are meeting youth where they are at, the VPB employs 18 Community Youth Workers to work out of neighbourhood based community centres. These Youth Workers provide outreach services in the community and are connected to local schools and other youth serving organizations.



Marpole-Oakridge Youth Leadership Camp participants

Accessibility and inclusion are significant factors that affect whether youth will connect to services. For youth, accessibility means something different than what is normally considered accessible. Youth need to be met where they are at, connections need to be developed and then we can begin encouraging youth to come

and access opportunities provided by our agencies. In order for youth to feel welcomed and want to be in our space, these spaces need to be 'youth friendly.' This means that the plain multipurpose spaces that are so convenient for programming will not get youth excited about coming out. 'Youth friendly' spaces are spaces that youth



Mount Pleasant Community Centre Youth Mural Project 2015

can take ownership of, spaces that are available at times when youth want to access them, have equipment, furniture and decorations that they choose and that have staff that are friendly, approachable, relatable and show a genuine interest in everyone who walks through the door (Senderowitz, 1999). Another significant barrier for youth is program and drop-in fees. Families who are struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table are not able to pay for youth services no matter how beneficial these services may be. Until basic needs are met, the effectiveness of counseling, capacity building and leadership development will be minimal (Rotheram-Borus, 1991). With these accessibility principles in mind, we have attempted to ensure that there are 'youth friendly' spaces in our VPB community centres, that our youth workers have the time and flexibility to get out into the community and build relationships with local youth, that we have friendly approachable staff and that we offer drop-ins and programs as reasonably priced as possible.

**Families who are struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table are not able to pay for youth services no matter how beneficial these services may be.**

Another effective technique for connecting with youth is to empower them to initiate programming and to have a voice on issues that affect them. Youth know what they want, they know why they will or will not attend a program and they want to be heard. In 1999, De Rosa et al, reported that 78% of their sample of 296 street youth in Los Angeles, used drop-ins because the youth perceived them as providing greater flexibility, less paperwork, and less necessity to disclose personal information. This is the type of insight needed to provide meaningful direction on facilities and programming. Not only will youth ensure that programs are

tailored to youth but they will also be motivated to attend and do program promotion that an adult would never be able to do. VPB youth workers facilitate this process with local youth to increase their capacity and to develop fundamental employment related skills.

Success in community development is challenging to measure. The number of program participants does not adequately describe the quality of the interactions. We could have an open gym program that has 100 youth attending in an evening and while this type of program is beneficial and necessary, it is not necessarily more valuable than a one on one interaction in which a youth worker provides support to a suicidal youth. In 2003, Smith warned that focussing on numbers as outcomes could inadvertently alter the nature of youth work by diminishing relationship building and contact time with youth. For the VPB, success in community youth development is evaluated partially by quantitative data but also by qualitative data such as testimonials, increased involvement of youth at decision making tables and by feedback from participants and community partners.



VPB Youth Workers  
Suzy Parker and Matt Charan 2016



RISE Leader Research Project at the Vancouver Public Library 2017

## To ensure that youth have a voice, VPB Community Youth Workers provide a spectrum of opportunities for youth to develop their leadership skills.

To ensure that youth have a voice, VPB Community Youth Workers provide a spectrum of opportunities for youth to develop their leadership skills. A few examples of these opportunities include local youth councils, the City Wide Youth Council (CWYC) and the Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment (RISE) partnership. Local Youth Councils empower youth to develop

program proposals, implement programs and events, seek funding for space improvements and tackle issues affecting their community. The CWYC has youth from across the city meet monthly to take on issues that affect Vancouver youth and to provide youth voices in decision making. RISE is a partnership between the Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement

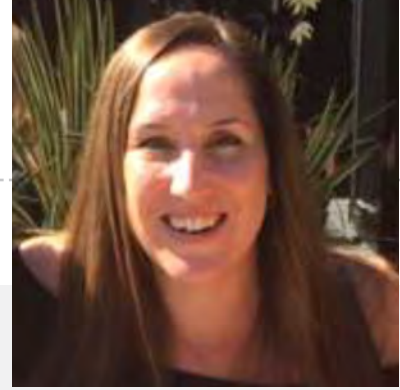
Society (ALIVE) and the VPB. RISE leaders are Aboriginal youth employed as paid staff through the VPB. They receive training, support and connections to employers for their continuing education. As a team, RISE leaders work to identify and support other Aboriginal community members and excluded groups to become connected to neighbourhood opportunities.

The hope is that through this initiative there will be a better understanding of social, economic and cultural assets provided by the urban Aboriginal community and the importance of involving Aboriginal youth, elders and families in community decisions and opportunities.

No one agency can support all youth. There needs to be a collaborative effort to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide supports for all youth. In Vancouver, there are several collective impact tables that bring service providers together to work on issues affecting youth:

The Youth Matters Forum was initiated in response to a suicide pact of 30 youth in 2013. Youth serving organizations now come together quarterly to develop and implement a community process based on the principles of accountability, engagement, inclusivity and place-based. Some issues being addressed include, confidentiality between organizations, ensuring accountable processes, engaging community in identifying systemic issues, ensuring wrap around services, and youth housing.





ERICA MARK

No one agency can support all youth. There needs to be a collaborative effort to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide supports for all youth.



VPB Youth Workers  
Diana Guenther, Jodi Gibson, Rosa Aravena

Transition in Resources, Relationships and Understanding Support Together (TRRUST), is a collective impact formed to address youth aging out of care. Meetings began in April 2014 in an attempt to achieve system-wide improvements in the outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care in Vancouver. TRRUST's vision is to invest in youth by creating equity of access to meaningful experiences, caring connections, and opportunities for growth based on individual needs, wants and readiness.

The VPB Youth Workers initiate monthly Youth Service Hub Meetings across Vancouver. The intent of these meetings is to get youth service providers in a geographical area

together to look at community trends, identify service gaps and problem solve ways to address these gaps. By coming together regularly, we reduce organizational silos, minimize duplication of services and have an opportunity for knowledge sharing.

In conclusion, community youth development is ever evolving but there are a few constants. Youth need to be involved in decision making; spaces need to be 'youth friendly;' staff need to be friendly and non-judgemental; programs need to be low cost or free; services need to be flexible and inclusive; and service providers need to work together to ensure that there is a safety net of services that support all youth.

(1) De Rosa, C. J., Montgomery, S. B., Kipke, M. D., Iverson, E., Ma, J. L., & Unger, J. B. (1999). Service utilization among homeless and runaway youth in Los Angeles, California: Rates and reasons. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 24*, 449-458. (2) Rotheram-Borus, M. J. (1991). Serving runaway and homeless youths. *Family and Community Health, 14*(3), 23-32. (3) Senderowitz, J. (February 1999) Making Reproductive Health Services Youth Friendly. *FOCUS on Young Adults* (4) Smith, M., K. (2003) From youth work to youth development. *Youth & Policy 79*, p46-59

**ERICA MARK** is the Community Youth Development Recreation Coordinator for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. Erica has been working with children and youth in several capacities out of multiple communities for the past 19 years. She is a passionate advocate for youth services and spends considerable time training staff to support youth. Contact [erica.mark@vancouver.ca](mailto:erica.mark@vancouver.ca)



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BC WINTER AND BC SUMMER GAMES

# EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT

**FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS** the BC Games Society has delivered exceptional experiences through sport, championing a movement that ignites a passion for sport and physical activity in young athletes and our communities. The BC Winter and BC Summer Games have brought together thousands of British Columbians for the experience of a lifetime where memories, friendships, spirit, and pride are abundant.



Founded in 1978 by Premier W.R. Bennett, the BC Winter and BC Summer Games were created as an opportunity to “bring all parts of B.C. together, large and small communities, in the spirit of sport and friendship.” This celebration and uniting of the province has been the foundation of the Games that have now been staged 60 times in 38 different host communities.

Children across the province become involved in sport through schools, recreation or club activities learning fundamentals and growing a love for sport and physical activity. When young athletes progress to the introductory levels of competitive sport, the BC Games provide an opportunity to compete at a provincial level in a multi-sport event.

The BC Games focus on youth development through sport was a fundamental shift in approach from the original mandate of a participation event for all ages. By targeting youth and providing a valuable competitive opportunity for young athletes, the BC Games have become a key step in

the athlete development pathway and part of the Sport for Life movement. BC Games athletes are an average of 14-years-old but range in age from 10-18 years depending on the sport. Athletes with a disability compete in select sports and youth are also involved as coaches and officials through mentorship programs offered by their Provincial Sport Organizations.

“I have seen the benefits of the Games for young athletes in Kamloops who train throughout the year for the chance to represent our community at the BC Games. They come home with a tremendous sense of pride of accomplishment and motivation to take on the next challenge,” said Byron McCorkell, City of Kamloops Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services and the Past Chair of the BC Games Society. “As the upcoming host of the 2018 BC Winter Games, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to provide additional physical literacy programming to ensure young children learn about the Games and the great experiences they can have by becoming involved in sport.”

...the BC Games have become a key step in the athlete development pathway and part of the Sport for Life movement.

The BC Games experience for a young athlete may provide the motivation to pursue sport to higher levels such as competing for Team BC at the Canada Games or ultimately representing Team Canada at the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Mission BC's Brent Hayden was involved in many sports as a child but swimming was always an important part of his life. In grade three, each student



Above: Youth officials and volunteers getting event experiences through the BC Games

in Brent's class was asked to stand up and state what they wanted to be when they grew up and he said "I want to swim in the Olympics!" After a trip to the 1998 BC Summer Games, Brent made the full commitment to swimming and went on to three Olympics including winning a historic bronze medal at the 2012 Olympic Summer Games in London.

"The BC Summer Games was the point in my development when I realized that I had the potential to go further. It was soon after that that I decided to switch from being a summer swimmer to training all year round. It is clear that I wouldn't have noticed my own potential without the BC Summer Games."

At the 2012 BC Summer Games, 14 year old Chanell Botsis of Coquitlam won three gold medals in athletics and was chosen as the recipient of the W.R. Bennett Award for her sport achievement and commitment to education and leadership. She continued to have outstanding results throughout high school and represented Team BC at the 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg winning a silver medal in

hammer throw. Now in her second year on an athletic scholarship at the University of Connecticut, she is studying biomedical engineering and competing on the track and field team with dreams of representing Canada at the Olympic Games.

While achieving excellence in sport is a focus of the Games, the experience is also about building essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, commitment, perseverance and problem solving. Children with a strong foundation in sport gain confidence, perform well academically, develop positive peer networks, and contribute back to their community.

Through a partnership with Coast Capital Savings, the BC Games Society created a bursary award program in 2014 to encourage and recognize outstanding youth leadership with 48 remarkable youth chosen as recipients since the program began. Jia Kim of Maple Ridge was recognized at the 2016 BC Summer Games where she competed in kayaking winning six medals. In addition to her dedication as an athlete, she also coaches at the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club and is

a volunteer instructor with the Sean Cadets contributing over 100 hours. This past summer she represented Team BC at the 2017 Canada Summer Games.

Jia described why she chooses to volunteer. "Volunteering has improved me in ways that are unimaginable and helped me to develop a new variety of skill sets. I love supporting an issue or objective that I care about. These experiences have led me to learn and appreciate more about the community I live in."

Beyond the development of young athletes, coaches, and officials, the BC Games also have an impact on community youth. The Games are organized and staged by 2000-3000 volunteers and host communities embrace the chance to involve youth as volunteers. High school students have been provided with a meaningful volunteer experience, the fulfillment of school credits, and often expose youth to a career pathway of interest.

As part of the Penticton 2016 BC Winter Games, a youth leadership program was developed involving

**CONTINUED: BC WINTER AND BC SUMMER GAMES:  
EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT**



LIA THRELFALL



(1) Olympian and former BC Games athlete, Brent Hayden (2) Youth referee (3) Jia Kim (4) Chanell Botsis (5) Youth volunteers (6) Coast Capital savings bursary recipients

35 high school students who learned public speaking skills and event coordination as they delivered BC Games Spirit Rallies and sport demonstrations to local elementary schools. These students also volunteered during the Games adding valuable skills and experiences.

One student in the program, Sam, struggled to attend school regularly as he has no set home and is constantly on the radar of schools as a student in need. When he was presented with his Games ambassador shirt he wore it every day partly because he was so proud, but also because he has so little. Sam is not an athlete and has never played organized sport in his life. But as many saw, his volunteer experience in the Games was literally life changing, as he grew into a confident young man and leader. For a child who has no real home, the Games connected Sam to his community in a way unlike any other experience.

“We are tremendously proud of the many athletes who have started their journey to international sport success at the BC Games,” said Kelly Mann, President and CEO of the BC Games Society. “But, for every athlete who reaches the Olympic or Paralympic podium, there are countless others who have taken their experience at the BC Games as an opportunity to pursue their dreams and goals outside of sport. Whether it is education, philanthropy, or business, we hope that tomorrow’s leaders will reflect on the inspiration and motivation they gained through the BC Games.”

2018 is the 40th anniversary of the BC Games and to mark the milestone the BC Games Society recently launched the Powering Potential Fund. There is no doubt that sport is a powerful driver for individual and community development; however, there are often significant financial barriers in its pursuit. The Powering Potential Fund

will strategically invest in projects that will continue to develop youth and sport in B.C. communities.

Join us at the 2018 BC Winter Games taking place in Kamloops, February 22-25 and the 2018 BC Summer Games in Cowichan, July 19-22. For more information about the BC Games visit [www.bcgames.org](http://www.bcgames.org).

**LIA THRELFALL** is the Communications Manager for the BC Games Society and is passionate about the value of sport and physical activity for our children and our communities. She has managed communications strategies and media relations at 15 BC Games as well as the Canada Games and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. A patriotic Canadian and a Games mascot collector, Lia shares her love of sport with her two active children.



Y O U T H

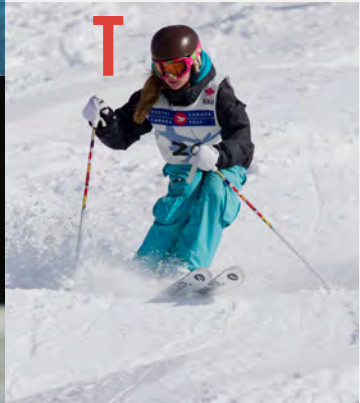


Photo: BC Games Society

MOTIVATE CANADA

# CANADA'S YOUTH DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



**FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS** in 1989 as a single program in British Columbia, when an Olympic wrestler drove his little red truck across the province inspiring kids in schools, Motivate Canada has since reached over 2 million young people across Canada and abroad, incubating and delivering numerous leadership development initiatives for youth, by youth, and becoming one of the most effective and innovative networks for change in the country.

## ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Since its inception in 1994 as the Esteem Team, Motivate Canada has worked in partnership with like-minded organizations, including the Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre and Britannia Community Services Centre in Vancouver, to make a difference and enrich the lives of young people and their communities. Grounded in more than two decades of research, development and piloting programs, Motivate Canada has incubated a proven methodology to engage Canadian youth in their own personal development and the development of their communities through the power of positive youth role models, youth innovation, and sport and physical literacy.

Founder and Olympic Wrestler, Chris Wilson, created the Esteem Team program when he developed a desire to give back to the community. He set-off across BC sharing the story of his life with thousands of youth – the hardships, achievements, struggles

and the glory, to engage and motivate them to set and achieve their goals. The Esteem Team has since been one of Motivate Canada's core national programs and has expanded to a roster of over 80 Olympic, Paralympic and National Level athletes who continue to share the message of S.M.A.R.T. goal setting, in addition to other messages centred on positive youth development.

In 2001 Lisa Ling, former Karate World Champion and fellow Esteem Team role model, grew the mandate of the organization to include an emphasis on Youth-Driven Development, inspiring the incubation of two new national initiatives: ACTIVATE National Youth Leadership Forums (2004) and the GEN7 Indigenous Youth Role Model program (2005). From a pioneering Olympian to a national charitable organization, Motivate Canada has since focused on Youth Driven Development™ – an innovative framework for youth empowerment and leadership that has three proven concepts:

### POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Young people as problem solvers, not problems to be solved

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ADULTS

Let go, allowing young people to run the show

### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

Communities decide how to spend resources to help themselves

Enter Lauren Powell (pictured above), a second-year Biology student at the University of Victoria and a prime example of the magic of youth-driven development.

In 2015, the summer before her grade 12 year, Lauren attended a Motivate Canada ACTIVATE Leadership Forum in Vancouver. Over the course of three days, Lauren was given the tools, knowledge and encouragement, but most importantly, she was given a voice to put together a Community Action



LINDSAY DONE

## Motivate Canada has incubated a proven methodology to engage Canadian youth in their own personal development and the development of their communities

Project with the intention of running the initiative in her community centred around Britannia Secondary School and Community Centre. That initiative became known as Girls Got Game, and with the help of a few volunteers, Lauren's action plan became reality. Girls Got Game introduces girls in grades 4-7 to sports not offered at their school and that are typically not accessible to those with financial barriers, such as yoga, skating, swimming and self-defence. Lauren was able to identify a need in her community and used the assets available to her when others may not have been as resourceful or optimistic. The program would not have been possible without the support, cooperation and resources of the Britannia Community Centre Services and staff. Indeed, the unique partnership and collaborative model that governs the educational, recreational, library and social services of the 17 acre complex is key to the success of this new program. Instead of a operating as a silo, the locally elected Board of Management uses a coordinated approach which is perfect for programs envisaged by the community for the community. When asked about how her life has changed since attending ACTIVATE, Lauren attributes the Forum for where she is at today. As one of 20 students in Canada who received

a full-ride scholarship thanks to the TD Leadership Scholarship Fund, she says "every day I wake up and get an education not worried about debt, or not being able to afford it. Without creating Girls Got Game, with the help and motivation from ACTIVATE, I am unsure of what my life today may look like as, I come from a single mother household with low income." Needless to say, Lauren has shared the gift of youth-driven development with peers in her community as the Girls got Game initiative lives on even in her absence.

The GEN7 Indigenous Youth Role Model Program is another youth-driven initiative of Motivate Canada that trains Indigenous youth on how to be a mentor/role model and how to engage other Indigenous youth in healthy living and the development of life skills. It builds self-esteem, leadership capacity, community-connectedness and resiliency in the Indigenous youth

who become GEN7 Messengers, and they in turn use the power of sport and physical activity to educate and develop life skills in the youth they engage with in their communities. The use of peer mentors has been validated as an extremely effective way to support Indigenous youth in the development of skills and competencies necessary to succeed in life.

GEN7 Role Models are Indigenous youth between the ages of 18-30. They are elite or life-long athletes with a strong background working with young people and are well connected with their culture and traditions. They are role models who are recruited, selected and trained to inspire other Indigenous youth through the sharing of personal experiences. One of the program's most recent participants, Skylar Hookimawillillene, has an inspiring story of courage and resiliency that many young people, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike can relate to, and learn from.

Within Attawapiskat First Nation, Skylar is a beacon of light. The 20 year old student has known hard times but he is choosing a path to better things.

# GEN7 ROLE MODELS ARE INDIGENOUS YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-30

Shortly before Skylar was to attend his first Motivate Canada Forum in 2016, his 12 year old sister tragically ended her life. "I felt hopeless, like there was nowhere to go, no one to talk to. I lost my confidence and started having anxiety attacks." Many people would crumble under these circumstances but he pressed on, vowing to help those around him. Skylar, along with two other youth from Attawapiskat, were selected to attend an ACTIVATE National Forum in Ottawa. According to Skylar, ever since his experience with Motivate Canada it has, "really boost me up in my confidence, boost me up in my spirit, letting me know that there's hope out there."

Skylar returned to Attawapiskat and started to put his new skill set and resources to use, informally engaging the youth in his community by inviting them to join him for walks and announcing on social media when there would be an open gym. In June 2016, he was trained at a GEN7 Regional Gathering at ACTIVATE Nishnawbe Aski Nation in Atikokan, Ontario. From there, he was selected to attend the Regional Gathering in

Recreation Centres, more often than not, are the places for our youth to engage with their community and the perfect setting for many of Motivate Canada's programs, projects and experiences. If you know of some great youth who would benefit from Motivate Canada's programs, please spread the word. For more information on Motivate Canada and how you can get involved, visit the website [www.motivatecanada.ca](http://www.motivatecanada.ca)

Timmins, ON where he was a youth mentor, leading various workshops and sessions. "It felt like I was finally a part of something." Skylar is now working to implement a basketball program in Attawapiskat for his peers. For more of Skylar's story, please check out his video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdW1MEalxEM>



Motivate Canada's new CEO, Lisa Kwiatkowski, shares her vision for the future of Motivate Canada and Youth-Driven Development:

"When we think about leadership or role models, we often think about the "elite" who have rightfully earned their place after years of perseverance and perspiration, to reach the top of that podium. But when I think about Chris, Lisa, Ian, Lauren and Skylar – while their accomplishments are certainly remarkable – what is even more

powerful for me is that they made a choice to use their voice and use their experience to make their communities a better place for other youth while they are young themselves. Where we often miss the mark in the design and delivery of youth programming, is not putting the youth out front from the very beginning. What happens when adults let go? What happens when we unlock the innovation potential that youth have in abundance (and quite frankly we lose over time)? In 24 years of operation, we've learned that our communities become more vibrant. Youth become more resilient. They learn to trust themselves. And they learn that their contributions are vital, not just token."

**LINDSAY DONE** is the Ontario Program Manager for Motivate Canada and holds degrees in Health Promotion, Education and is currently completing her Masters in Public Health. She is passionate about positive youth development, specifically, how the social determinants influence child and adolescent health. Outside of the office, she enjoys running, playing basketball and spending time with her husband and two sons.



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## WHEREABOUTS... PEOPLE AND PLACES OF BCRPA

**Willa Thorpe** joins the City of Port Alberni as Director, Parks, Recreation and Heritage. She previously was with the City of Prince George as the Director of Recreation and Community Services. Following the retirement of **Mandy Johns**, The Town of Comox has promoted **Ted Hagmeier** to Recreation Director. Ted previously was the Recreation Supervisor in Comox. **Diane Rogers** retired officially as Recreation Manager in Quesnel on June 30 2017. With her husband's recent retirement, they have both been training for the El Camino De Santiago; an 800 km pilgrimage in Spain. For more than a thousand years, pilgrims have trekked over the high plains of Castilla and the hills of Galicia, some to honor the Apostle James; others in the midst of their own spiritual journey. **Richard Gauthier** has been selected as her replacement. The City of Richmond announced the following new appointments: **Paul Penner** is the Program Manager, Community Social Development; the Accessibility Coordinator is **Donna Lee**, the Research Planner is **Suzanna Kaptur** and **Gilbert Savoie** is the new Functional Analyst.

# BCRPA REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

## LOWER MAINLAND



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### NORTH VANCOUVER

North Vancouver Recreation & Culture opened its newest Community Recreation Centre last spring. Standing as a gateway to William Griffin Park, Mosquito Creek and local trails, Delbrook Community Recreation Centre is centrally located and perfect for walking, cycling or taking transit to. The Delbrook Centre opened its doors in May 2017 and replaces the old William Griffin Recreation Centre. Built by the District of North Vancouver, the new facility's sustainable and accessible design connects people to the natural environment and provides a sense of community for all who visit. The 98,000 square foot centre features a state of the art aquatics facility, fitness centre, gymnasium, racquet courts, art and pottery studios, licensed preschool and many multi-purpose spaces for recreation and cultural activities. It also features three public art installations by local and international artists. A successful, new Volunteer Host program was launched when the facility opened to provide facility tours to community members and an official opening celebration was held on June 24, 2017.

Watch the video.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBzVIJTfw0E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBzVIJTfw0E)

### MISSION

The District of Mission celebrated its 125th anniversary this year with a variety of special events in the community. The festivities kicked off with a Heritage Picnic which coincided with its incorporation date on June 2, 1892. Council and community members joined the fun in 1890's dress and participated in old fashioned games, a watermelon eating contest, old time entertainment, historical and vintage displays and storytelling. The picnic was the kick-off to



*Queensborough Community Centre's Canada 150 knitting project*

a "Season of Celebration" in Mission held in September during Culture Days. The Department has provided small grants to over 20 community groups to create either a new event or enhance an existing event which celebrates the anniversary. Additionally the Department has commissioned a piece of public art which was installed in its downtown.

Mission Parks, Recreation & Culture has contracted with Stantec to work on a new Master Plan to guide the Department over the next 10 – 15 years. The Plan is expected to be completed at year end.

Another large project for the Department is its changeover from CLASS software to PerfectMind which has just begun with a "go live" date in March 2018.

### NEW WESTMINSTER

The Canada 150 Small Grant inspired a group of knitters at the Queensborough Community Centre to knit a project for the community. The knitters met every week, comprised of seniors, adults and even the occasional youth. Everyone worked hard for 3 months to knit, with love, 150 red and white cotton washcloths. The washcloths were then displayed on a clothes line at the Queensborough Children's Festival in June, and given away to anyone who wrote or drew a picture to describe what they love about Canada. In the end we were left with a clothes line

filled with all of the wonderful things people love about Canada.

### RICHMOND

Richmond celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation with over 60 events and community initiatives. Throughout June, Richmond City Hall Plaza blossomed with a tribute to the biodiversity and beauty of Richmond's native ecology "Our Home and Native Bloom." Visitors were invited to enjoy "Fluvial Fan" a pop-up garden composed of over 4,500 plants incorporating 14 native species. The design was conceived by landscape architecture students from the University of British Columbia who were selected through an open design charrette competition. A program of musical performances, educational talks and family-friendly art activities activated the plaza during the exhibition period, culminating in a public 2-day plant sale.

Rock and Roll High School came to Richmond this year as part of the City's Canada 150 celebrations. The Richmond Canada 150 High School Concert Series visited local secondary schools and featured headline performances by a popular local band. The series was produced in partnership with School District No.38 and fully funded through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada 150 Fund. Each school appointed students to an event steering committee and they had the opportunity to take on different roles to learn about event manage-

ment including marketing the event to their school, stage management and sponsorship opportunities.

The Richmond Community Celebration Fund was established to help Richmond based non-profit organizations and neighbourhood groups plan and execute activities and events to create lasting memories of Canada's 150th anniversary. Forty-eight recipients were provided funding to support events taking place throughout the year.

In May, Mayor Brodie hosted the ninth annual Richmond Arts Awards ceremony, honouring the achievements and contributions to the arts by individuals, organizations and local businesses. Six award recipients were selected out of 89 nominations and recognized both well-established institutions and rising stars in Richmond's art scene. The ceremony featured an address by Christopher Gaze and performances by Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, Rob Fillo, Richmond Youth Dance Company and YC Chinese Orchestra. This year's winners include Tony Bowden (Arts Education), Border Free Bees (Artistic Innovation), Lansdowne Centre (Business and the Arts), Community Arts Council of Richmond (Cultural Leadership), Nan Baardsen (Volunteerism) and Anna Toth (Youth Arts).

[www.richmond.ca/artsawards](http://www.richmond.ca/artsawards)

The City and the Richmond Museum Society celebrated the 10th Doors Open Richmond, showcasing the diversity of the city's heritage, arts and culture on June 2 to 4, 2017. The event opened Friday evening at the Richmond Cultural Centre with more than 1,150 visitors enjoying live music and performances, crafts and food trucks.

Forty-nine organizations at 42 sites opened their doors over the weekend for free to give visitors unique experiences. With the help of over 200 volunteers, Doors Open Richmond attracted 16,285 site visits and received a 98% approval rating from visitors. Seven new sites participated this year. [www.richmond.ca/doorsopen](http://www.richmond.ca/doorsopen)

On May 31, 2017, the City of Richmond was one of three Canadian cities to receive the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessible Cities Award. Since

the 1980s, Richmond has adopted policies to improve accessibility by going beyond minimum accessibility standards in the built environment. Today, accessibility and inclusion are themes embedded throughout City planning documents. These strategies emphasize the need for accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods to facilitate aging in place, improve access to programs and services and respond to community members of all abilities. The Richmond Olympic Oval was inducted into the Circle of Excellence as a best practice in universal design. [www.rickhansen.com/Our-Work/Accessible-Cities-Award](http://www.rickhansen.com/Our-Work/Accessible-Cities-Award)

### CHILLIWACK

The City of Chilliwack was excited to participate in the Canada 150 Mosaic Program and had over 300 people come and put their touch on special ceramic tiles that when compiled depicted a rendering of Mt. Cheam, a rail car full of corn and a salmon leaping from the river - all images reflective of what Chilliwack means to the community. The mosaic was unveiled at the July 1, 2017 Canada Day.

Canada Day in Chilliwack also presented an opportunity for the Grand Opening of the new spray park at The Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre. The project was funded through a partnership between the Federal Government and the City of Chilliwack and came in with in the \$475,000 budget. The giant dump bucket proved to be a great hit with the children and offered respite from the heat.

With the increase in popularity of the Neighbourhood Grant Program as well as special events being hosted by various community organizations the City was able to hire a new Community Coordinator to help facilitate any requests brought forward by the hosts. Ted Chu successfully parlayed his programming experience he earned working with the West Vancouver Board of Education and made sure the City of Chilliwack was able to foster continued growth in dynamic activity around the community.

### SURREY

The Surrey Environmental Extravaganza turned 20 this year! With over 125 free nature-themed events held between Earth Day in April and World Oceans Day in June, this year's Extravaganza offered lots of fun for everyone. This annual series brings together City staff and local environmentally-focused groups to promote nature learning, exploration, and volunteerism throughout Surrey. [www.surrey.ca/extravaganza](http://www.surrey.ca/extravaganza) to learn more.

### PORT COQUITLAM

The 2nd Annual PoCo Grand Prix was held in July, with thousands of people converging on the downtown for a day of professional cycling, live entertainment and free family activities. This event is in partnership with a community planning committee and M1 Sports Management. The criterion-style race features a mass start on a 1.3-kilometre circuit that cyclists



*Participants at the Surrey Environmental Extravaganza*

navigate for 40-65 laps. Approximately 200 male and female professional cyclists whiz by about every minute, making for an exhilarating spectator experience. The kids' race with over 200 participants and the corporate challenge with over 25 teams provide opportunities for all levels of riders to get involved. There was also an amazing selection of live entertainment, activities, and food. For more information, contact Glenn Mitzel, Area Recreation Manager and Race Co-Director ([mitzelg@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:mitzelg@portcoquitlam.ca)) or Lori Bowie, Director of Recreation ([bowel@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:bowel@portcoquitlam.ca)) who are happy to share what they've learned so far.

Port Coquitlam is excited to break ground on the 205,000 square foot Recreation Complex Project. This phased-in project is being built around existing facilities to ensure community access to services including seniors', programs, arena programs and the library are interrupted as little as possible. Staff have been focused on customer "TLC" while adapting to a series of partial demolitions, parking restrictions and interior alterations to create temporary program spaces. Starting off with the demolition of half of the Wilson Centre where a majority of seniors' programs are offered and the loss of two thirds of the facility parking has been a real test of the problem solving capacity and flexibility of the on-site recreation staff team. With big smiles and a keen focus on sharing the many new features the new building will offer the community, staff navigate through a daily dose of patron excitement and, at times, disappointment. As much as the finish date of summer 2021 seems so far off, the first phase opening planned for Winter 2019 keeps the team energized! Stop by for a visit if you are in Port Coquitlam; as the signs say, yes! we are still open. <https://www.portcoquitlam.ca/city-government/capital-projects/community-recreation-complex-project/>

## ABBOTSFORD

The City of Abbotsford and Fraser Health, along with key community stakeholders, Abbotsford Division of Family Practice, Abbotsford School District, Abbotsford Community Services, and Sumas First Nation received a Fraser Health Active Community grant in the amount of \$30,000



*Abbotsford Parks staff and volunteers plan a viewing platform*

for "Abbotsford Walks." This project aims to increase opportunities for citizens to be active, increase participation in physical activity, encourage and support physical activity leadership in the community, build capacity to help others be physically active, access barriers to physical activity faced by community members and improve social connectedness and mental well-being.

The 2016 BC Summer Games Legacy Funds totaled \$150,000. The disbursement of these funds included: \$60,000 to Abbotsford Community Foundation for the creation of the BCSG 2016 Sports Legacy Fund made available to support school-aged athletes, teams and programs across the community of Abbotsford. \$37,000 was granted to the City of Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture to assist with the upgrade of Grant Park baseball diamond to become a multi-diamond park for youth/developmental leagues. In cooperation with the Abbotsford Angels Baseball Association, this facility will include adaptations for athletes with a disability to participate in the Challenger Baseball League. \$33,000 was awarded to the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in conjunction with PacificSport Fraser Valley to create a high performance training facility at UFV for university and community usage. Finally, \$20,000 was given to the REACH Gallery and Museum to assist with facility upgrades of the cultural centre.

Urban Systems was awarded the contract for the PRC Master Plan and is working with staff and the Plan for 200K team to complete an integrated approach to planning services, infrastructure, delivery options, and establishing priorities and new options as the community grows to 200,000 people. There are four phases to the plan: Background Research; Exploring Options; Draft Plan; and Final Plan. The goal for the PRC Masterplan is to provide an innovative and comprehensive long-term vision and plan for the delivery of recreation and culture facilities, parks, sports fields, trails, urban forests, cemeteries, playgrounds and open green spaces for the City of Abbotsford. Approximately 280 stakeholders (sports groups, community festivals, social services, health, education, art performing arts, heritage groups etc.) have been involved in the first phase of the consultation and 1,270 participated in the first online survey. The Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club and the City of Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture Team will host a ground breaking ceremony to recognize the contributions that have resulted in the Club's successful fund raising for the building of the viewing platform in the park. This ceremony will also announce the contribution of a Western Canadian business organization whose community project funding program has selected this project out of approximately 1,000 applications, as one of 27 worthy of their financial support.

## NORTH COAST / NECHAKO



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### PRINCE RUPERT

The Prince Rupert Recreation Complex completed the majority of capital projects. Staff have received great feedback on the updated ice quality due to the projects completed in the arena. Projects included new lights, a low-e ceiling and updated washrooms, de-humidifier, dressing rooms and showers in the Arena. The installation of accessibility lifts on two staircases, making the top floor and fitness centre accessible to all is still forthcoming.

### BURNS LAKE

The Lakeside Multiplex is the proud new home of a second auto-belay which will help to increase accessibility to the wall during busy service times. Other facility improvements include a newly refinished squash court floor and brand new siding on the east side of the multiplex.

### SMITHERS

Field users were excited to start playing on the newly constructed Chandler Park soccer field this summer and are looking forward to the completion of Phase 2 this fall which will include fencing and the creation of an additional practice field. A partnership between the Recreation Department and a number of local instructors to offer free Yoga & Movement classes in the Park has been a big hit and will be leading to more recreational programming for residents. Children and parents alike are excited to be registering for the new After School Activity Camps with hopes of being able to expand the program to all schools.

### TERRACE

Renovations at the Terrace & District Aquatic

Centre are moving along with the expected opening still early in 2018. The Rotary Splash Park and the Kinsmen Playground were officially opened on August 19, although they were enjoyed by throngs of people during Riverboat Days with the mini heat wave! More than 50 events, including Movie in the Park, were enjoyed by many during the 10-day Riverboat Days celebration. Noon hour Yoga in the Park was a huge success for the summer months, moving into the band shell in inclement weather. Old tennis courts were refurbished into Pickle Ball courts and have seen an abundance of use. The 37th Terry Fox Run was on September 17.

## CARIBOO



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### QUESNEL

The facility has been a full out ESS Reception Centre since July 7th. The City has accommodated many displaced people and for the most part staff have been doing everything in their power to make an unbearable situation...bearable. It goes to show what community really is all about as many community members have stepped up as well as businesses! Although not without hiccups, the facility has assisted many people with vouchers and assistance in order to stay with family and friends or move on to Prince George. Many people from the 100 Mile and Williams Lake area have been met with news of lost homes. One can't put into words how saddened staff were for them to have to go through such a painful situation. As a facility even a simple act of a free coffee/water, free shower or swim for their children seems very appreciated to all at this time.

Staff have been running the Imagination Park Summer Program which has been full with wait lists. With many displaced visitors in the city

free/toonie drop in programs were provided for as many people as possible. Included activities were: pool games, volleyball, Arts & Crafts, Lego drop in, outdoor games, and board games. Two river rafting excursions with a local rafting company for a \$20 adult fee and free for children for evacuees were offered. This was a hit and couldn't have been done without the generosity of local business. The 3rd Annual Cariboo Elite Hockey Camps were scheduled in August. Fantastic on ice instructors returned and this year a dryland fitness component for all participants was introduced.

The building of the new West Fraser Centre Arena continues; completion was set for early September on time and on budget to date. A grand opening celebration with a concert and a Canucks alumni game is planned. The Sunday will include activities for all ages: tailgate party, arena tours, public skating, entertainment, food vendors, Sports Hall of Fame ceremony and more. We are looking forward to a very busy Fall and great Winter.

### WILLIAMS LAKE

After being on Evacuation Alert, then on Evacuation Order, back to Alert, and finally having the Evacuation Alert rescinded – it was a very interesting summer. Our hearts go out to all those who have been impacted by the wildfires this year. Many staff have a new understanding of what is important in life; and what can be replaced. On the good news side, residents remained patient, supportive of emergency service efforts and were ready to help out at a moment's notice. The Recreation Complex housed 300 very independent, friendly military personnel, City Hall hosted RCMP and the Curling Rink was home to so many firefighters from all over Canada, and beyond there are not enough thank-yous that can be given.

Meanwhile; Phase One of the Pool Upgrade project was completed. The new lap pool and swirl pool have been used as a great place that provided residents a reprieve out of the smokey outdoors. The new fitness area is consistently busy, with lots of clean air as well. Staff are looking forward to the opening of Phase Two; project completion in October 2017.

Ice making is well underway, with many programs being planned for both spectators and skaters. The new Recreation Attendant position will be supervising public skates, helping supervise the slide tower at the pool and a great asset to our special event programs. The new Sip n Slide program will be just one of the many outdoor fun programs this winter.

## VANCOUVER ISLAND & SOUTH COAST REGION



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## WEST SHORE

West Shore Parks and Recreation successfully ran several youth programs. Some of the most popular programs were the leadership programs, such as Home Alone courses and Babysitters', courses. These continue to run with great enthusiasm from the youth and the community. The goal is to help prepare young adults for more responsibility and leadership within their homes and communities. Another area in which saw consistency with youth was in the Friday Night Teen Drop In. Youth are excited about a great space to hang out, be themselves, be active, meet new people and have fun. This program runs out of one of the Neighbourhood Learning Centres at Royal Bay Secondary School. Within this space there is a designated youth space that is not only used for Teen Drop-in but is a great space for youth to come for meetings and gathering during lunch hours and breaks. Staff hope to continue to build the relationships with the schools and provide further programs and support to the students, families and faculty.

## Regional District of Nanaimo

The public survey phase of the District 69 Recreation Services Master Plan is now complete and work to draft the plan has begun. The public

survey was mailed to residents earlier this year and more than 1,600 responses were received. In addition, 60 community group questionnaires and over 29 stakeholder interviews have been completed with more still to come. The plan will help guide the direction, philosophy, policies, priorities, and actions for the RDN's recreation services in District 69 over the next 10 years. The Plan will be based on the feedback received from the community and a draft is scheduled to be presented through a number of community engagement sessions in September and October. For more information visit [www.rdn.bc.ca/recreationmasterplan](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/recreationmasterplan).

## University of Victoria (Uvic)

The School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education (EPHE) at UVic has developed a new undergraduate course in Physical Literacy for their Recreation and Health Education students. The Physical Literacy for All course will be piloted in January and will prepare students to design, implement, and evaluate physical literacy programs for children and youth in the community. In the Fall 2017, EPHE is adding a FUNDamentals (physical activity and motor skills development) program for children with developmental disabilities aged 7 – 12 years to the existing Active Start program for children 2 – 6 years. For more information about the Active Start and FUNDamentals programs contact Vivienne Temple [vtemple@uvic.ca](mailto:vtemple@uvic.ca). In other news, the PLAY (Physical Literacy and You) Group Victoria, OneAbility, and EPHE and Vikes Athletics and Recreation are collaborat-

ing to host a Physical Literacy Symposium on Oct 20, 2017 at UVic, with support from an RBC Learn to Play Grant. This full day symposium will provide practical training for leaders in recreation, health, sport, education, and early childhood education, and will cover topics such as physical literacy 101, group management, positive behaviour support, and inclusive physical literacy (e.g. working with participants with a disability, Aboriginal peoples, young females). For more information contact Emily Rand at [emily@sportforlife.ca](mailto:emily@sportforlife.ca).

## KOOTENAYS



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## CRESTON

The Creston & District Community Complex has developed a multi-phase concept plan, in conjunction with Spectrum Skateparks, New Line Skateparks and van der Zalm & Associates Inc., that includes a new skatepark, natural playground, sport courts, picnic & seating areas and accessible trails. First phase funding has been secured and construction is anticipated to begin in 2018.



Active Start parachute games with parents, children, and UVic students

At the start of 2017, the Regional District of Central Kootenay assumed operations of the Creston Valley Visitors Centre in downtown Creston and over the past months has started to streamline the service in its newly renovated space. The Centre sees well over 4000 visitors per month in the bustling months of July and August.

The 'Move to Improve' Parkinson's program has been running for one year now and the exceptionally dedicated group has seen incredible changes including: decrease in falls, improvement in speed, balance, flexibility, strength and confidence.

November 4th will see Creston's 5th Annual Health and Wellness Fair! A great place that healthy-minded groups, organizations, and businesses can share new ideas, services and information. Guest speakers will delight and educate people on how to live a much healthier lifestyle.

CDCC is enhancing their relationship with the award winning Creston Valley Farmers Market (CVFM) by hosting the Market indoors through the fall and winter, providing a warm welcoming venue with ample parking. The CVFM was named BC's Best Medium Sized Market for 2016 and as well, the Manager, Jen Comer, was named BC's Market Manager of the year.

## THOMPSON / OKANAGAN



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## ARMSTRONG SPALLUMCHEEN

The Armstrong Spallumcheen Parks and Recreation Commission partnered with the Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) to upgrade the Historic Red Grandstands on the fair grounds. The Grandstand project addressed structural concerns and featured new stairs, end rails and

handrails. With the repairs, the grandstand will be around for generations to enjoy. The City of Armstrong hosted the 118th IPE in September. Immediately following the Fall Fair, the City and Township partnered as host with the Vernon and area BC 55+ Games. Events held in the City of Armstrong and the Township of Spallumcheen were Equestrian, Table Tennis, Darts, Ice Hockey, Cycling and Archery. Armstrong is currently working towards creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The focus will be on long-term facility management strategies, service levels and public need. It is anticipated that the plan will be complete by late 2018 or early 2019. Fall programs have been very popular. The North Okanagan Knights Junior B team kicked off their season at Norval Arena September 9th. Pickleball is full with offerings 4 nights a week and youth indoor soccer is also near capacity. Upcoming special events include the Annual Pumpkin Run, Demo Derby and indoor motocross. Armstrong has partnered with the Silver Star Freestyle club and is offering trampoline sessions on the in the C/S complex. The Vernon Pigeon and Poultry Club hosted the Canadian National championships October 13-14. The indoor skate park is opening November 17th. Armstrong is the only indoor skate park in the North Okanagan and is heavily used through the winter. Armstrong also has a Roller Derby Tournament scheduled November 25th featuring all clubs from up and down the valley battling it out to determine the best Roller Derby Team in the Okanagan. In Armstrong Everyone plays!

## Oliver Parks and Recreation

On National Tree Day, Wednesday Sept 27, Oliver Parks and Recreation Society celebrated a successful grant application to Tree Canada for the "Oliver Has Roots" project with a tree planting ceremony and the planting of approximately 75 trees in the north end of Lion's Park. A community-driven fundraising campaign for a new playground designed for 2-5 year olds has reached its target of \$100K in just under a year. An RFP for the project went out in September. Oliver Parks and Recreation Society's Operations Committee will review the submission and then an advisory committee made up of sponsors, parents and child services professionals will review the submissions and provide

feedback on the criteria and general fit for the community. Installation of the new playground in Community Park is set for late fall. A new off-leash dog park is being established in Lion's Park this October. Changes to the Animal Control Bylaw, which will add the new facility and remove the two premier fenced ball diamonds currently being used as an off-leash area, take effect on November 1. A BCRPA After School Spaces Grant was received for a new outdoor-based "Small Wonders" program which is set to start in the middle of September. Recreation staff are busy planning the "Scareview" Halloween event, one of 15 annual special events run by the organization.

## PEACHLAND

The spring freshet flooding of 2017 had a significant impact on Peachland. Parks staff was seconded for eight weeks to assist in flood management and asset protection along the waterfront. Several of the Districts iconic "blue docks" were significantly damaged or destroyed in the event. As well, the shoreline was dramatically altered as large amounts of rip rap were needed on the shoreline to prevent damage to municipal infrastructure. Structures are being assessed and a recovery plan is being put in place. The District is mid-way through a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The final plan is expected to be presented to Council by the end of the year. Jennifer Wilson Consulting partnered with Lees and Associates to develop the plan. The District refurbished two tennis courts and built two new Pickleball Courts in Lambly Park. This project was made possible with financial support from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. The District was also successful in receiving funding from the BC Hydro Community ReGreening Grant. Five new trees will be planting in Lambly Park as part of our Canopy Succession plan. In partnership with the Peachland Historical Society, historical signage is being created for local street signs telling the story about person the road is named for.

## PENTICTON

The City of Penticton has completed Draft 2 of their Parks & Recreation Master Plan which is in its final review process this Fall. The Penticton Public Sculpture Exhibit was on launched on

May 6 that features 6 sculptures on display for one year along the Okanagan Lake waterfront. Penticton hosted the ITU Multisport Championships August 18-27. The 10-day event featured six World Championship races and hosted more than 3,600 athletes from 42 different countries. Penticton also hosted Canada's longest open water lake swim on August 13. The Skaha Lake Ultra Swim is an 11.8k point-to-point open water swim from Skaha Lake beach to Okanagan Falls. In August, Penticton celebrated its biggest Peach Festival line-up of events ever in recognition of its 70th year. Penticton city staff provided great support to the Hallmark film crews in July that created international buzz of rave reviews/mentions on the "spectacular" Okanagan Valley by the film's lead actress on the Today Show: <http://news.totabc.org/2017/08/15/the-okanagan-receives-great-reviews-on-the-today-show/>

## VERNON

The City of Vernon hosted the 55+ BC Games with over 3500 athletes participating. The Kal Tire Place Arena Expansion Project in Vernon is moving along on time and on budget. The project was approved in November of 2015 through a referendum with 57% of voters being in favour of adding a 400 seat arena as a second ice sheet on to the existing Kal Tire Place. The project is funded by the Greater Vernon area communities of Vernon, Coldstream and Area B & C. As per the Design, Build, Operate and Maintain Agreement with the Regional District of North Okanagan, the City of Vernon is solely responsible for the design, construction and operation of the project. VVI Construction Ltd of Kelowna was the successful bidder on the project at a fixed contract price of \$11,806,300. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 24, 2017 and the project is expected to be complete fall 2018. Kal Tire, the current naming rights sponsor for the main building, has signed a ten year agreement for the naming rights to both the main building Kal Tire Place and the as yet named new facility (currently being referred to as Kal Tire North) which will become the home of Greater Vernon Minor Hockey. The facility also boasts two commercial lease spaces of 3150 square feet and a 1850 square feet.

## NORTHEAST



Karin Carlson  
250.787.8179  
KCarlson@fortstjohn.ca

## PEACE REGION

The World Under-17 Hockey Championships will be hosted in the Peace Region this fall. Dawson Creek and Fort St John will host the Hockey Canada event for 15-17 males from November 5 – November 11th. Eight teams will compete for the right to claim 'world champion' including the USA, Russia, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic and three Canadian teams.

Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, Fort St John, Dawson Creek and the Peace region minor hockey associations will partner to offer one of the best development programs ever in one place. Over two days from Nov 4 & 5th and in two communities, there will be an IP Novice jamboree, hot stoves, referee development, coaching 1 clinic, parent education sessions, goaltender coach training, goaltender camp, hockey north female jamboree (NWT, AB, BC) including a female Hockey Canada Olympian and Edmonton Oiler Alumni Game.

Hockey Canada has designated the development program in Fort St John and Dawson Creek as a "Dreams Come True" site. This will allow the recreation departments in each community to identify youth who might never have participated in hockey because of financial barriers. Thirty kids age 6 to 10 will be completely outfitted for hockey, provided with some initial coaching and training and their minor hockey fees will be paid for a full season.

Fort St John has been named as the first municipality in Canada to map community trails using Google Street View. From anywhere in the world, you can virtually walk the City of Fort St

John's trail system in a continuous loop. It also includes many of the municipal parks. "We envision this being used by tourists traveling the Alaska Highway, the business person that wants to identify a good running route while in town on business or even a person who has limited mobility and would like to map an accessible trail before heading out," says Ryan Harvey with the Fort St John Community Services department.

The North Peace Leisure Pool is set to offer mermaid tail classes, parties and fitness programming beginning this fall. Swimmers will learn to wear the mermaid tail and monofin and swim in the dolphin motion of a mermaid. It will include sales, rentals and day use options.



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# EMPOWER youth

Provincial Conference  
for Youth Workers

**NOVEMBER 3, 2018**

## **Empower YOUTH!**

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**NOVEMBER 3, 2018**



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Coal Harbour Recreation  
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**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.

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop)

**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

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**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:

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Campbell River, Cranbrook,  
Fort St. John, Langley, Maple Ridge  
North Cowichan, North Vancouver,  
Penticton Powell River, Richmond,  
Surrey**

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/MEND](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/MEND)

or call the MEND Regional Coordinator  
at 604-629-0965 ext. 241.



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# 10 QUESTIONS FOR JUSTIN CHARLES WONG

**JUSTIN CHARLES WONG** is a BC representative on the Prime Minister's Youth Council and, at the same time, a 5th year Computer Engineering Candidate at the University of British Columbia. He is a fourth-generation Canadian who believes in diversity, perseverance, and that helping others should come naturally. He is an avid chess player, singer, fitness enthusiast, web designer, and independent developer of iOS applications. Justin also co-founded an app development team for his high school and produced an application that was well received by more than one thousand users and the West Vancouver Superintendent of Schools. He is passionate about positive youth mental health, access to transportation and education, as well as strategies to mitigate and prevent bullying.

## 1. WHAT ATTRIBUTE DO YOU THINK GOT YOU A SEAT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL (PMYC)?

I do not think it was a certain attribute that allowed me to get a seat on the Prime Minister's Youth Council. I believe it was a combination of attributes and life experiences that caught the eye of the PMYC in terms of diversity, interest in improving society, and perseverance through difficult challenges.

## 2. HOW HAS THE EXPERIENCE ON THE PMYC BEEN?

The experience has been phenomenal. I have learned an enormous amount about Canadian themes and issues since joining the PMYC. It has been extremely satisfying to talk with members of my community and then to be able to relay those diverse views to the PMYC and to the Prime Minister himself. However, it can definitely get a

bit busy at certain points with the combination of keeping up with PMYC duties in addition to university and my other responsibilities.

## 3. WHAT CAN YOU SUGGEST TO INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS?

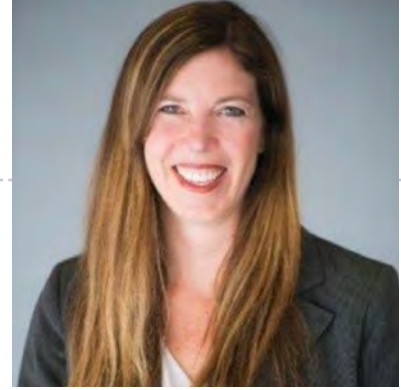
My suggestions to increase youth participation in community programs includes having more workshops (be it animal watching, bird watching, trail discovery), and also utilizing social media more to interact with the public. With the younger demographic being engaged in social media on a daily basis, this would definitely help to increase awareness of these great parks and recreation opportunities and ultimately participation.

## 4. HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES AND PARKS SHAPE YOUR CHILDHOOD/TEEN YEARS?

My experiences with my local community recreation facilities and parks greatly shaped my childhood/teen years by allowing me to work on my hobbies, develop new ones and also be a part of my community. I personally found great pleasure in attending swimming lessons, being a part of chess clubs, playing basketball and tennis, weight training, and also playing in the parks with friends.

## 5. WHAT IS SOME ADVICE TO GET 20-SOMETHINGS MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES (EG. WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL/NEW JOBS)?

My advice to get 20-somethings more involved in their communities or to participate in their new communities is



**JOANNE STYGALL LOTZ** has been a Communications Officer with the BCRPA since 2014. She has a passion for sport and recreation, and enjoys writing speeches for other people to deliver.

acceptance to ensure inclusivity of youth of various cultures, religions, sexual orientations, etc.

**9. HOW DID ONE ADULT (NOT A FAMILY MEMBER) HELP YOU PURSUE YOUR POTENTIAL? EG. SOME ADVICE, FORMAL MENTORING, A GREAT ROLE MODEL.**

I've had the privilege of having many role models that have help me pursue my potential. In many ways, they were able to push me to do my best, but also to teach me how they were able to achieve their successes. As a result, it motivated me to reflect on my own choices and examine my own identity. The themes of advice usually focused on self-control, self-discipline, and the individualistic definition of success/happiness. I find that our discussions usually revolved around each individual's shortcomings and how improving those can yield great results.

**10. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE NUMBER ONE WORRY THAT YOUR GENERATION HAS?**

I think the number one worry that my generation has is being too caught up with competition and our appearance on social media. The conjured standards in media (social or otherwise) tend to have adverse effects when individuals compare themselves to the airbrushed highlights of other individuals.

to have events or programs with their same demographic. I found that it was quite easy to get lost in university courses and work, and that it was also difficult to find interesting community centre programs or events that included people in their twenties. Lots of events were for children up to high-school aged young adults, but it was seldom that I would see an event/program with the age range above 18 (besides adult programs).

**6. HAVE YOU HEARD ANY GREAT IDEAS FOR THE RECREATION AND PARKS FIELD FROM OTHER MEMBERS ACROSS CANADA ON THE PMYC?**

I've heard about programs that entail reconnecting with the community such as trail discovery groups or hiking groups from other strong proponents of recreation and parks.

**7. HOW DO YOU THINK RECREATION & PARKS CAN HELP YOUTH COPE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS?**

I think recreation and parks is a great avenue to de-stress or encourage a sense of belonging and as such is a great aid to help youth better their mental health. In the event of it being a program and normally scheduled opportunity, individuals can be given something that they know is going to happen, with a group of supporting people, which allows for an increase of comfort, stability and belonging in their lives.

**8. WHAT CAN COMMUNITY LEADERS DO TO ENSURE THAT THEIR FACILITIES & SPACES ARE AS INCLUSIVE AS POSSIBLE FOR YOUTH OF VARIOUS CULTURES, RELIGIONS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ETC.?**

Community leaders should have a diversity of youth on advertisements as well as a standard policy of

# PoolSafeBC

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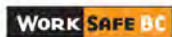
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