

MEDIA RELEASE



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AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE HANDED OUT TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC

*BCRPA presents Provincial Awards of Excellence for innovation
in the recreation, parks, and culture sector*

Kelowna, BC (Thursday, April 6, 2017) – Four communities from across the province have won Provincial Awards of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) in recognition of their outstanding efforts and innovation in the recreation, parks and culture sector. This year's awards were presented in four categories:

Facility Excellence Award for projects over \$1 million

City of Surrey for the *Grandview Heights Aquatic Center* [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/2017-provincial-award-recipient] – a destination pool with stunning architectural features combining leisure elements for families and the young at heart as well as state-of-the-art technical components fit to host varied elite level aquatics competitions in sports such as diving and synchronized swimming.

Facility Excellence Award for projects under \$1 million

City of West Kelowna for the *Memorial Park Amphitheater and Skateboard Park* [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/2017-provincial-award-recipient] – a multi-use natural grass and built environment site. With an arts and cultural centre built into the hillside providing a stunning outdoor events space, it is also home to an active concrete park which attracts all kinds of wheel powered, activities and events from kids on scooters, and pro-skateboarding demonstrations, to biking competitions.

Program Excellence Award:

West Shore Parks and Recreation for the *Wild About Wellness Program* [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/2017-provincial-award-recipient] – a free program for teenagers with mental health and/or drug use issues. By using physical activity and a group support program, participants chart a new path towards healthy living. Having youth themselves planning the activities and using a partnership model are two aspects that set it this innovative program apart.

Parks Excellence Award:

City of Richmond for *Terra Nova Nature Adventure Play Environment* [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/2017-provincial-award-recipient] – viewed as a 'game-changer', the park respects the past and its unique natural setting with exciting playground features such as a custom designed four story treehouse which starts with a rope ladder and ends with a stainless steel spiral slide. Alongside the physically challenging components are other fully accessible apparatuses like lie-down swings and a sand play area for those with unique mobility issues and for younger children.

The BCRPA Provincial Awards showcase the innovative work being done throughout the province. "Each of these award recipients is an inspiration in the field of recreation and parks, but each of them also deserves wider recognition for the significant role their work plays in enhancing the quality of life for all British Columbians," says BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Tunnacliffe. "Each project, program and facility sets a standard of excellence in supporting active, healthy lifestyles in our communities."

The Awards of Excellence are presented annually at BCRPA's Symposium. The conference brings together members of the recreation, parks, physical activity and culture sector from around BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others. This year's event was held in Kelowna.

The BCRPA Provincial Awards celebrate recreation as an essential social service which builds healthy individuals, communities and environments. The Association supports communities in their efforts to enhance quality of life through leadership and advocacy in physical activity and healthy living initiatives, grants and professional development. The annual awards recognize excellence in the field of recreation as well as exceptional efforts to enhance recreation facilities, programs and services.

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Images available
Background included

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BACKGROUND:

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is a not for profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in BC. Established in 1958, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the recreation, parks, physical activity and culture sector, providing leadership, training and support to help meet national, provincial and local priorities. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, BCRPA actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation and physical activity. <http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/>