

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

CITY OF KELOWNA WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM BCRPA *H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre honoured with Facility Excellence Award.*

Penticton, BC (Friday, May 14, 2010) – The City of Kelowna has won a provincial Award of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Facility Excellence Award has been presented for the precedent setting creation of the H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre.

The development of H2O has set a new standard in recreation infrastructure construction and amenity options. The facility sets a new benchmark for water quality measures and environmentally sound practices, operating at 40% of the energy required to run a similar-sized conventional facility. H2O heralds several firsts: the first Flow Rider (an ocean wave surf simulator for the boogie boarder) in Canada; the first Wapotec tertiary aquatic water treatment system in BC; the first Technogym Kinesis Wall fitness centre in the Okanagan Valley; and, it is believed, the largest above ground pool in North America. In addition, the building and pools are fully accessible to those with disabilities.

“H2O offers the community and visitors an exciting and innovative facility,” states BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. “Not only do facilities of this caliber provide people with an accessible and enjoyable means to incorporate physical activity into their everyday lives, they also serve as economic drivers, increasing local employment opportunities and attracting tourists and events to the city. H2O illustrates the role the parks and recreation sector plays in developing healthy individuals and communities, and sustaining local economies and environments.”

The Facility Excellence Award recognizes excellence in facility concept, design development, maintenance, or operation. The award recipient demonstrates outstanding innovation which has made, or could make, significant impact in the Recreation & Parks field. The Facility Excellence award is one of several awards presented at BCRPA’s Symposium today. The conference brings together members of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector from around BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others. Penticton is the host partner community of this year’s event.

BACKGROUND:

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association 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 parks, recreation, 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 and strives to bridge the gap between recreation and sport.

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For more information:

Heather McGillivray
Communications Assistant, BCRPA
604-629-0965 ext 244
hmcgillivray@bcrpa.bc.ca
www.bcrpa.bc.ca/service_member_benefits/awards.htm