



## News Release

### For Immediate Release

#### **BC Recreation and Parks Association Announces New Board of Directors**

*May 19, 2010 (Burnaby, BC):* The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) representing the parks, recreation, physical activity, and cultural sector in BC, is pleased to announce the new members of its 2010/2011 Board of Directors. These members will help provide leadership, advocacy and critical sector information to the Association as it works towards its vision of ensuring a high quality for all British Columbians.

Newly elected board members are:

#### **John Hiebert – Director**

John Hiebert, President of TASK Construction Management, has a 40-year track record of successful construction management of complex projects in the construction industry. John was previously employed as an estimator, contracts manager and superintendent on several projects in southwestern B.C. His status as Gold Seal Project Manager is a direct result of this early involvement in the building industry. John is a graduate Building Technologist, Certified Engineering Technologist and Professional Quantity Surveyor, as well as a former President of the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors. In addition to his corporate membership with BCRPA, he holds current memberships with the Project Management Institute, the Construction Management Association of America. John is also an active volunteer on BCRPA's Infrastructure Renewal Task Group.

#### **Jim Marvel - Director**

James (Jim) Marvel is currently the Manager of Recreation Facilities and Services with the Township of Langley. He is an active volunteer within the parks and recreation sector including previous terms on the Board of Directors of the BCRPA and the Board of Directors of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, the Advisory Committee for the recreation program at Langara College, and many years on the BCRPA Foundation Golf Tournament Committee. Prior to his position with the Township of Langley, Jim worked in the parks and recreation departments of Burnaby and West Vancouver. He is also a former Executive Director with the BC Blind Sports and Recreation Association and a former manager at the Arbutus Club.

#### **Ajay Patel – Director**

Ajay Patel is the Division Chair for the newly formed Health Sciences Division at Langara College. Prior to joining Langara College, Ajay was the CEO at Gymnastics BC and the Executive Director of Badminton BC. Ajay's professional work (as well as a majority of his volunteer time) is dedicated to sport, provincially, nationally and internationally, and he has had the opportunity to work closely with individuals at all competitive levels and abilities. He is currently Chef de Mission of Team BC for the 2011 Canada Winter Games and was Chef de Mission for the previous three Canada Games Programs. As a member of the BC Education Team with Canadian Sport for Life, Ajay has been focusing on developing awareness, planning and implementation strategies, primarily with the education and organized sport sector.

These new directors join the following returning Board members:

#### **Dean Gibson - President**

Dean Gibson is currently the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of New Westminster. He has been a member of the Board since 2006 and has been involved with the BCRPA for over twenty years, including working for the Association as a Coordinator of Program Services in the late 80s. He was previously the Director of Parks and Recreation for the District of Powell River and before his current position in New Westminster, has also held posts as Manager of Business Operations, Facility Manager and Recreation Programmer in New Westminster. Dean holds a Master of Science Degree in Recreation and Parks Administration from Indiana University.

### **Leslie June - President Elect**

Leslie June brings a unique blend of public and private sector experience to the field of parks and recreation, as well as passion, commitment and energy. Currently, she is the Manager of Recreation and Community Services for the North Vancouver Recreation Commission, a position she has held for close to five years. Prior to returning to North Vancouver, she was a partner in the company of Wilson and June Consultants. As a consultant, she worked in many communities across the country and has delivered workshops as far away as Australia. Born and raised in Penticton, B.C., Leslie obtained both a Bachelor of Recreation Administration and a Master's degree from the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Upon returning to B.C., she worked as a regional tourism master planner for a small tourism consulting company and she was the Director of Tourism Programs, SFU, Continuing Studies.

### **Lori MacKay - Past President**

Lori MacKay is General Manager of Leisure and Park Services for the City of Coquitlam with over 30 years of local government experience in almost all areas of public service in our industry. Since moving to British Columbia in 2001, she has also worked with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation as Director of Parks and Recreation. Previously Lori held similar roles with the City of Toronto and Halifax. As a volunteer, Lori has focused on professional development including with the CPRA Editorial Committee, various professional conference committees and as a speaker, associate editor and writer. She has been an appointed member of numerous professional, civic and community Boards and Committees and is currently serving the second year of a three year term on the Board of BCRPA.

### **Diana Johnstone - Director**

Diana Johnstone is a Councillor with the City of Nanaimo and is currently serving on the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. Diana has a long history of community involvement; she currently serves on Nanaimo's Spirit of BC Community Committee, Nanaimo's Economic Commission and as Protocol Liaison with Nanaimo First Nations and Grants Advisory Committee. Diana served as President of the BC Seniors Games in 2007 and before that as Director of the 1987 and 2005 BC Games for the Physically Disabled as well as Operations Manager for the 1995 and 2002 BC Summer Games. Diana is a Founding Director of the Port Theatre Society and a past Director of Tourism Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce. Diana is a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother as well as being a current member of the Nanaimo Curling Club and the Malaspina Choir.

### **Murray Kopp - Director**

Murray Kopp has been a member of the BCRPA since 1996 when he began his career in the local government parks and recreation sector here in British Columbia. Murray is currently based in the Okanagan Valley serving as Director of the Parks Services Department for the Regional District of Central Okanagan. In addition to his role on the BCRPA Board over the past two years, Murray continues to be active with a number of organizations including the BC Society of Landscape Architects and the Planning Institute of B.C. and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography (University of Calgary), a Masters of Landscape Architecture (University of Guelph) as well as Provincial Board of Examiners Certificates in Local Government Service Delivery and Administration.

### **Sally Mole - Director**

Sally Mole is currently employed as the Parks and Recreation Director for the District of Tofino. She completed her schooling in Australia with her studies focused on teaching. On a global backpacking trip, she rediscovered the small town of Tofino, her birthplace, and entered the recreation field. A graduate of the Leisure Development Course, Sally is passionate about her field, community development, children and youth. Sally enjoys the small town community and all of the outdoor recreation Tofino has to offer. Sally has been a member of BCRPA for 16 years and this will be her second year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors.

Also on the Board is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, **Suzanne Allard Strutt**

## **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.

### **For more information:**

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