

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

CITY OF VICTORIA WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM BCRPA

*Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground Program
honoured with Program Excellence Award.*

Richmond, BC (Friday, May 13, 2011) – The City of Victoria has won a provincial Award of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Program Excellence Award has been presented for the Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground Program.

The Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground Program, created by the City of Victoria Recreation Services with the help of BC Housing, delivers a much needed service to community residents while providing the area's youth with training, mentorship, and employment opportunities. Aimed specifically at the Evergreen Terrace community, the Neighbourhood Playground Program recruited local teens through the STEP-Up Youth Leadership program to be camp leaders. Once training was completed the youth were placed in a one-month practicum as junior leaders in the newly developed playground program offered to the Evergreen Terrace community at the low rate of \$2 per family, per week.

“The Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground Program combined a fun playground program for children, engaged youth in their community and gave parents and caregivers an affordable opportunity to get more time for themselves and to take care of household chores,” states BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. “The program excelled in promoting community development as well as serving at-risk youth.”

The Program Excellence Award recognizes creative, successful and innovative programs which may serve as an example of outstanding achievement in public recreation services programming. This 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. Richmond is the host 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.

For more information:

Holly-Anne Burrows
Communications Manager, BCRPA
604-629-0965 ext 233
hburrows@bcrrpa.bc.ca