

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE HANDED OUT TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC

BCRPA presents its Provincial Awards of Excellence for innovation in the parks, recreation & culture sector.

Richmond, BC (Friday, May 13, 2011) – Communities from across the province have won Awards of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The awards recognize outstanding efforts and innovation in the parks, recreation, and culture sector. Eleven awards were presented this year in seven categories:

Award of Merit:

- **Joe Iannarelli** (posthumously), the District of Kitimat
- **Bob Pope**, City of Penticton

Environmental Leadership Award:

- **Township of Langley Urban Gardens**

Facility Excellence Award:

- **City of Maple Ridge** for the Greg Moore Youth Recreation Center
- **City of Courtenay** for the Native Sons Hall

Healthy Choices Award:

- **North Vancouver Recreation Commission** for the *Play Well Eat Well - Healthy Eating Project*

Parks and Open Spaces Award:

- **District of Lake Country** for Swalwell Park
- **Township of Langley** for Willoughby Community Park

PERC Award for Management Innovation & Ingenuity:

- **City of Kelowna** for Everybody gets to play™ – Okanagan Network

Program Excellence Award:

- **City of Victoria** for the *Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground Program*
- **City of Kelowna** for the *Recreation Opportunities Coupon Program*

The BCRPA Provincial Awards showcase the innovative work being done in the province. “Every year we take time to recognize and celebrate outstanding programs, facilities and professionals that remind us of the amazing work being done in the sector,” explains BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. “Each of our award recipients has raised the standard of excellence for supporting active, healthy lifestyles within their communities and throughout the province. Their work inspires us all and plays a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for all British Columbians.”

The Awards of Excellence are presented annually at BCRPA’s Symposium. 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. This year’s event was held in Richmond.

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 parks, recreation, physical activity and culture

industry 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.

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