

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE WIN AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

BCRPA presents awards for innovation in the parks, recreation & culture sector.

Burnaby, BC (Friday, May 29, 2009) – 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, physical activity and culture sector. Eight awards were presented this year in five categories:

Program Excellence Award:

- **Active Communities Vancouver** for its Red Fox Active Outreach initiative
- **City of Richmond** for its Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness project

Environmental Leadership Award:

- **City of Richmond** for the Terra Nova Rural Park

Parks and Open Spaces Award:

- **City of Surrey** for Holland Park

Active Communities Excellence Award:

- **Teck – Trail Operations** for its Inspiring Wellness and Learning Committee

Facility Excellence Award:

- **City of Burnaby** for the Mountain Air Bike Skills Park
- **City of Nanaimo & Gemella Design Inc.** for the Oliver Woods Community Centre
- **City of Victoria** for the Burnside Gorge Community Centre

BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt says the awards showcase the important work being done in our province. “Each of these recipients has raised the standard of excellence for supporting active, healthy lifestyles. They inspire all of us by sharing creative ways to bring people together and enhance quality of life.”

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 Whistler.

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 industry, 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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