

BC RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

2010 BCRPA Provincial Awards

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PENTICTON, BC



Healthy communities through recreation, parks, physical activity and culture.



2010 BCRPA

Provincial Awards



Recreation, culture and parks services in British Columbia contribute to the quality of life of all British Columbians, helping create and support healthy individuals and communities. The BC Recreation and Parks Association is pleased to recognize outstanding programs, innovative facilities and dedicated professionals who remind us daily of the work that is being done in our sector. BCRPA award winners – and indeed all nominees – are an inspiration to their profession and to the parks, culture and recreation movement in BC, and nationwide.

Table of CONTENTS

- 1 2010 BCRPA Provincial Award Winners
- 2 *Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers* –
North Vancouver Recreation Commission
- 3 *MoYO – Mobile Youth Outreach* –
City of Surrey
- 4 *Step up to 12th Street* –
City of New Westminster
- 5 *Garden City Community Park Play Environment* –
City of Richmond
- 6 *West Vancouver Community Centre* –
District of West Vancouver
- 7 *Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre* –
District of Kitimat
- 8 *H2O* –
City of Kelowna
- 9 *District of Kitimat* –
District of Kitimat

2010 BCRPA Provincial Award Winners

Award Category: Program Excellence

Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers –

North Vancouver Recreation Commission

MoYO – Mobile Youth Outreach –

City of Surrey

Award Category: Parks and Open Spaces

Step up to 12th Street –

City of New Westminster

Garden City Community Park Play Environment –

City of Richmond

Award Category: Facility Excellence

West Vancouver Community Centre –

District of West Vancouver

Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre –

District of Kitimat

H2O –

City of Kelowna

Award Category: PERC Award for Management Innovation and Ingenuity

District of Kitimat



Program Excellence Award

Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers –

NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION COMMISSION

North Vancouver prides itself on being one of the fittest communities in Canada yet despite this auspicious designation faces the same challenges as that of other BC communities in keeping its population active and committed to a healthy active lifestyle.

One segment of the population in which this challenge is most pronounced is newcomers; those individuals who face language barriers, income barriers, social isolation and a lack of resources. In an effort to address the specific needs of this target population the North Vancouver Recreation Commission created a *Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers*.

Created in consultation with newcomer groups and through research on immigrant health and community engagement best practices, the *Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers* targets all newcomers to North Vancouver Recreation Commission programs and facilities – those who are already active and committed to healthy, active living as well as those who are currently inactive or under-active. It fulfills its mission to welcome and engage newcomers by providing information, services and programs that support their health and wellness.

In developing the program, focus was given to the city's four largest newcomer communities: Chinese, Persian, Korean and Filipino. Outreach activities were created based on the unique nature of each cultural community and delivered in their native language. Newcomers are introduced to the city's facilities through orientation tours, utilization of volunteer hosts from each target cultural community, and translated promotional and reference material. Program representatives also go out into the community attending and presenting at various cultural events.

The *Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers* supports health improvement while providing newcomers with free access to organized recreation, community information, and social connections. It increases individuals' confidence to participate in physical activity and introduces participants to healthy living through displays and educational resources on how to make healthy food choices, live smoke free and take ownership of their own health.



The North Vancouver Recreation Commission has created a program specifically tailored to the needs of its community. The *Health and Wellness Project for Newcomers* engaged the multicultural community, built partnerships and relationships with community organizations and significantly contributes to the physical well being of participants. The BCRPA congratulates the North Vancouver Recreation Commission on the success of this program and in being a recipient of a Program Excellence Award.

Program Excellence Award

Mobile Youth Outreach Program (MoYO) – CITY OF SURREY

Faced with an increase in unsupervised youth activity in city parks, the City of Surrey took a proactive approach to address the situation and joined forces with Surrey School District #36, Pacific Community Resources Society; OPTIONS: Services to Community Society, and the Crescent Beach Community Services to create the *Mobile Youth Outreach (MoYO)* program.

First piloted in 2006, MoYO is a no cost program for youth that creates opportunities to engage youth, build relationships, provide them with alternative choices to socialize and recreate, and create awareness and connections to other social services. Multiagency staff and volunteers connect youth to community programs, services and facilities, and offer support resources to help fulfill their basic needs for shelter, food, or to obtain employment.

Through the donation of a Translink commuter bus, MoYO goes directly to youth at the places they congregate within the city including parks, recreation centres, youth centres, transit hubs, and special events. Retro fitted to be a mobile youth lounge, the bus features 2 play station consoles, 2 flat screen televisions and sound system, and relaxed seating; all of which enhance youth engagement with the program.

Another tool of engagement utilized by MoYO is the FREE RIDE pass. Developed in partnership with Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture, RCMP, and Surrey Fire Department the pass is used to reward and encourage youth to make positive choices and provides 4 free visits to the city's recreation and youth centres, arenas and pools.

Since its inception MoYO's success has grown exponentially, reaching over 5900 youth in 2009. The success of the program has resulted in an increase in youth participation at youth centres and recreation facilities along with the City's community services. The MoYO Bus is now positively recognized by youth city wide and when spotted actively engage and connect with staff and readily participate in the activities offered.



The program supports the "Creating a Child and Youth-Friendly City" initiative within Surrey's *Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents* as well as the city's *Crime Reduction Strategy*, helping meet community goals and objectives. The MoYO program is a great example of partnerships, collaboration and community engagement improving the quality of life for not only the youth it serves, but the community as a whole. For this, the BCRPA is pleased to award a Program Excellence Award to the City of Surrey.

Parks and Open Spaces Award

Step Up to 12th Street Public Art Community Initiative

— CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

Something unique can come out of otherwise routine city works projects. The City of New Westminster experienced this during the final phase of their 12th Street Improvement program. A local resident came forward with the proposition to increase the street's character, creating a more inviting and walkable neighbourhood and a point of pride for residents and business owners. It was proposed that the way to do this was to incorporate public art into the project; creating the opportunity to showcase the unique characteristics of the neighbourhood and engage the community in the decision making, funding and development processes.

A small committee comprised of residents, business owners and City Engineering and Parks, Culture and Recreation Departments was created and through dialogue and active participation with the community narrowed the 12th Street Improvement Program down to three projects; Granite Street Markers, Poetry Slabs and Mosaic Tile images. The community was engaged in numerous related activities from submitting poetry and providing feedback and suggestions on the tile images to participating in the physical creation of the mosaic tiles.

Although the overall goal of the project was for Street Beautification on 12th Street, a number of other significant outcomes were achieved through this community engagement process.

The high level of community collaboration brought businesses, residents and city departments together in a shared commitment to supporting neighbourhood prosperity. It re-connected people whose relationships had been strained to a place where healthy positive synergy is now the foundation for future community projects. By working together businesses and residents established an identity for the neighbourhood, one that acknowledges its history and the diverse cultures it represents, combining both cultural and personal pride.

12th Street was once noted for its social problems but is now a safer neighbourhood and fast becoming an interesting tourist destination and the envy of many.



This Public Art Community Initiative put the neighbourhood back on the street and through its success is becoming the example on which the city is basing future projects. For the creativity, community involvement and commitment this project has embodied, the BCRPA is pleased to present the City of New Westminster with a Parks and Open Spaces Award.

Garden City Community Park Play Environment – CITY OF RICHMOND

The City of Richmond's new Garden City Community Park Play Environment has changed the way parks are planned, designed, and constructed and provides residents and visitors with an extraordinary outdoor place that is unique within the city, and perhaps even the local region.

The design of the site brings elements of nature back into the scene, bringing forth a playground that not only encourages new ways to play and have good fun, but also healthy social interaction, and cognitive and physical development. Traditional slides, climbing nets and swings are placed alongside old growth stumps and logs, banks of sand, rocks and water channels, and a variety of planting to encourage children to use all five senses as they explore the site. The goals were to provide children and adults alike with rich opportunities to express creativity, participate in physical activity and come together in social gathering.

The projects' design was based partly on recent work done in Europe, as well as on research pioneered at the University of British Columbia that explored how children between the ages of 2 and 5 used their outdoor environments at local day care centres in Vancouver. This information was combined with input received from local schoolchildren - the users themselves. In a series of workshops held at Anderson Elementary School, kindergarten, grade four and grade seven students described their ideal play space providing the project designers with great insight into what the children thought makes a great place to play.

The project has been recognized nationally with a 2009 Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, a National Merit Award in the category of Design, and a Design Exchange Best of Category award in Landscape Architecture by Canadian Business in 2008.

The Garden City Community Park Play Environment shows no sign of losing its ability to attract and engage the residents of Richmond. It has provided the setting for numerous community based events and functions, recreation programs, and organized activities such as arts and crafts for neighbourhood three to twelve year olds. The Play Environment has



also contributed towards the City of Richmond's drive to develop in a more sustainable fashion.

For its innovation, creativity and excellence in concept, design, and development the BCRPA proudly presents the City of Richmond with a Parks and Open Spaces Award.

Facility Excellence Award

West Vancouver Community Centre — DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

The West Vancouver Community Centre (WVCC) was opened for public use in March of 2009, the culmination of 10 years of planning, deliberation, and consensus. Conceived as a replacement for outdated and deteriorating facilities from the 1950's and 1960's, the centre as it is today was a leap of imagination and innovation.

The endeavour saw the expansion of an existing Seniors Activity Centre, the upgrade of an Ice Arena, the addition of underground parking, the replacement/expansion of an aging Aquatic Centre and the consolidation of mechanical systems and ground source heating serving all these buildings. The WVCC brought these services together and created a hub for a broad range of recreation activities and health services that received immediate endorsement by residents.

The planning for this facility began by asking citizens how they envisioned the long term use of their civic centre precinct, the home of the key recreation facilities. It was established that parking would go underground to preserve precious surface space, that sustainability in all aspects would characterize the project, that separated facilities would be integrated for ease of use and cost-savings, and that high quality architectural design would be applied at every step.

The site was constrained despite its ten acre size. The new Community Centre, three times the size of the old facility, had to sit within the same footprint, and join the other facilities together. Partners had to be integrated in a seamless service that gave patrons a feeling of unity.

The Centre was designed to LEED Gold standards and was registered and built within those guidelines. The project introduced the first vertically bored ground source heat recover system in BC, eventually providing 40% of the energy requirements for the whole complex. Flexibility is a central theme in this building. While spaces have designated uses, they are also designed to accept a variety of program and events. The Centre is accessible to everyone in the community through design and programming that provides for all ages, abilities and incomes. Community governance is at the core of the WVCC which is jointly overseen by the District and the West Vancouver Community Centres Services Society.



The West Vancouver Community Centre presents a dynamic approach to community centre design that looks towards the future while revitalizing important public buildings. The facility provides a comprehensive mix of Community Recreation and Community Health functions in a unique "Wellness" Centre that includes spaces for sport, dance, art, health education, health clinics, music, childcare and a variety of social interaction.

The West Vancouver Community Centre embodies all aspects of the Facility Excellence Award and the BCRPA is pleased to present this award to the District of West Vancouver.

Facility Excellence Award

Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre – DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

When you have one aquatic facility serving the needs of a community you have to be proactive and diligent in ensuring it remains operational and able to meet the changing needs and demands of its users. In 1985 Kitimat City Council was advised that the then Sam Lindsay Memorial Pool was going to need major renovations by the year 2000, and thus began the journey to renovate and revitalize this much loved and used facility.

From 1985 to 2007 studies were completed on costs and grants were applied for. Ground broke on the project in June 2007 and doors officially reopened April 4, 2009.

Public consultation meetings were held throughout 2004. Priority was placed on creating a facility that is accessible to all ages from preschoolers to seniors and those with disabilities. Must have design features included family/disabled change rooms, zero entry, a kids spray park, a waterslide and pools with warmer temperatures for seniors and rehabilitation purposes.

Municipal sustainability priorities included an ice plant heat recovery system, low flow showers and toilets, a Hi/Low Thermostatic Mixing Valve for the shower water temperature and Reverse Flow Heat Recovery, as well as energy wise lighting, pumps and electrical systems. All these priorities were incorporated into the overall budget and final design. They have resulted in a net annual savings of \$68,000 on energy costs for the District with a simple payback of 7.5 years. The District is also able to reduce its CO2 equivalents emissions by 74% and its water consumption has been cut by 1.4 million litres per year.

The Centre now has an additional 6,300 square feet of pool space with new and redesigned elements that include a new public viewing area, a leisure pool with spray park, lazy river, waterslide, handicapped accessible pools, and five new family change rooms.



The facility serves the entire community of Kitimat covering the spectrum from the very young to the very old, the able bodied to those with disabilities. Users come from as far away as Prince Rupert and Smithers, making it a regional destination for communities throughout the Northwest. In addition to serving as a leisure recreation facility, the Aquatic Centre is also used by the Kitimat General Hospital's Rehabilitation Department as part of their rehabilitation programs.

The Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre is serving the needs of its immediate, as well as surrounding communities. Its innovation and architectural integrity serves as a template for what a small community can accomplish while leading the way on green initiatives. For this the BCRPA awards the District of Kitimat with a Facility Excellence Award.

Facility Excellence Award

H2O – CITY OF KELOWNA

Building a brand new 101,000 sq ft facility with cutting edge environmental and sustainability elements is challenging enough but doing it during the height of a construction boom that turns your budget into a moving target leads to a case of mission impossible. From this real life scenario, the City of Kelowna created and developed the H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre, the largest municipally owned Water Park in Canada. Despite escalating construction costs the project was delivered on time and within its amended, publically approved, budget. Through an innovative partnership arrangement the project took only 4 years from conception to completion.

Public participation was extensive. During the planning and design process, the public was engaged through public surveys, open houses, displays in the mall and other public facilities, media packages, and numerous public reports to Council.

The facility features a 50-meter 8-lane FINA approved competition pool, and a leisure indoor water park that includes a river run, wave pool, 3 water slides, children's water play area, and an ocean wave surf simulator. For the fitness enthusiast there is a 12,000 square foot cardio and weight equipment and exercise space.

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.

The facility sets a new benchmark for water quality measures and environmentally sound practices. It operates at 40% of the energy required to run a similar-sized conventional facility. This provides a savings of about \$400,000 a year and a GHG emission reduction of 850 tonnes annually; equivalent to retiring about 200 average cars. Six independent water treatment systems provide high-quality water for each of the pools. Fortis BC honoured the facility with an award of excellence and innovation in energy and a \$30,000 rebate in October 2009.

Although a city-owned facility, the H2O is operated by the YM-YWCA of the Central Okanagan and under its direction has already proved its economic viability



and exceeded revenue projections in the first year of operation. Regardless of age, gender, background, abilities or financial circumstances the facility is open to everyone. The building and pools are fully accessible to the disabled and three public bus bays were built to serve as a bus exchange in front of the facility.

The H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre has set a new precedent in facility construction and sustainability and the BCRPA is pleased to present the City of Kelowna with a Facility Excellence Award.

PERC Award for Management Innovation & Ingenuity

District of Kitimat — DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

Building capacity through partnerships is a survival tool that organizations cannot ignore, especially in small towns where resources are often harder to come by. The District of Kitimat knows this well and for the past 25 years the Kitimat Recreation Department and Northern Health, Kitimat Health Unit, have been working together to bring the message of living well through an active lifestyle, including healthy eating and routine medical check ups, to members of the community.

Throughout their history, many joint programs and initiatives had been developed and delivered which up until 2008 were based on a very informal relationship. This started to change in 2006 when increased funding opportunities spurred the development of a number of new jointly delivered programs. The significant success of these programs resulted in changes not only in clientele and increased community participation in and demand for additional programs, but also in the perception of the partnership, both internally in each organization and within the community, and led to the creation of Kitimat's Active Communities Committee, Kick It Up Kitimat (KIUK).

To formally recognize and continue the work that was already a part of the community's fiber a protocol agreement between the District and Northern Health was created and signed on February 25th, 2008. The agreement acknowledges the role of the people from each organization and their shared vision and commitment to work together towards common goals; capturing the essence of the work done in the community. It also increases the capacity of both organizations' abilities to meet the changing needs of the community through the sharing of resources and information - helping them achieve their collective mandates.

The agreement enables each organization to partner on projects/activities where a joining of resources and efforts will enhance outcomes and, where appropriate, actively seek to involve allied community partners. It has reduced duplication of services and messages to the public and assisted both parties better understand the resources each can provide.

The formal recognition provided by the District of Kitimat and Northern Health regarding the natural pairing and role that preventative health care and recreation services play in enriching citizen's lives is a major milestone for



both organizations. Other jurisdictions are now looking to this protocol agreement as a template to further their own community goals of creating healthier more active communities.

This protocol agreement is unique in BC. It brings together two government organizations in a positive way for the betterment of their community and guides the way for future joint initiatives. The BCRPA is pleased to present the District of Kitimat with the PERC Award for Management Innovation and Ingenuity.



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