

MEDIA RELEASE



CITY OF RICHMOND WINS BCRPA FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD *Edwardian Cottage honoured with 2020 Facility Excellence Award*

Vancouver, BC (June 22, 2020) – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its Facility Excellence Award for projects under \$1 million today to the City of Richmond for the Edwardian Cottage. The award recognizes outstanding innovation in facility concept, design development, maintenance or operation in a facility.

The Edwardian Cottage is an iconic 1920s heritage building, located in Terra Nova, one of Richmond's oldest settlement areas on the northwest corner of Lulu Island. Settled first by the Musqueam First Nation, then later by European settlers, the Edwardian Cottage is a remnant of the Terra Nova Cannery which was operated by BC Packers, and embodies the early settlement pattern related to the region's important fishing industry.

In 2014, after a comprehensive planning, design and stakeholder engagement process, the Edwardian Cottage was rehabilitated, restored, and retrofit with a wheelchair ramp, becoming the new home of the Terra Nova Nature School for children from preschool to 13 years old. The facility's design emphasizes conservation, optimizing building performance, continued improvement in energy use, water efficiency, and a high indoor environmental quality.

The establishment of the Terra Nova Nature School has supported both the nature goals and the physical activity goals of the City of Richmond and addressed a number of community needs, including a licensed preschool program that would allow parents to apply for subsidies through the Ministry of Child and Family Development. The Nature School also supports the community-identified need for more early childhood learning opportunities, and to connect young people to nature in order to develop lifelong ecological literacy and stewardship. Community members from diverse backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities now come together to participate in this non-traditional educational program, based in traditional educative methods.

"It is my pleasure to award the City of Richmond the Facility Excellence Award for the Edwardian Cottage. This visionary project has transformed a historic building into an ecologically-designed facility that is now home to a key early childhood education program focused on nature, outdoor play and cultivating overall health and wellness of children," said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association. "Not being able to hold our annual awards ceremony in person this year, we have chosen instead to present them today as another way to celebrate June being recreation and parks month. Recreation and parks have never been more important to our lives than they are right now and our awards help further highlight the impactful work being done across BC. Although COVID has temporarily restricted access to our recreation facilities, they still operate as the heart of our communities, providing services and programs that improve our health and wellbeing."

The Facility Excellence Award is one of four provincial awards presented virtually by BCRPA on behalf of our over 3300 recreation and parks sector members from across BC, each working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness and quality of life of their communities.

-30-

Images Available

Background included

For more information:

Connie Mah

Administrator, BCRPA

p) 604.629.0965 ext 258

cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is the voice of public recreation and parks, and champions the sector's development of healthy people and connected communities. Representing over 95% of the provinces' local governments, we play a central role in supporting the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians. Our work as a not-for-profit organization focuses on creating community connectedness and well-being based on the knowledge and recognition that recreation and active living, as well as access to parks and the natural environment, have significant impacts on our physical and mental health.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities.

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/