

# RECREATION & PARKS BC

WINTER 2018



# FIRE FLOOD COLD



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Published: MARCH 2018

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia  
in the production of this resource.

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NEXT ISSUE  
**BCRPA 60<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

# JENNIFER WILSON AND REBECCA TUNNAcliffe

2018 is BCRPA's 60th anniversary. In this issue we look at the role our recreation sector plays in community resiliency. In the aftermath of the natural disasters that struck many communities last year, we saw a growing recognition of the significance of recreation and parks staff and infrastructure and the power of their community activation expertise. From Government to first responders to the most vulnerable of our residents, British Columbians were aware that their recreation centres are gathering places and safe havens.

BC's recreation and parks sector had its beginnings in playgrounds and outdoor pools and rinks. Sixty years ago, we capitalized on the province-

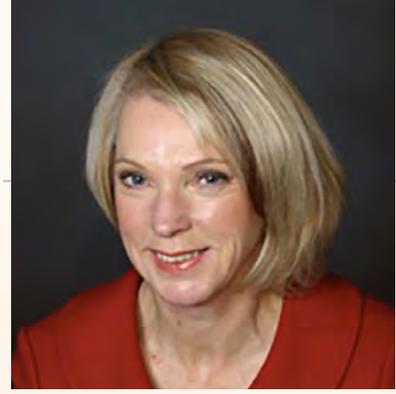
wide momentum to unite our local efforts into a provincial voice, and formed the BCRPA. From those days when the sector was on the fringes of local government decision-making, we have grown to a sector that is central to local, provincial and national governance, is a strong leader in health and wellness, is part of integrated solutions to complex challenges, and gets pressed into non-typical roles such as disaster response. This is because of the talent, philosophy, attitude and passion to serve our communities.

Because of your impact and relevance in the day to day lives of our community and the strength of the Association, BCRPA has developed a reputation as the

go-to organization to activate positive change. BCRPA has been the recipient of many funded programs that members run locally. This year alone we have been able to offer the extended Choose to Move/ActivAge™ program, the Give it a Try! program for seniors, the After School Recreation Spaces initiative, the Youth Green Jobs program, and the support of government to undertake our Spaces and Faces inventory. We were also delighted with the surprise announcement of Family Day Grants being approved just in time for you to shift into high gear and draw local families into your centres.

BCRPA continues to gain momentum year-on-year, and as we look ahead

**"COMMUNITY LEADERS LEANED ON OUR STAFF FOR THEIR POISE, WISDOM AND ABILITY TO WORK COLLABORATIVE IN SERVICE OF OUR COMMUNITIES."**



we benefit from the look back that our joint initiative with the Recreation Foundation offers; the History of BC's Recreation and Parks will launch at Symposium 2018 and reaffirm our members' role in the power of recreation and parks in our province.

## BCRPA continues to gain momentum year-on-year, and as we look ahead we benefit from the look back that our joint initiative with the Recreation Foundation offers

Please come to Symposium 2018, our annual three day professional development event from April 30 to May 2nd. The program this year focuses on inclusion in recreation spaces and places. For the first time in well over a decade, the event will be held in Vancouver, we hope to break attendance records and attract many first-time delegates to the beautiful Westin Bayshore, located on the doorstep of Stanley Park.

Inside ... With the effects of climate change, our role in the community as a safe haven and first responders has spotlighted the value our leaders bring when disaster strikes. Forest fires, floods, extreme cold and extreme heat were weather stories that affected our members and captivated headlines last year. Thousands of British Columbians learned first-hand that their local recreation facilities and staff are

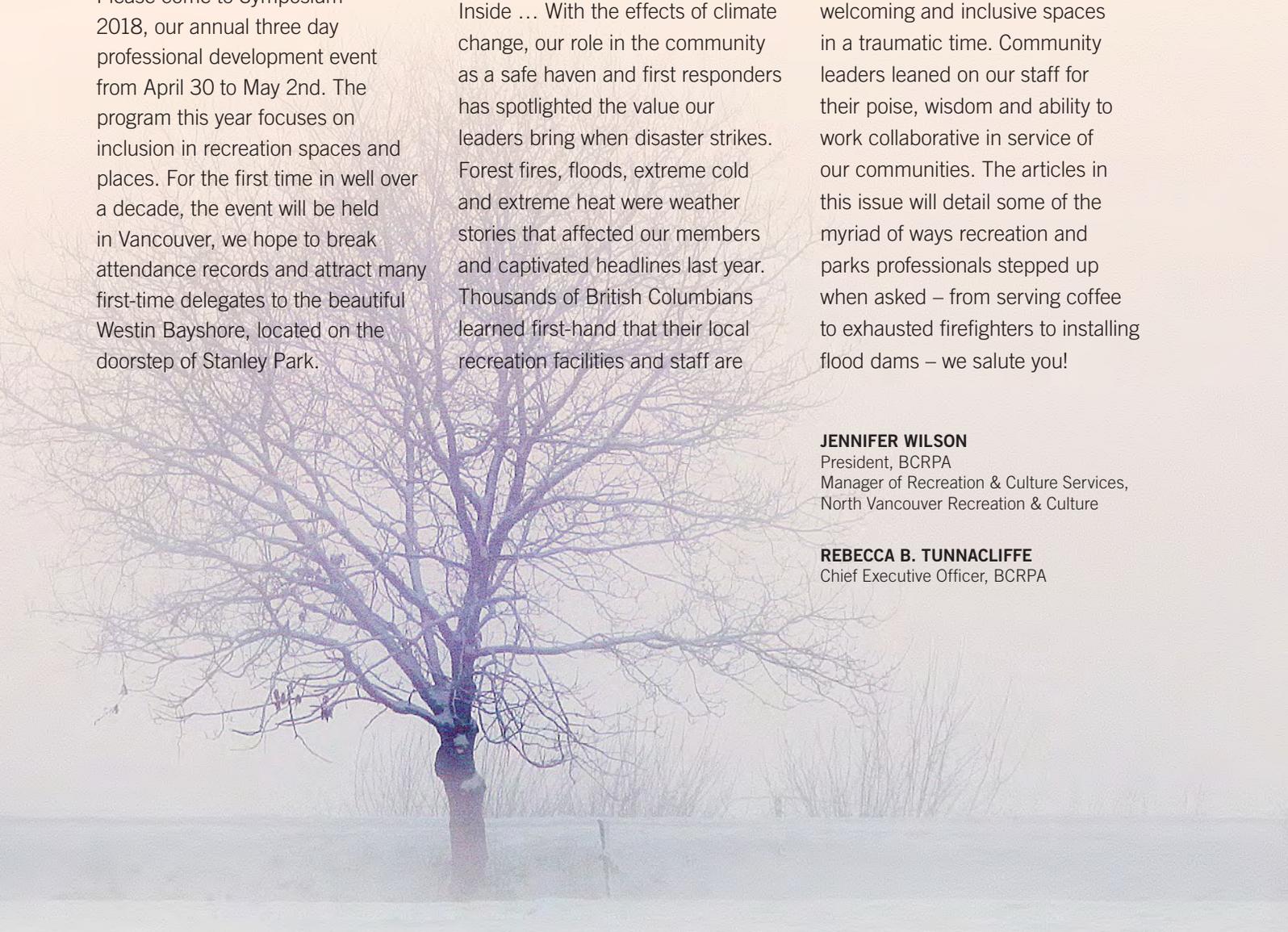
welcoming and inclusive spaces in a traumatic time. Community leaders leaned on our staff for their poise, wisdom and ability to work collaborative in service of our communities. The articles in this issue will detail some of the myriad of ways recreation and parks professionals stepped up when asked – from serving coffee to exhausted firefighters to installing flood dams – we salute you!

**JENNIFER WILSON**

President, BCRPA  
 Manager of Recreation & Culture Services,  
 North Vancouver Recreation & Culture

**REBECCA B. TUNNACLIFFE**

Chief Executive Officer, BCRPA





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# RECREATION SERVICES BC WILDFIRES



**REFLECTING ON THE ROLE** that recreation services teams played during the wildfire season of 2017 in British Columbia was a difficult task. Every person I have met in the region had an interaction with recreation staff and facilities in some way. The generosity and selflessness demonstrated by strangers, friends, neighbours and people involved with recreation services, local governments and community organizations were overwhelming. Each task that they performed and every smile given was without hesitation. I believe that is what most Canadians would do, and in British Columbia, it is our nature to never hesitate when we see people in need.

The people in recreation services in Williams Lake and Prince George also exemplified this spirit, as they played a major support services role during the wildfire season. In recreation, we pull together different resources and use our networks and intimate knowledge of the community to curate wonderful experiences. We are masters of experience design. Those skills can also be highly useful during times of emergency. We know whom to call, when and for what resources. We know which facility can provide space and services, and whom to direct to complete which task. With over 90 communities in BC in varying states of emergency, alert and evacuation, we acted. We planned fast, adapted quickly, evaluated the results, adjusted the plans and then acted again.

In Williams Lake, the situation developed very rapidly. Smoke and flames from lightning strikes were visible immediately, and fear paralleled the sense of urgency. An outgoing flight was halted, and within minutes of the lightning being observed, the airport was evacuated. Passengers, crew and airport staff watched the flames and smoke spread along the runway behind the now empty airport building. From the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Centre I could see smoke billowing and flames leaping from where lightning had struck. My daughter was stranded at the airport. As I raced to get her, I could feel the tension rising exponentially within the voice of each person I encountered. Within two hours of the first lightning strike, the City of Williams Lake called staff together to open the Emergency Operations Center. Information was sparse. The smoke

clouds above the flames continued to grow determinedly. It was evident that there was more than one fire, in more than one place, bordering our community. Emergency Alerts were issued and continued to be issued in the following days. News of the fires near Clinton, Ashcroft and 100 Mile House added to the pressure we felt in our Emergency Operations Center.

By that evening, RCMP Officers, Wildfire Crews, Fire Fighting Personnel, and all the related equipment to support them started to arrive in droves to fight the fire and provide support services. The rodeo grounds and curling rink parking lots were a sea of red and yellow vehicles, each bearing a logo from where it had come from. Soon the Military arrived. At one point there were over 300 military personnel housed in the Recreation

With over 90 communities in BC in varying states of emergency, alert and evacuation, we acted. We planned fast, adapted quickly, evaluated the results, adjusted the plans and then acted again

Center; their tanks, trucks and off-road vehicles filled the parking lot. It seemed that everywhere I turned, there were people in uniform helping to save our community.

When the evacuation order was given, residents were directed south on Highway 97, the only open highway, onward to Prince George. Vehicles lined up to leave town in a smoky haze, for what would be a many hours procession out of town, through Little Fort onto Prince George. Some residents chose Kamloops, and further to Kelowna, but the majority flowed through to Prince George. Without services like restaurants and fuel stations open, our Emergency Operation Center had to figure out how to ensure support for the emergency response teams remaining in town. 700 rotating military personnel from three different troops stayed in the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Centre and were impressively self-reliant. Firefighters were fed in the curling rink, housed in vacated motels and hotels without cleaning services. Many of the RCMP ate rations. Staff from municipal departments used their community contacts, knowledge and history, assets and relationships in many different ways. Some local businesses, like

the local Tim Hortons, tried to assist; succeeding because Emergency Service Personnel and volunteers helped behind the counter to prepare and serve food. Recreation facilities became critical spaces for service provision.

Recreation personnel from the City of Williams Lake supervised the reception centre for the City's Emergency Operations Center. The need for timely information regarding the fire status inside of the city limits was paramount. With a background in customer service and personnel relations, the recreation centre staff, along with student workers from the grounds crew, plus two very dedicated volunteers worked with the EOC to provide communication needed through the Reception Centre. At one point there were six ringing phones, answered by 12 rotating staff for 12 hours per day.

Another recreation team served in the roles of Information Officer and Liaison Officer – roles well suited to the skills of recreation team members. They worked with the Regional District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to organize incoming information and share it with other local governments, First Nations, the Provincial Government, and the



many agencies and media all working together (some days for up to 20 hours in a row). Maps of the fire situation and the growth of the fires overnight were updated daily, and conference calls intended to share and retrieve knowledge were hosted several times per day.

The unrelenting stress of the situation, combined with the demanding volume and nature of the work forced teams to organize to combat fatigue. Recreation team members excel at scheduling, so they assisted to create rosters for work and rest, schedules for breaks and meals to help maintain the stamina of the teams working the Williams Lake EOC.

In Prince George, Community Services stepped up on short notice and performed some fantastic feats. On 12 hours' notice, they hosted a 72-day event with 10,000+ attendees. As evacuated residents from Williams Lake arrived in Prince George in various states of upheaval and distress, a massive care system of Emergency



## When it came time to repatriate Williams Lake and the surrounding area and invite residents home, the Recreation Department shifted focus to providing recreation opportunities to help people cope with what they discovered upon return home

Social Services (ESS) was building. Some of these evacuated residents had been on the road for 15 hours on what would normally have been a three-hour trip. They arrived worried, hungry, unsure and weary of what the future days held for them and their communities. The reception centre utilized an average of 360 volunteers a day to administer the ESS Reception Centre. Evacuees were directed to

900+ temporarily set up beds, and community boarding opportunities. Special arrangements were made for the over 200 health care and residential care patients coming from facilities in the evacuated region, in addition to women in stages of birth, weddings and even a funeral. Every need was assessed, and every possible attempt made to help and support everyone coming in.

Recreation services are excellent at connecting with people and creating community - a value and skill so deeply appreciated by the people evacuated to Prince George. Recreation Services is one of the few areas of government that has the unique relationships and skilled teams to pull off events of such scale, for 72 straight days. Once basic needs were met (at first on a short-term rotating schedule) a painful amount of time was left for people to worry about their home communities, friends and future lives. Free programs, sports, food discounts and entertainment opportunities were arranged to help fill the empty hours that evacuees experienced. Opportunities all over Prince George were created – events in local parks, discovery centres and open spaces were used for these pop-up activities. These experiences were particularly valuable for people who were “hosted” up to 60 days, continually negotiating

## the key take away for me is how well we plan, evaluate, adapt and plan again

extenuating circumstances before them. The situation kept all of the staff and volunteers involved in support services performing miracles on very short notice and repeating that on a very long cycle. Recreation personnel partnered with everyone to try everything to keep the hope growing in the face of adversity. The community came together to assist evacuees who needed opportunities for engagement and activities to keep themselves and their children from dwelling on the loss of control over their situation. This was a monumental task, and a constant treadmill of learning and adapting. The opportunities and activities that were provided gave the needed stress relief and filled a tremendous void.

When it came time to repatriate Williams Lake and the surrounding area and invite residents home, the Recreation Department shifted focus to providing recreation opportunities to help people

cope with what they discovered upon return home. The smoke with thick and air quality was poor. The community had changed. Many people had endured the loss of social community, possessions, and lifestyles. The swimming pool in the Rec Center opened the lap pool; Thompson Rivers' University shared their spaces for programming, as well as some of the school gymnasiums were opened up for "preschoolers & me" programs, seniors walking programs, and sports activities for children and youth. Recreation Services partnered with the University, School District 27 and other local individuals and organizations to host indoor activities for all ages. We encouraged our residents to engage with each other and to return to some sort of routine.

As I reflect on the remarkably different roles that the Williams Lake and Prince George recreation teams played in the Wildfire Season of 2017, the key



STACEY MIRANDA

take away for me is how well we plan, evaluate, adapt and plan again. We in recreation need to advocate for our skills and talents so that we are forefront in the minds of those directing and managing community emergency response. Recreation teams have a "can do" attitude, and an optimistic way of operating – finding other ways of meeting a challenge, another person or another process that will allow us to create positives for our communities. We have a unique lens. I feel very lucky to be in a profession that stands for the people, all people all the time, no matter the situation.

**STACEY MIRANDA** is the District of Mackenzie's Recreation Centre Manager. She has held a variety of management positions in Fort St. John and Williams Lake for the past 25 years. Acting as the BCRPA Regional Liaison for the Cariboo, she loves to get outdoors and experience the myriad of recreational activities the area has to offer.



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# WARMING CENTRES IN VANCOUVER OFFER SAFE HAVENS ON COLD NIGHTS

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCES

**JUST AS THE HOLIDAYS** of 2016 began, the weather in Vancouver was abnormally cold for extended periods of time. This unexpected cold spell put people in Vancouver who were homeless at the time, at risk. An emergency conference call had all the city leaders planning for the health and safety of all our citizens. The community pulled together to open more spaces overnight so that our most vulnerable members of our community would have a place to rest, a safe place to refuel with healthy snacks and beverages, and a quiet place to warm up before heading back onto the streets.

Community Centres, not normally open overnight, stepped up with their staff and community centre associations, to fill the gaps in service. In particular, the West End and Britannia Community Centres were open each night with an average of 15-20 people at any given time taking refuge.

For over 40 nights between December and March, the homeless people in our communities were welcomed to stay, to enjoy some conversation and to be safe. Over 2000 visits to the various centres, supported by over 100 volunteers resulted in saved lives. This emergency situation galvanized the community to step up for our most vulnerable. On Christmas day, and throughout the holidays, staff and volunteers gave of their time in order to make sure that the centres were open

and accessible for all.

Community Centre teams are trained and prepared to provide emergency centres, however warming centres were something new. Without hesitation, the folks at the front line stepped up, alongside the community members, to figure things out in order to provide this vital service.

We jumped into action opening our doors from 10 pm until 7 am, providing snacks, coffee, hot chocolate, water and a place to rest. In some centres movies played all night in the lobby; and at others, quiet conversations helped pass the time. Every day the team was faced with new situations, new challenges, and new friends.

The learning curve was big. As the senior person in charge, I am so proud

For over 40 nights between December and March, the homeless people in our communities were welcomed to stay, to enjoy some conversation and to be safe

of the staff and volunteers that took this task on with courage and grace. What were the challenges inviting the not-your-average-user inside? While we maintained low to no barriers to access, we did not allow drug use on site. We



DONNIE ROSA

did allow dogs, shopping carts and all personal belongings on site. Yes, there were some situations where visitors became agitated, but the vast majority of the attendees were appreciative and respectful. Teamwork was paramount as recreation staff were supported by Community Services and Youth Worker personnel that have been trained to work with marginalized community members, people with mental health issues, and generally with people who are homeless.

Coming into the 2017-18 season the team was prepared, we anticipated having to open again and used what we learned from our previous years' experience. Once again, staff and community came together in order open our doors

and welcome the community during our coldest nights. This time we had training, we had an operations manual, we had structure, and we had experience. While we didn't need to open many nights, the ones we opened ran smoothly and once again, we saved lives.

Having a warm place to be during the coldest nights is important. Very important. We can all be proud of the work we do in recreation, and sometimes we don't even know how important that work is –

after the warming centre experience I was reminded that “with great power comes great responsibility” (Voltaire and Uncle Ben in Spiderman).

**DONNIE ROSA** is the Director of Recreation, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. With over 30 years of Recreation experience, Donnie is passionate about community, access to recreation for all and healthy active living. A former professional athlete and coach, Donnie knows the importance of teamwork and driving excellence by working together. Contact her at [Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca](mailto:Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca) for more information or to share materials on the warming centres.

Once again, staff and community came together in order open our doors and welcome the community during our coldest nights

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# FLOOD OF 2017; RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF DEMONSTRATE VERSATILITY IN THE FIELD

**AFTER FOUR WEEKS** of rising flood waters, June 8th was a day of teamwork and optimism for Peachland. For several weeks we had been monitoring our 11km of waterfront – all of which is considered parkland. Docks were weighted down but in many cases were fully submerged; provincial and local fire crews were frantically placing sandbags to protect against shoreline erosion as well as protect critical infrastructure; rip rap had been placed in high risk areas; and crews were deploying tiger dams (large water filled bladders) to protect our roadways from the water. We believed that we were doing the best we could to hold back the water.

Our small community was looking very different. Most lakefront properties were experiencing rising waters, and home owners and businesses were setting up pumps to remove the water. Hoses were running across the main road in town with makeshift hose bibs established to enable vehicle traffic to flow. Our beaches were all under water, and sandbag walls were a common occurrence both on public and private property. Our businesses were open... but many were struggling as folks were avoiding coming to the flood impacted areas. Unlike a fire where the emergency progresses fast, the flood for Peachland was like slowly ripping off a band aid.

Despite all of this, Peachlanders were banding together to help neighbours armour against the rising waters and gratitude and well wishes were common from those who encountered crews along the way.

Parks and Recreation staff showed their versatility in filling a variety of emergency service roles both at the Emergency Operation Centre as well as local incident command

On June 8th, we were informed that a storm from the South was brewing, and all forces were working together to protect the town. We discovered what our neighbours had weeks before... you can't hold back the power of nature. The storm turned docks on their side, eroded significant sections of our waterfront parkland and left segments of our Centennial Walkway damaged. Waterfront trees were undermined and were dangling precariously over the lake; and vehicles near downed trees were at risk as segments of a waterfront parking lot was also washed away. The tiger dam was dragged into the water and crews

stood in shock and awe helpless to the damage that was being done.

So where do we (recreation leaders) fit in? In Peachland the beach is primarily parkland; therefore, Parks staff were working tirelessly to protect that beachfront and beachfront amenities. In other communities, Parks and Recreation staff showed their versatility in filling a variety of emergency service roles both at the Emergency Operation Centre as well as local incident command. With expertise in communications, customer service and operation, our Parks and Recreation teams are relied on to fill gaps in the emergency program.



CHERYL WEIBE



In the end, our community, like many in the Okanagan, experienced significant damage. However, infrastructure can be replaced and lessons learned will last a lifetime. Some lessons I learned:

- Having your regional counterparts on speed dial is invaluable (having a Shoreline Engineer on speed dial was helpful too)
- Never be afraid to ask for help or advice
- If you live in a waterfront area that may flood, survey the area early – a visual inspection is not always enough to gauge where the water is going to go
- When applying for funding through the Emergency Management program, use someone who knows the trigger words that might help you get the funding faster (or avoid a decline)
- Team, coordination, cooperation and communication are essential in an emergency

In the Central Okanagan, municipalities work together under the Regional Emergency Operation Centre. This model was tested to extremes in 2017 when the centre was fully active for 120 consecutive days. Municipal staff from all jurisdictions band together to operate the centre while also trying to

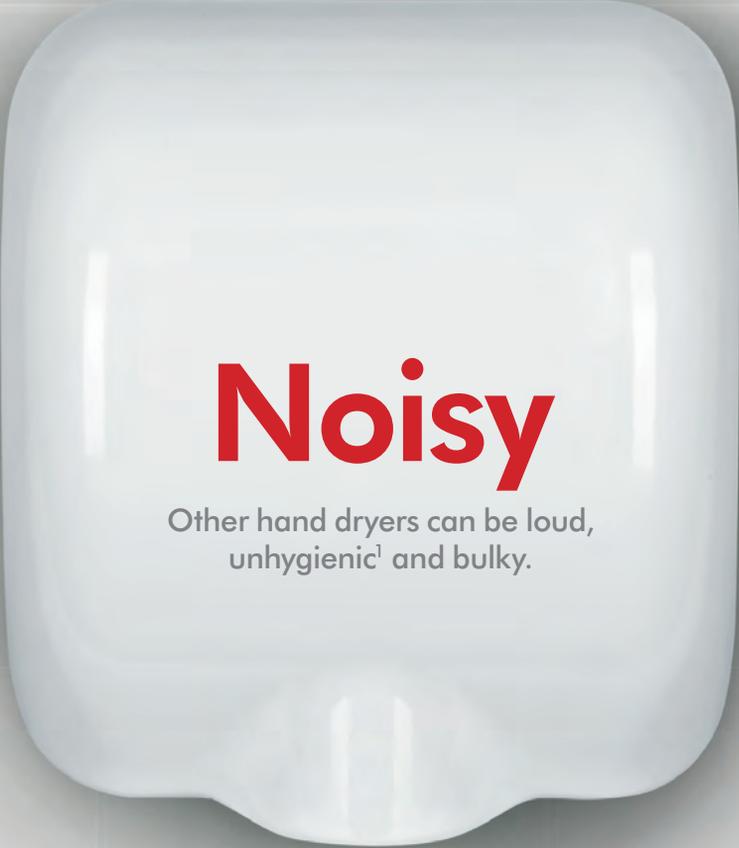


manage their day to day work at the office. For a small town like Peachland, the resource and support of the operations centre is truly invaluable. From tracking weather and rising waters, planning, resourcing equipment and resources, communicating with the media/public, tracking expenses and inter-jurisdictional communication, the Regional Emergency Operations Centre was able to assist and fill in gaps and challenges that were happening on the ground. They were also able to provide some on the ground expertise to help us navigate this unprecedented event. Many of my colleagues in the Okanagan became flood experts – how to weigh down a dock, install a Tiger Dam, what type of flood mitigation effort would actually work (or more likely not work) in a particular situation. For many in our region, the highlight is shared – communities and community members coming together to help each other and work on a joint cause. The



challenge post emergency is the clean up; backlog of regular work; and impacts that both fires and floods had on summer programming and events such as lake swim lessons/water activities and outdoor camps. There were also both large and small impacts to various Canada Day events with some activities being cancelled and others being delayed or reworked to accommodate the flood damaged areas. However, we did survive, and as it often is at the end of it all, our communities are bonded and are stronger together.

**CHERYL WEIBE** is the Director of Community Services with the District of Peachland with a focus on Recreation, Parks and Community Services. Side of her desk activities include being the BCRPA Regional Liaison for the Thompson-Okanagan and she also is a volunteer facilitator for the Volunteer Management program with the Kelowna Community Resource Society. Her work priority for the next several years will be helping Peachland recover from the 2017 flood.



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As well as/or In-House Training systems



## WHEREABOUTS... PEOPLE AND PLACES OF BCRPA

The Regional District of Nanaimo had **Anne Porteous**, Aquatics Program retire at the end of October. Anne was with the department for sixteen years. The position has yet to be filled. While **Renee Lussier** has joined the Parks Services team as a Parks Planner. Her portfolio includes regional and community parks in electoral areas 'G' and 'F'. **Dustin Ray-Wilks** has joined New Westminster's Parks & Recreation Department as the Manager of Aquatics. **Natalie Alexander** has joined the City of Penticton as Recreation coordinator. **Jeff Lynka** has left his long-time role as Parks Supervisor in Penticton to take on a position in Victoria. **Blain Ford** from Penticton moved into the Membership Manager role for the YMCA. **Brian Bergvinson** has been hired as the Recreation Coordinator with the City of West Kelowna (previously from Kelowna) and **Kevin Bouchier** was promoted to Recreation Supervisor. In January, Oliver will be saying goodbye to **Shauna Isted** who has held the position of Relief Recreation Assistant and welcoming back **Kyle Fossett** to the position who was covering another leave as the acting Recreation Clerk. In Peachland, **Julie van den Born** retired from the Department of Parks and Recreation. **Ben Stringer** was promoted into her position as Recreation Program Coordinator and **Carly-Anne Douglas** is now the new Recreation Clerk. **Brenda Ingram**, Recreation

Manager for the District of Summerland, retired in October after 29 years with the District. **Lori Mullin**, Recreation & Culture Manager with the City of Penticton, has moved in to the Recreation Manager position in Summerland. Golden welcomed **Karen Pulsiferas** as the new booking clerk who is taking lead on administering facility rentals and helping enhance drop in gym programming at the Mount 7 Rec Plex. Welcome to the new District of Mission Recreation Leader – Youth Services, **Chandra Walters**. After 27 successful years with the City of Richmond, **Mike Redpath** joined Metro Vancouver as its new Director – Regional Parks. After 40 years with Regional Parks, **Frieda Schade** retired from her position as Division Manager – Parks Planning and Engineering Services. **Jamie Vala** has transferred from her Division Manager – Central Area position to assume Frieda's system responsibilities. Richmond welcomed the following to their team: Manager, Parks Programs – **Paul Brar**, Diversity Coordinator, **Donna Lee**, and Accessibility Coordinator – **Kirsten Frankish**. In Prince George, Staff member **Paulette Wilson** has moved into a newly created role "Community Coordinator – Sport". **Deanna Selver** joins our team as a part time Community Coordinator with a focus on Wellness and Active Living.

# BCRPA REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

## LOWER MAINLAND



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## NEW WESTMINSTER

The City of New Westminster has completed a Feasibility study for the replacement of the Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre. The Study recommends a 114,000 sq ft facility that will create a single complex to replace and expand on the current amenities in the existing buildings. The new facility, which is proposed to be approximately 60% larger than the current structures, includes a 50 meter pool, leisure pool, childcare, multipurpose spaces, fitness, and two gymnasiums. For more information the report is available on the City's website: <https://www.newwestcity.ca/planning-building-and-development/projects-on-the-go/your-active-new-west>

New Westminster Parks and Recreation is the first of the consortium to begin the recreation software transition into Perfect Mind with a go live date of February 2018. This has provided the opportunity to evaluate and update program registration policies and procedures and anticipate improved customer service to program participants.

## ABBOTSFORD

On October 25th, Abbotsford Local Immigration Partnership, in collaboration with the City, had 50 newcomers participate in a bus tour of Abbotsford where they gained information of local resources that will help them be successful in their transition to Abbotsford as their home. Participants came from Nairobi, Korea, Japan and India. The tour included a stop at Kariton House and the participants gained knowledge about the local area's Indigenous culture and history, a stop at the historic Sikh Temple, a tour of the library and civic areas, knowledge about

**Are you new to Abbotsford?**  
**Discover Abbotsford**  
**A free city bus tour**

Get to know your city landscape  
Visit historic sites and points of interest  
See Abbotsford's diversity and cultural hubs  
Meet the locals at various stops  
Learn about leisure activities, community programs and local events near you

Wednesday October 25, 2017  
Meet at ACS Montrose 9:00am  
Tour Time 9:30am-2:00pm  
Reserve Seats at: <http://newcomersbus tour.eventbrite.ca/?a=79268440>

This program prioritizes permanent residents, naturalized citizens, refugees and temporary foreign workers



Figure 1 Discover Abbotsford free bus tour



You can be busy or you can be intentional but you can't be both. How to work on your organization rather than just for your organization.

**Keynote presentation:**  
Volunteers and non-profit organizations have a high level of personal investment into the betterment of their community. They experience a great deal of satisfaction from meeting individual and community needs with the ultimate desire to create social change. By delegating services that governments can't afford to provide in a cost effective manner, the full social and economic value of their contributions cannot be measured. However, volunteers are often burdened by the day to day work load and forget why they exist and who they serve. They get caught up in the micro bits and lose the macro view. What questions need to be asked and steps need to be taken to ensure resiliency within each organization and solidify its essential role in building strong community? This session will explore the pitfalls that often erode passion and how to avoid them. It will focus on being intentional about the following:

- Responsive rather than reactive
- Robust rather than fragile
- Thinking rather than just surviving

Christina Bentley MA is a retired politician, a jazz singer, and the owner of Strategic Leadership Solutions, a consulting firm designed to assist teams in building a culture of excellence in leadership and governance. As former Mayor for the Town of Golden with 12 years' experience in local government, she is passionate about sound governance, leadership development, organizational culture, community engagement and asset management.

After her wealth of time spent living within the world of local government, she now facilitates conversations that encourage meaningful dialogue and assist governing bodies to transition from strategic vision to practical action. Christina considers herself an asset management evangelist. She is a regular conference presenter who is desperately trying to inspire local governments to take their stewardship responsibilities seriously and to inject some passion and enthusiasm into this complex topic.

### Day at a Glance

- 9:30am Registration Opens
- 10:00am Mayor Braun Welcomes Delegates
- 10:10am Chamber for Good
- 10:45am Keynote
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Breakout Workshops - Session 1
- 2:15pm Breakout Workshops - Session 2
- 3:15pm Symposium Concludes

**Sponsors**  
ABBOTSFORD Chamber of Commerce

For more information email [communitydevelopment@abbotsford.ca](mailto:communitydevelopment@abbotsford.ca) or call 604.557.1464 To register: [www.abbotsford.ca/involve](http://www.abbotsford.ca/involve)



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Christina Bentley - You can be busy or you can be intentional, but you can't be both!**



Involve Abbotsford is pleased to have Christina Bentley as our keynote speaker. Please join us Thursday, November 30, 2017.



### One-Day Symposium

November 30, 9:30am - 3:15pm  
FREE. Includes light lunch  
MCA Auditorium  
32315 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford

Don't miss out on Involve Abbotsford's one-day symposium! Get inspired, informed and motivated about the work you do in the community.

Register at [www.abbotsford.ca/involve](http://www.abbotsford.ca/involve)



Network with professionals in various fields, build community connections, attend informative workshops, and an inspirational keynote speaker. Participate in workshops that will help you:

- Fostering Volunteer Relationships
- Systems for Success
- Going from here to there: Vision to Strategy to Execution
- Gaining Grants 101
- The Savvy Spokesperson
- Changing the way we think about Charities
- The use of technology to plan for your non-profit for tomorrow

Figure 2 2017 Involve Abbotsford Symposium

local recreation opportunities, as well as information about Abbotsford's industrial and farming employers.

The City of Abbotsford hosted the 2017 Involve Abbotsford Symposium on November 30. Abbotsford leaders of Community Organizations, Amateur Sports Teams, Arts Groups, Not for Profits and Small Businesses were invited to attend the Involve Abbotsford's one-day symposium. The event was co-facilitated and supported by the Chamber of Commerce Not for Profit section.

The City of Abbotsford will be replacing the Ledgewick Golf Course Clubhouse since the previ-

ous clubhouse was destroyed by fire in April of 2016. The plan will see a \$5.67 million, 225-seat clubhouse and banquet hall built at the course. The city will contribute \$950,000 of capital spending toward the project. The remainder will come from insurance proceeds stemming from the fire, along with a \$1.3 million contribution from Kinder Morgan promised under a community benefits agreement. The project will also provide the infrastructure necessary to allow for the golf course to use electric carts, rather than gas-fueled.

The City of Abbotsford is excited to be re-purposing Jubilee Park in the downtown core, making it a more usable space for the public.

## CHILLIWACK

The City of Chilliwack Recreation and Culture department has begun construction of two capital projects. The first project is the Chilliwack Community Curling Rink which, when completed, will house eight sheets of ice, a commercial kitchen, lounge and community programming space. While the new curling rink is in construction the existing curling rink will remain functioning and will be demolished to allow for additional parking in the area. The total budget for this project is \$10.8 million dollars.

The second capital project the Recreation and Culture department has embarked on is a third sheet of ice that will be housed next to the existing Twin Rinks Facility. The addition of this facility will require some major infrastructure changes to Watson Glen Park area and will include moving a major storm pipe and the existing tennis courts. The cost for the whole project is estimated at 10.5 million dollars.

The City of Chilliwack concluded a very successful Celebration and Activity program which saw 32 block parties hosted within the community. This figure is up from 20 that were hosted in 2016. The City is now looking to include a Youth Engagement component to the Celebration and Activity program in hopes of encouraging young citizens to get involved in their community and giving them a stronger voice where they live.

Mayor and Council accepted a recommendation from the Chilliwack Public Art Advisory Committee that a local artist named Davis Graham aka Pencilfingerz be awarded the mural project located on a vacant city owned building at the Five Corners Area of downtown Chilliwack. The completed project marked the first time the City has commissioned a public art piece such as this and the finished project is a colorful, dynamic piece titled "A Story of Chilliwack". The cost for the project totaled \$5,000.

Recreation and Culture along with Recreation Excellence just completed the discovery phase of converting to PerfectMind and moved to the next phase in mid January.

## MISSION

The last quarter of 2017 was very busy with the official opening of Mission's first artificial turf field. It is a full size football/soccer field with lights and an additional mini field to accommodate warm ups and games for younger kids. The Mission Rotary Club assisted by providing a score clock. It replaces an all-weather field and compliments the 6 grass soccer/lacrosse fields and 4 baseball diamonds at the Mission Sports Park.

The Department retained Stantec Consulting to develop a new Master Plan to guide it for the next 10 – 15 years. The plan, which also includes a specific plan for two large community parks (Fraser River Heritage Park and Centennial Park) is expected to be complete by the Spring of 2018.

2017 also marked the community's 125th anniversary with numerous activities and events taking place throughout the year. In addition to events hosted directly by the District, grants were provided to over 20 community groups to host festivities. As a legacy to the year a piece of public art was completed by a local sculptor and will be installed in downtown Mission in the Spring of 2018.

The transition from CLASS software to PerfectMind software began in 2017 with a "Go Live" date set for March 19, 2018.

The department has issued a RFP for a new Seniors Centre. This new facility with seniors housing attached will replace a Seniors Centre which operates out of the Mission Community Activity Centre (MCAC). With the new facility, space in the MCAC will be freed up to accommodate youth programming.

## RICHMOND

Richmond celebrated local food, sustainability and its agricultural past, present and future at the first annual Richmond Harvest Fest. The festival was the first major event on the spectacular Garden City Lands, an amazing 136.5 acre park in the heart of Richmond. This remarkable open space is currently being developed as one of Richmond's signature parks and will be home

to active farming and agricultural programs, a dedicated natural area and extensive opportunities for public recreation.

Highlights from the event include a farmers market, exceptional local food, beer and wine, cooking demonstrations, children's activities including a straw bale slide and wagon ride, interactive agricultural displays and roving performers. The festival main stage featured homegrown performers with a headliner performance by folk/rock/reggae trio Jon and Roy.

The City of Richmond celebrated National Seniors Day with three initiatives taking place, to coincide with the International Day of Older Persons by the United Nations General Assembly. A Positive Aging Campaign, two art exhibits, and a breakfast social were all part of the City of Richmond's and its community partners' National Seniors Day. Each year the City of Richmond creates a photo campaign showcasing positive images of adults 55+ years living in Richmond. This year's campaign focused on the talents, contributions and participation of seniors and highlights those who continue to be active in the community. The public was also invited to attend two free art exhibits celebrating seniors in the community. City Centre Community Centre hosted a National Seniors Day breakfast social, where seniors celebrated the day with a light meal while learning about programs and activities for adults 55+ years and sharing ideas for future programming.

The official opening of the new \$1.5-million fitness space took place on December 9, 2017. The new and expanded space is the result of a funding partnership with equal \$500,000 contributions from the Federal Western Economic Diversification Canada's 150 Grant, South Arm Community Association, and the City of Richmond.

The 31,000 square foot, two storey community centre contains a gymnasium, multipurpose rooms and fitness centre. The second floor upgrades increased the total fitness area by 33 per cent. Features include energy efficient designs such as more natural light, LED light fixtures and heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades. Other new features include a universal

and accessible washroom and shower facility, new exercise equipment, as well as adaptable court space using a movable wall.

The City of Richmond has been designated as a World Leisure Communities of Excellence for 2017 by the World Leisure Organization (WLO). The title World Leisure Community of Excellence is given to communities that have successfully used leisure in all its forms to reinvent themselves and to improve the economic, social and cultural lives of their citizens and that have made substantive contributions consistent with advancing the mission of the WLO. The WLO stated, “the City of Richmond receives this award for its substantive contributions as a community to promoting leisure as a means to enhance the human condition. Richmond serves as an exemplar of how broad-based citizen involvement can effectively promote leisure as integral to the social, cultural, economic, and sustainable environmental development of the community.”

## NORTH COAST / NECHAKO



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## PRINCE RUPERT

The Prince Rupert Recreation Complex has just completed their accessibility lift installation which was the final capital project for 2017; providing access to the upstairs of the Civic Centre and Arena as well as the Fitness Centre. In celebration, an Access4All open house celebration was held throughout the facilities. Almost 500 community members took part in this fun event. Prince Rupert is in full basketball swing, having just hosted the All Native Basketball Qualifiers. In December, fans and participants enjoyed the All Native Winter Classic and now look forward to the excitement and energy of February’s All Native Basketball Tournament.

## TERRACE

The Terrace & District Aquatic Centre continues to undergo a complete upgrade and is expected to re-open in April 2018. This fall the Terrace & District Museum Society completed a restoration project that replaced footings and flooring in its heritage buildings. The City of Terrace Leisure Services department recently went live with ACTIVE Net software. The changeover has been well received by staff and patrons. The City of Terrace held its first disc golf funanza at the newly constructed Mountain Meadows disc golf course.

## SMITHERS

Smithers Town Council has approved a proposed study for a new 12,000 square foot Arts and Culture Centre which would house the Library and the Art Gallery and offer additional space for community programming. A free public skating initiative has been well received thanks to a successful sponsorship program involving a

number of local businesses and organizations. The public response has been amazing with attendance at all public skating sessions increasing significantly.

## CARIBOO



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## WILLIAMS LAKE

Wildfires in the Cariboo area over the summer saw much of the City on evacuation alert, or actually evacuated, for a large portion of the summer. During this time those City staff that



West Fraser Aquatic Centre

were not evacuated played many roles in the Emergency Operations Centre as well as providing Emergency Social Services. During this time providing recreation services took a back seat to ensuring community safety and hosting the many thousands of Armed Forces, police, firefighters and emergency workers that descended on the City. The Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex became home to over 700 Canadian Armed Forces personnel as well as numerous RCMP detachments for over 8 weeks. It was quite a sight to see the parking lot full of hundreds of tanks, LAVs and Army vehicles.

Shortly after the fires abated the new West Fraser Aquatic Centre fully opened its doors after almost two years of phased construction. Phase One opened in September 2017 and with the opening of Phase Two in December 2017. The new 25m pool, leisure tank, water slide, large swirl pool, steam room, sauna, fitness centre and vastly improved change rooms are all up and running! The new amenities have been a huge lift to the community and all reviews are raving about the facility. The attendance during the first month of opening was off the charts!

Williams Lake hosted Rogers Hometown Hockey in January and the city was alive with excitement. The Main Street in was transformed into a huge festival area and the two days saw tens of thousands of people attend and show their hockey spirit in front of a live national television audience. Almost every local business decorated their storefront in red and the City of Williams Lake added tens of thousands of new holiday lights to the downtown core, as well as building an outdoor rink for the public to enjoy. The event was a huge morale boost for the Williams Lake area after a long and tough summer. As a part of this event the City began last fall constructing an outdoor skating rink for the community's use in one of our local parks. The Municipal Services Department was hoping to have it up and running in time for the Rogers Hometown Hockey event. Nothing quite says hometown hockey like an outdoor skating rink! City crews worked tirelessly on the rink, shoveling and flooding despite the frigid temperatures in late December. The rink officially opened on Dec 29th and held its own in January! This new rink is geared to fam-

ily fun, free outdoor activities - people are able to drop in at any time. The hope for our community to utilize the ice surface frequently, and if that happens we could continue creating the outdoor rink in future years.

In March the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex will play host to the Midget Girls Provincial Hockey Championships as well as the Coy Cup Sr. Men's Provincial Hockey Championships. The City enjoyed the opportunity to show the facility and community as the best place to be for activity, fun and competition!

## **MACKENZIE**

In 2017 the District of Mackenzie began a pilot year of offering grant writing services to local not for profit groups in Mackenzie. In addition to priority projects, the District added the provision of grant writing services to community not-for-profits in the Mackenzie area. The District of Mackenzie helped organizations apply for a total of \$198,800 and was successful in aiding our not-for-profit organizations in obtaining a total of \$138,800, with \$60,000 still pending approval. Plans are now underway to utilize these funds to assist in creating fantastic sport and recreation opportunities in the area.

Mackenzie has been able to purchase indoor curling equipment to be staged at the elementary school, the high school, the arena viewing room at the Recreation Centre and even in the new community hall on completion. The indoor curling equipment is portable, adaptable and can be staged on any flat smooth surface, which makes hosting curling easy and gives the ability to curl all year in various community facilities. The District of Mackenzie also purchased a variety of specialized equipment which allows the ice arena to be set up to host curling on a weekly basis, transitioning between other ice sports and curling with relative ease. The Arena has been hosting several curling days and bon spiels per month to accommodate Curl Mackenzie, while ensuring minimal interference with the other ice users and community groups. The District of Mackenzie received \$30,000 in grant funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust to support this 'Interim Curling' project.



*Williams Lake staff ready the  
Outdoor Skating Rink*

The community was approved for \$35,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust to supplement the wages of a Recreation and Tourism Management Intern. Sandra Borton was hired on a one-year term through this program and has quickly become an integral and productive member of both the District and Recreation Centre team. Sandra works with Recreation Services staff and management to aid in a variety of Recreation and Tourism programs and events development, marketing and delivery. Sandra also works with user groups and not for profits in the community to develop and implement actions to increase their effectiveness and services they offer.

The District was also approved for \$98,000 in funding from BC Rural Dividend Initiative Fund and an additional \$30,000 in funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust for the Morfee Waterfall Trail Connector project. This project will work to create a more accessible trail to the Morfee Waterfall with better signage, brushing and trail clearing. Planned improvements will serve to redesign a new trail layout that will provide users with responsible directed recreational access to Morfee Falls. Environmentally sensitive areas will be restored, trail re-routes will be intended to create a sustainable route while attempting to maximize user satisfaction and promote one of Mackenzie's unique ecological features simultaneously. Mackenzie plans to take over the province as the best trails in all of BC for mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing and more!

## PRINCE GEORGE

This season has been a very busy one for Community Services in Prince George. Late in 2017 the community went to referendum to replace an aging swimming pool (\$35 M) and main fire hall (\$15 M). Both authorizations for borrowing were successful (pool 62.5%, fire hall 82.8%). Planning for these replacement facilities has now begun, and will keep staff busy well into the new year. The Parks Department is adding a 30m bridge to an island nature park. It replaces a bridge destroyed by an ice jam on the Nechako River. The Department also launched a Ball Diamond and Sport Field Strategy to guide future development and maintenance of ball diamonds and sport fields. Late 2017 also saw the opening of a new enclosed off-leash dog park in the northern part of the city.

The City, in partnership with Engage Sport North and our 7 Community Associations, are delivering 21 Sport Discovery Community Try-It! Programs. The Try-It! events are a free opportunity for everyone to try a sport, maybe for the first time. The sports range from badminton, jiu-jitsu, archery, cross-country skiing, gymnastics and much more. For 2018 this highly successful program is expanding to include a specific program for adults ages 40 and up that features activities such as curling, walking, tai chi and more.

## VANCOUVER ISLAND AND SOUTH COAST



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## COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

PLAY Cowichan hosted "Active 4 Life" Physical Literacy Summit November 24 & 25 at Island Savings Centre in Duncan. The summit was geared to those in education, health, child care, sport and recreation and featured Dr. Dean Kriellaars.

Cowichan Lake Recreation hosted another successful Halloween Haunted House and costume competition. While on November 26 the Annual Santa parade through Lake Cowichan was well attended.

## WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

Through support from the Federal Enabling Access Fund (EAF), West Shore Parks and Recreation carried out a number of accessibility projects on their grounds and buildings including additional curb drops, door power assist but-

tons and upgrades to the Administration area. Further grants are being sourced to enhance the accessibility of other buildings and play areas. Peninsula Co-op continued their support of West Shore Parks and Recreation with a \$10,000 grant towards the Childminding Centre, ensuring parents can continue to enjoy programs and services while their children are cared for at a low cost.

The Program team has continued partnerships with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Island Health to keep the Wild About Wellness program running. This BCRPA award winning program focuses on youth struggling with depression and anxiety and plays a critical role in getting youth involved in physical activity and group sessions to improve their well-being.

Staff from West Shore Parks and Recreation were part of the organizing committee for the 28th annual Island Fitness Conference, presented by Fitness Town Commercial. It took place in Victoria, BC and had 209 registrations. This event was sponsored by Fitness Town Commercial, 360 Athletics, Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, STAK/Matrix Fitness & Wedderspoon Organic. The Island Fitness Conference began in 1989 as a way to ensure Vancouver Island fitness professionals had access to quality educational training locally. What started as a small group of volunteers has evolved into a dedicated committee of programmers and instructors representing most of southern Vancouver Island.

The Q Centre hosted the 1st Career Fair in Victoria put on by Black Press, with over 5000 people attending.

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

District 69 Recreation is in the final stages of a Master Plan process. Open houses were held mid-November providing residents an opportunity to view and discuss the recommendations. Feedback will be gathered until mid-December with the final plan slated to go to the Regional Board in early spring 2018. The Department has been working with RC Strategies + PERC throughout the process.



Photo L to R: Dr. Dean Kriellaars, University of Manitoba; Nicole Beauregard, City of Kamloops/PLAY Kamloops; and John Elzinga, Cowichan Valley Regional District & PLAY Cowichan Chair.



*Salish Wind”, a traditional Coast Salish Canoe, was recently installed at Transfer Beach in Ladysmith*

The Northern Recreation Services team secured a BC Healthy Communities grant. Planned initiatives include: a physical and social inclusion audit of recreation facilities, a review of booking rates and policies of our own and community partner facilities, a nature based program focused on encouraging and introducing females to participate in outdoor recreation pursuits, and the installation of equipment/amenities in public areas that will encourage physical activity.

Snuneymuxw First Nation recently completed a sport court project located on IR#4. The RDN contributed to the project by way of gas tax funds in the amount of \$300,000. The court is a welcomed amenity in the area and will be accessible to all area residents (Cedar, South Wellington, and Yellow Point). The official opening will take place this spring.

The Department recently renewed the service agreement (3 year term) with Gabriola Recreation Society for the provision of recreation services on the Island. The Society has been providing this service for almost fifteen years.

A community recreation centre is in the works for Electoral Area 'F' (Meadowood) to be completed in 2018. The centre will be located adjacent to the Meadowood Community Park which opened in 2016.

Also in 2018 the Department will be working with the Parksville Curling Club on a new lease option for the D69 Arena to continue operating as a curling facility. The facility is owned by the RDN but is located on City of Parksville land in the waterfront Community Park.

Changes are happening at Huxley Community Park on Gabriola Island! The park's tennis court and sports court, built by volunteers over two decades ago, saw upgrades this fall with new tennis court surfacing and new perimeter boards for the sports court. These improvements were made possible through a contribution from the Gabriola Ball Hockey Association. A new playground has also been added to the park. This initiative was made possible through contributions from the Gabriola Lions Club and by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, collaboration between the Nanaimo Foundation, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast.

## LADYSMITH

A new after school program, "Active after School", was created with support of the BCRPA Before and After School Recreation Program Spaces Grant in partnership with Ladysmith Parks, Recreation and Culture and Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island, providing an opportunity for Ladysmith Boys & Girls Club children to participate in a weekly recreation and physical activity program, hosted by Ladysmith Parks, Recreation and Culture staff. This 8-week program in the gymnasium at Frank Jameson Community Centre will include different activities weekly, such as fundamental movement skills, try-it sports (variety of sports), physical literacy obstacle course, yoga, and a variety of active group games and activities. Parents and guardians will be encouraged to participate in a family-friendly physical activity/obstacle course during the 8th session and celebration with their children.

The "Salish Wind", a traditional Coast Salish Canoe, was recently installed at Transfer Beach in Ladysmith, strategically pointing across the harbour often seen as dividing our two communities, but with the addition of the canoe, can be reframed as connecting them.

A joint Canada 150 project of Stz'uminus and Ladysmith, this unique legacy artwork symbolizes the benefit of "pulling together" in cultural collaboration now and into the future. Creation of the canoe itself was led by master carver Manny Sampson, using traditional methods and with the additional participation of citizens from both communities. The base was carved by local artist Dan Richey, using a chainsaw. The "Ladysmith & Stz'uminus Celebrate Canada 150 Committee" acknowledges support for this project from various sources, including the Stz'uminus First Nation, the Town of Ladysmith, and many volunteers from both communities. The committee is especially grateful for significant funding from the Government of Canada, and the Ladysmith & District Credit Union.

## THOMPSON / OKANAGAN



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## PENTICTON

The City of Penticton hosted multiple events throughout September including the city's first ever Punjabi Mela, a Punjabi festival featuring live authentic Indian music and cuisine, made by people in the community. The event raised over \$15,000 for the BC Cancer Foundation.

Penticton also hosted over 2,500 paddlers for the 17th Annual Dragon Boat Festival on Skaha Lake. With 52 women's teams and 32 mixed teams, a new race took off every 10 minutes. On September 23, Okanagan Lake Park was the starting location of Kettle Mettle, Western Canada's first and only Gravel Fondo. This cycling event showcased the historical nature of the Kettle Valley Trail and the amazing scenery of the Okanagan while also providing a safe and challenging ride from Penticton to East Kelowna with three different distance options for all levels of riders. In October, Penticton hosted the

Swim BC Prospects Camp which targeted the top 15&U girls and 16&U boys in the province.

Transfocus Consulting led a discussion with City staff around the unique challenges and barriers that transgender individuals and families face. The consultant toured local recreation facilities including the Community Centre, Memorial Arena and the Convention Centre and will be providing a report with recommendations on how Penticton's facilities can be more welcoming and inclusive. The Recreation Department also launched RADAR, a drop-in program for LG-BTQ+ youth (13 to 18 years old) and their allies. The free program offers weekly meetings filled with conversations, guest speakers, fun activities and more exploring gender, identity and acceptance led by a qualified group facilitator.

Community engagement for Draft #2 of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has wrapped up and summaries are available for review. Feedback from the community during the engagement activities reinforced the need to address concerns about commercial activity in public parks before the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can move forward. As a result, the Steering Committee and key stakeholders are working with the City to develop the necessary policies and procedures to regulate activity in a manner that meets the expectations of the community at the same time as the remaining needs of the plan are addressed.

## SICAMOUS

Sicamous is pleased to be offering an after school program for working parents, averaging five kids per day and filling a huge need in the



*The City of Penticton's Punjabi Mela*



*7th Annual Dragon Boat Festival on Skaha Lake*

community as there are no daycare services at all. Pro D Day Camps are also offered at various places, such as pools, science centres, or in house at the centre.

A new "Learn to Skate Program" was offered in the fall. This program is instructed by the Jr. B Coach and his players rotate as helpers throughout the year.

As well, a tumbling and dance program was successfully launched in the fall and both programs will see another session offered in the new year.



*RADAR logo for new Penticton program*

Pickleball numbers are down for this year but it is hoped that once the snow birds return that these numbers will change. New programs are being explored in 2018 such as Self Defence, Dodgeball and some craft programs.

## CITY OF WEST KELOWNA

The City of West Kelowna is proud to announce the completion of three athletic lighting projects in the Community. Rosewood Field, Mt. Boucherie Baseball Diamond and Lakeview Heights Tennis Courts are the first lighted athletic areas

in the community and were successful due to a grant from the Federal Government. All three projects include the latest in LED technology and remote access for control.

## OLIVER

The Oliver Parks and Recreation Society is currently working with Stephenson Engineering to undergo a full facility condition assessment of the Oliver & District Arena, built in 1968. Similar assessments of the community centre building and outdoor pool facility are planned for 2018. An RFP for the design and construction of a revitalized small wheels park in Lion's Park closed on Dec. 20th. Phase 1 of the new off-leash dog park in Lion's Park is now complete and Phase 2 which will include permanent seating, a fountain and pathways began in March. A new fully accessible playground targeting 2-5 years olds will be installed in Community Park in the Spring of 2018. The contract for supply and installation of playground equipment was awarded to Mark Suttle of Suttle Recreation.

## DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND

Parks and Recreation staff continue to be involved in the recovery from the spring flooding. The annual events continue to grow in popularity – Glow Run, Halloween Spooktacular, Christmas Light Up and Breakfast with Santa. Pickleball is strong in Peachland with 13 sessions weekly and numerous learn to play and advanced clinics.

## PRINCETON

The Town of Princeton's number one priority is to develop a regionally significant public facility to further the revitalization of Princeton. Princeton began this process in 2011 with referendum results within the town boundaries as 49% yes and 51% no. More work needed to be done to fully understand the direction of the citizens. After a lengthy review of the 2011 referendum results, Town Council concluded that there was still a substantial level of support within the town boundaries for a Health Wellness and Aquatic Centre that would meet the needs of a broad spectrum of the community.

Since 2011, Town Council and Staff have moved forward with an extensive feasibility study, acquired land through a significant donation,



*Rosewood Field*

extended the Town Boundaries to include Copper Mountain Mining, worked with community members to determine needs, and a proposal overview was prepared and presented to the Provincial Cabinet Ministers for funding considerations. The proposal was met with interest and Council was encouraged by the Province to move forward with further planning.

The Town of Princeton has released the results to the community with positive results. Funding is being sought and the community is optimistic in our endeavours.

## **DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND**

The District of Summerland has embarked in developing a current Parks & Recreation Master

Plan to guide the provision of parks and recreation services to residents and visitors over the next ten years. Lees & Associates will be providing a first draft in January for staff and community input and the final Master Plan is expected to be completed by the end of Spring 2018.

The District of Summerland in partnership with the Rotary Club of Summerland has completed a draft Trails Re-Development Master Plan for Giant's Head Mountain in 2017. This project was successful in receiving \$435,000 from the BC Rural Dividend Fund. With the addition of \$100,000 provided by the Rotary Club and \$190,000 from the District, phase 1 and 2 of this project will begin implementation in 2018. This includes: upgrading existing trails, constructing new trails and decommissioning trails; upgrades to roads, park entrance and viewpoints; and installing furnishings, features and signage.

The community of Summerland continues to progress in its goal to build a new skatepark. The land has been donated by the School District, the design drawings have been completed and fundraising efforts have reached \$145,000. A promotional video has been developed and can be viewed on the skatepark website: <http://summerland.ca/parks-recreation/skatepark>



*District of Peachland Glow Run*

## **GOLDEN**

A new space allocation policy was stamped by council back in July and as a result staff was able to effectively book up all the weekend ice at the arena by early September (something never done before). This season has seen some great growth with a universal pass / drop in programming and the addition over five new program times (primarily Pickleball). The final touches are being put on a new washroom building in one of the community parks with some playground enhancements happening in the spring. This is thanks to a Columbia Basin Trust Grant. The outdoor pool Canada 150 upgrades are also wrapping up. AND finally a larger scale salvage / clean-up project is underway on the new multi-use trail that was hit pretty hard with windfall damage in a storm that rocked through Golden in July.

## **ARMSTRONG SPALLUMCHEEN**

The Armstrong Spallumcheen Parks and Recreation was a busy place in October and November. Parks and Recreation hosted the Harvest Pumpkin Festival on the grounds complete with a pumpkin cannon, pumpkin run and other fun seasonal activities. Futurewest Motocross hosted their annual event in the Agriplex attracting good crowds. The weekend wrapped up with a sold-out crowd viewing the Armstrong annual demo derby featured in the Grandstand area.

Vernon Pigeon and Poultry club hosted the Canadian National show competition in October attracting exhibitors from as far as Manitoba. Movies are a popular draw in Armstrong, and great fundraising opportunities for local service groups.

Registration for Winter programs started December 1st with a variety of new community based programs being introduced. By far Pickleball is the most popular program with Adults. Archery is back after a brief break and is filling up quick.

Staff has noticed a revival in roller skating numbers proving Hassen is the place to be for youth on Friday nights in Armstrong. The indoor skate park also had an update with new obstacles and ramps constructed this year. In Armstrong, Everyone plays!



Having fun with Zorbs in Kelowna

## KELOWNA

A successful Family Monster Bash was held at the Capital News Centre on Sunday, October 29th. This was a free annual event hosted by the City of Kelowna for families and over 2,000 people attended. Donations were accepted for the food bank.

## TOWN OF OSOYOOS

The Community Services Department has officially finished the switch over from CLASS Recreation Software to Book King Software. Staff was very pleased with the response once again for their annual pass sale with over 150 sold within a one week time frame. Pickleball drop-in times and workshops continue to be the most well attended and demanded activity. The new outdoor Pickleball courts were opened in August. Other projects include:

- Installation of an adult change table at the Sonora Community Center
- Installation of an aeration system at the marina lagoon to prevent ice buildup over the winter season
- Council passed a resolution to convert the off leash dog park into a baseball diamond and an advertisement was circulated to recruit volunteers to sit on the new dog park committee. These will be 2018 capital projects.



Winter Fest add in Fort St. John

## NORTHEAST



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KCarlson@fortstjohn.ca

age citizens to come out and enjoy all the recreation opportunities available to them.

This year the City of Fort St John will be celebrating National Walk in the Park Day on March 30th by hosting Storywalk® at the Fish Creek Community Forest. Storywalk® combines nature, physical activity, and literacy, making this walk in the park an adventure for everyone.

## FORT ST JOHN

The city of Fort St John hosted its premiere winter festival High on Ice Winter Fest over the Family Day Weekend. This year the theme for the event was Carnival. The kick off for this spectacular event was at Centennial Park. The Single Block carving competition featured a professional carver who had just 2 hours to create a masterpiece. Other events included ice slides, bonfires, professional ice carving competition, live music, roving circus entertainers, Learn to Carve with Ryan Cook in the Community Ice Carving Workshop; sleigh rides, comedy shows, a curling bonspiel, dodgeball competition, soup stock, ice fishing derby and free swim at the pool!

Saturday, February 1st was Random Acts of Kindness Day. The City of Fort St John turned that on its head and offered Random Acts of Recreation! The City offered a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation events for free to encour-

The City of Dawson Creek is approaching a staffing challenge at the Ken Borek Aquatic Centre in a unique way by offering a lifeguard apprentice program – for Free! Candidates selected to participate will receive their stroke improvement, water safety instructor, bronze medallion/bronze cross, standard first aid and national lifeguard option for free. The program takes place between January and June 2018, just in time for summer hiring.



Dodgeball competition in Fort St. John

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2018



## SYMPOSIUM 2018

Vancouver, BC  
Westin Bayshore

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/symposium-2018](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/symposium-2018)

NOVEMBER 3, 2018



## EMPOWER YOUTH

Youth Workers' Conference  
Coal Harbour Recreation Centre  
Vancouver, BC #bcrpayouth

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca)

JUNE 23-24, 2018

## POOL OPERATORS TRAIN THE TRAINER

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop)

ONGOING

## POOL OPERATOR COURSE

The BCRPA has revised and upgraded both the Level I and Level II Pool Operator Course. Training is mandatory in BC for all pool and spa operators. The new materials are designed to provide BC-specific content and to align with the new BC Pool Regulations that were released in 2010 and updated in 2012. In addition, the upgrades ensure consistent delivery of important course content across the province.

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop)

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018



## BC'S PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR FITNESS LEADERS

Delbrook Community Recreation Centre,  
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## E-LEARNING

You will find the courses very easy to follow with lots of new tools to apply in your workplace. The BCRPA's online learning site currently features six courses:

- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
- BCRPA Shared Use Agreement Guide
- Engaging the Hard to Reach
- Social Inclusion
- Healthy Choices
- Vulnerable Populations
- PoolSafeBC

<http://elearn.bcrpa.bc.ca>



It's more than just fun at the McDonald Spray Park in Kamloops.

The Mega Soaker teaches kids about force and gravity, spray cannons build cooperation skills, and ducking the ground sprays strengthens muscles. Learning with Waterplay® is never boring.

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