

MEDIA RELEASE

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VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE WINS BCRPA FESTIVALS AND EVENTS EXCELLENCE AWARD 'A Century Together: Celebrating 100 Years' Event Honoured with Award

Penticton, BC (May 2, 2024) -- BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its **Festivals and Events Excellence Award** today to the Village of Burns Lake for their 'A Century Together: Celebrating 100 Years' event. (www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards).

This award recognizes innovative events in British Columbia that are successful in improving individual and community-level connectedness, social and physical well-being, and engagement. This year's recipient serves as a model for other local governments or organizations looking to enhance their community activities.

This one-time event was the largest single event hosted in the community of Burns Lake. It brought together over 1,200 people with connections to the area, including six First Nations. The emphasis for the event was on reconciling the past and setting a direction for the future of the community.

Between August 17th and 20th, the event brought the community visual and musical arts, Indigenous performances, a triathlon, raft races and a mini-train ride on CN's Little Obie during the event's parade. A special effort was made to include all local organizations and invite their participation.

The event's location was chosen for its accessibility, ensuring seniors and people with disabilities had easy access. Transportation was also provided for those who were unable to drive to the event.

As a result of this event, Burn's Lake Spirit Square bandstand received an update, and a local music society has evolved with the hopes of hosting future music events and festivals within the community.

"The Village of Burns Lake centennial event is an outstanding example of bringing community together in celebration and understanding," said Katie Fenn, BCRPA CEO. "The inclusivity and accessibility of the event set a high standard for communities through the province to follow."

The Festivals and Events Excellence Award is one of six Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium conference held this year in Penticton. Each award is presented on behalf of more than 5,000 recreation and parks sector members from across BC working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

Bowen Island also received an honourable mention in this category for their Canada Day Reimagined event.

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BACKGROUND

BCRPA: Inspiring and connecting professionals to build healthy and resilient communities through the power of recreation and parks.

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), a not-for-profit organization, plays a central role in leading the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians and their communities. We do this by championing the power of recreation and parks.

Ours is a story of creating community connectedness and individual 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 that improve the quality of life of every British Columbian.

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