

# **MEDIA RELEASE**



**Embargoed until Friday, May 8, 2015 at noon**

## **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE HANDED OUT TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC**

*BCRPA presents Provincial Awards of Excellence for innovation  
in the parks, recreation and culture sector*

**Victoria, BC (Friday, May 8, 2015)** – Five communities and community groups from across the province have won Provincial Awards of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The awards recognize outstanding efforts and innovation in the parks, recreation and culture sector. This year's awards were presented in four categories:

Facility Excellence Award:

- **City of Burnaby** for *Edmonds Community Centre and Fred Randall Pool*

Program Excellence Award:

- **Active Communities Group**, for *Active Communities Learn to Skate Program*
- **City of Surrey**, for *The Re-enactors: Surrey's True Stories, Heritage Program*

Parks and Open Spaces Award:

- **Regional District of Central Okanagan** for *Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park*

PERC Award for Management Innovation & Ingenuity:

- **District of West Vancouver** for the *North Shore QSA Symposium and Network Events Project*

The BCRPA Provincial Awards showcase the innovative work being done in the province. "Each of these award recipients is an inspiration in the field of parks and recreation, but each of them also deserves wider recognition for the significant role their work plays in enhancing the quality of life for all British Columbians," says BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. "Each project, program and facility sets a standard of excellence in supporting active, healthy lifestyles in our communities."

The Awards of Excellence are presented annually at BCRPA's Symposium. The conference brings together members of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector from around BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others. This year's event was held in Victoria.

The BCRPA Provincial Awards celebrate recreation as an essential social service which builds healthy individuals, communities and environments. The Association supports communities in their efforts to enhance quality of life through leadership and advocacy in physical activity and healthy living initiatives, grants and professional development. The annual awards recognize excellence in the field of recreation as well as exceptional efforts to enhance recreation facilities, programs and services.

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Images available

Background included

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**BACKGROUND:**

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is a not for profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in BC. Established in 1958, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector, providing leadership, training and support to help meet national, provincial and local priorities. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, BCRPA actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation and physical activity. <http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/>