

MEDIA RELEASE

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO AQUATIC PROFESSIONAL WINS PROVINCIAL AWARD

BCRPA presents Wyatt Kupferschmidt with award at biennial conference

Richmond, BC (October 20, 2023) – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has presented Parksville resident, Wyatt Kupferschmidt, with its most prestigious Provincial Aquatics Leadership Award. Wyatt is the 2023 recipient of the DB Perks Young Professional Aquatics Award.

The DB Perks Young Professional Aquatics Award acknowledges the outstanding achievements of an emerging leader in the early stages of their aquatics career. This award recognizes young professionals with the traits and skills required to hold a leadership position in aquatics, and who shows promise in continuing to make an impact on the sector.

Wyatt Kupferschmidt works as an Aquatic Team Leader at the Regional District of Nanaimo's Ravensong Aquatic Centre, which supports the delivery of quality aquatic services for the communities of the Oceanside area on central Vancouver Island. Wyatt is known for his natural leadership abilities, and as a positive influence on his team and community.

Wyatt's aquatic journey officially began at the age of 15 with the completion of the Red Cross Assistant Water Safety Instructor certification and his first job at a local pool in Bracebridge, Ontario. Since then, Wyatt has worked at aquatic facilities and local beaches as a lifeguard and aquatics instructor and volunteered at multiple special events including triathlons and Canada's Tough Mudder race.

Settling in Parksville after a six-year stint in the Canadian Army including a tour of duty in Iraq, Wyatt recertified his aquatic qualifications and was hired by the Regional District of Nanaimo in 2021. While working in a full-time capacity Wyatt has been focused on expanding his formal education to further his aquatic career aspirations. He has since completed his Lifesaving Society Trainer course and will soon finish the required Apprenticeships.

“Wyatt is an exemplary aquatics leader who has a strong track record of leadership and dedication to the field of aquatics and to his community. He has already made a significant impact by advancing

aquatics safety, being a positive role model for his team, and supporting others to develop a love for the water” said BCRPA CEO, Katie Fenn. “We are honoured to recognize Wyatt’s outstanding contributions with this award.”

This award, sponsored by DB Perks and Associates Commercial Aquatic Supplies, was presented at BCRPA’s Ripple Effects Aquatics Conference on Friday, October 20, 2023, under the umbrella of BCRPA’s inaugural Active Professionals Conference, October 20 & 21, 2023. Ripple Effects is the only aquatics professional development conference in western Canada, and explores the latest in aquatics issues, trends, and training.

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Images available

Background included below

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BACKGROUND:

British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is the voice of public recreation, parks and fitness and inspires and connects professionals to build healthy and resilient communities.

Representing over 96% of the provinces’ local governments, we play a central role in supporting the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians through the power of recreation and parks. 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, equity, diversity, and inclusion to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities.

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