

RECREATION & PARKS BC

MAGAZINE

SPRING / SUMMER 2016

FOSTERING WELLBEING

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION

Page 10
THE FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA



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COUNTDOWN TO
CANADA'S 150 YEAR
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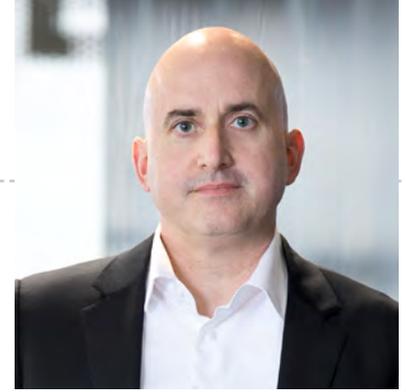


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DARRYL CONDON



AS BCRPA PRESIDENT over this past year it has been gratifying to see how enthusiastically the National Framework for Recreation in Canada has been adopted by our sector, in small and large strokes. We've been fortunate at BCRPA in having so many of our members, including Board members, involved in the creation and now the implementation strategy of the Framework. Central to the creation of the Framework was our very own Brian Johnston who provided valuable wisdom and leadership as it evolved. The Framework was a four year effort of many great minds in our recreation and parks sector. It is the culmination of a decade of discussion across Canada about what recreation means to our communities, our society, ourselves.

BCRPA members can be proud of the contribution your Association made to the crafting of this document that is guiding our direction.

The importance of the Framework cannot be overstressed. It positions us well beyond the physical activity that most Canadians associate with recreation. It has been endorsed not only by each provincial recreation and parks association and by CRPA, but also by each provincial and territorial government. It is a seminal document that, if you haven't read it lately (and it is a very good read) I urge you to pick it up and discuss with your peers how it can help shape what you do in your communities. Then, please let us know your action steps so we

keep our finger on the pulse of what our members are doing.

I close on a personal note as this will be my last message as President. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors of the BCRPA for their commitment and passion for the recreation sector. I have enjoyed my time in this role and look forward to continuing to work with the Board, members and staff of the BCRPA in the upcoming months in my new capacity as Past President.

DARRYL CONDON

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

REBECCA TUNNAcliffe



THE FIRST TIME I read the National Framework for Recreation in Canada before becoming the CEO, I wanted to be part of BCRPA. Now as the new CEO, I have the privilege of helping implement this visionary plan for positioning recreation. In the Framework for Recreation in Canada, BCRPA's members are catalysts that enable individuals, communities and society

to enjoy richer lives. I had thrilling aha moments when I read the Framework, starting with the renewed definition that goes beyond physical activity to also include "social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits." You live it every day in your facilities and parks, but most folks equate recreation with physical activity. With the Framework as our tool, we will reshape public perception

and inspire every British Columbian to regularly engage in meaningful community-based recreation in built and natural environments. Our province, the most physically active and healthiest in Canada, can set the pace in recognizing and enjoying the benefits of their investment in a breadth of recreational opportunities.



LOUISE ROBERTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO SPRING

The past several years have been an exciting time for our sector with the drafting and development of the National Framework for Recreation in Canada. This has led to a renewed definition of recreation and vision for recreation in our country, as well as clearly defined goals and priorities.

One of the sessions I attended at last year's BCRPA Symposium (2015) challenged delegates to think and discuss, "now that the National Recreation Framework had been endorsed by Provincial and Territorial Ministers (excluding Quebec) and supported by the Government of Canada how could/would they incorporate, utilize and support this document in and through their work".

As we began preparing for this addition of the BCRPA magazine I personally began to reflect on the ways I had been able to apply the National Recreation Framework over the past year. I was actually amazed by all the different times the document had been utilized; from strategic planning, to supporting collaboration with other sectors, to setting priorities and direction, to establish new projects, to casing vision. This spring I even used it as the focus of my presentation to a group of 3rd year Kinesiology students.

The articles in this edition illustrate how various communities in this province are supporting the vision for recreation in Canada by fostering individual wellbeing, community wellbeing, and the wellbeing of built and natural environments. They are great examples of actions that support the goals and the priorities identified in the National Recreation Framework.

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PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING

A SMALL COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVE



THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION - *Pathways to Wellbeing* – is truly a pathway for Parks & Recreation in Canada no matter what size your community. It is a year old already so now is a good time to take a second look and embrace the *Pathways to Wellbeing*. Dust it off the shelf and consider it an essential source of information for Parks & Recreation, for Canada, and for your community.

Over the years, many documents have become popular or trendy, provided explanations or even, unfortunately, sat on shelves. We all get busy and sometimes forget what our core values or benefits of recreation are and how do we in fact share this with others, our community and, of course, our politicians.

Recreation and the perception of recreation, it can be argued, have in fact changed over the years. Why and how recreation is so important is being better explained and understood. Recreation is being seen as an essentially service, a critical component to community growth, health and development.

Working in a small, rural community, documents such as the *Benefits Catalogue* have certainly assisted over the years. *Pathways to Wellbeing* has now provided a whole different level of practicality and sophistication to the explanation and understanding of recreation in Canada and, even more importantly, how to relay that information to others.

By adopting the five goals of the document: Active Living, Inclusion and Access, Connecting People and Nature, Supportive Environments and Recreation Capacity, not only are we able to move these goals forward but move them forward as a united front no matter what size of community.

A vision for Recreation in Canada becomes the vision for recreation

in your community. The document states, “We envision our community (Canada) in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster: Individual wellbeing, community wellbeing and the wellbeing of our natural and built environments.” What powerful words to live by and support your community around. Imagine giving your Commission or Council these phrases to use and make them become a part of the fabric of the community.

Understanding and providing a foundation for what we do is so important. We are providing a fundamental service to our community and to Canada by focusing on concrete goals. The renewed definition of Recreation as the “experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing”, helps to support the Framework goals.

We are providing a fundamental service to our community and to Canada by focusing on concrete goals.



ABBY FORTUNE

“98% of Canadians say Parks & Recreation benefits the community and is an essential service.”

On a practical level, this document can be used to support grants, reports, and even Parks & Recreation Master Plans. Ucluelet Town Council recently put together a four year strategic plan for the community of 1,800 where Parks & Recreation became one of their top priorities. There was a fundamental understanding of the importance of Parks & Recreation. As a result of the *Pathways to Wellbeing* and the strategic plan, we were able to create an Age Friendly/Accessibility Action Plan for a community.

The Pathways document states that “the recreation field includes volunteers, paid staff, community groups, educators, researchers, organizations and governments that work collectively to enhance individual and community wellbeing through recreation”. By working with these partners and helping them to better understand the

importance and necessity of recreation, next steps and priorities can be achieved. We as practitioners need to facilitate a framework of understanding.

There are enormous benefits to a united front of understanding; but how as recreation professionals do we get this information across? It is important that we are all speaking the same language. How do we explain to a politician that recreation is not only helping to build strong families and communities but they (as politicians) are providing economic benefits by investing in Recreation? It is easy when you quote the document: “Recreation is an important contributor to community economic development and cost reduction in other areas. Spending on recreation creates jobs, fosters tourism, and makes communities more attractive places to live learn, play and visit.”

So back to the original point. Imagine if you will if all communities no matter what size, not only embraced the *Pathways to Wellbeing* but used this document to forward the information and act as a united front. Whether you lived in Ucluelet, BC or Toronto, Ontario the approach would be the same, priorities would be the same and most importantly the populations that we serve would be getting the true benefits of Parks & Recreation. There would be a united front for Vision, Values, Principles of Operations, Goals and Priorities. This is a simple, useful and effective document that provides concrete ways to work together and provide information and direction for all. Time to pull it out and have a second look. So next time you go to write a report, back up a grant application or have a conversation with a supporter group – pick up your *Pathways to Wellbeing* document and use it! ■

ABBY FORTUNE

is the Director of Parks & Recreation for the District of Ucluelet. Abby has worked in the field for over 30 years. She has sat on the Board of Directors and various other committees for BCRPA. Her current passion, besides running on the Wild Pacific Trail and her family, is Leadership Mentoring through Leadership Vancouver Island.

STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS

A BEST PRACTICE FROM A LARGE COMMUNITY



A FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA 2015: *Pathways to Wellbeing* calls for “a community development approach that empowers people and communities to work together to enhance well-being.” One way the City of Kelowna’s Active Living & Culture Division has been striving to enact this is through the Strong Neighbourhoods Program.

The Strong Neighbourhoods Program began in the spring of 2014 with the overarching goal of improving the quality of life in Kelowna by increasing citizen level of attachment to the community. While there are many potential ways to enhance attachment, this program focuses on creating strong neighbourhoods that foster a culture of connection and engagement.

The initial work of the program focused on enhancing the understanding of what makes a community a great place to live through the eyes of citizens. This required a comprehensive community engagement process. So, the Strong Neighbourhoods team facilitated a community conversation with a cross-section of community organizations, held multiple community engagement events in neighbourhood parks across the city and invited residents to share their thoughts through an online survey. The survey responses and neighbourhood discussions provided a rich understanding of

citizens’ experiences of connection and engagement, and what drives attachment in Kelowna.

Through the community engagement process and an examination of best practices, key themes in creating supportive environments that enhance well-being emerged. From these themes, three priority focus areas were determined: foster neighbourliness; inspire leaders; and empower residents.

FOCUS AREA 1:

Foster Neighbourliness

Survey responses from Kelowna residents indicated that they wanted to know their neighbours better, and cited that part of the reason they did not know their neighbours was due to apprehension initiating conversations and/or believing they had nothing in common with their neighbours. Current literature and best practices indicate that providing opportunities for neighbours to come together is fundamental to strengthening

neighbourhoods. Further, bringing people together for the sake of getting to know each other, initiating conversation, and establishing common interests are essential building blocks to neighbourliness. The relationship between resident experience and the research on neighbourliness led to the development of the first priority: provide resources and support social offerings that foster neighbourliness.

FOCUS AREA 2:

Inspire Leaders

During the community engagement sessions, neighbours often identified a current or past neighbourhood leader. These leaders were described as the people who would organize social activities, champion local projects, or advocate for neighbourhood needs. Residents noted that if these individuals had moved away, neighbourhood engagement tended to decline and eventually so did the social connection among neighbours. In learning from residents how invaluable these



natural leaders are to the vibrancy of neighbourhoods, the second priority was established: inspire, encourage and support individuals to become initiators of connection and engagement in their neighbourhoods.

FOCUS AREA 3:

Empower Residents

The community engagement process uncovered key drivers of attachment for Kelowna residents. Since the overall objective of the Strong Neighbourhoods Program is to increase citizen level of attachment to the community, it naturally follows that any initiative designed to strengthen neighbourhoods would need to address these areas. Residents often have innovative ideas on how to go about it. With these understandings, a third priority was determined: assist and empower residents to develop and implement initiatives that enhance neighbourhood aesthetics, safety, leadership, social offerings and/or relationships.

The Strong Neighbourhoods program understands that each neighbourhood is distinct in its character, assets and needs, and that citizens are best situated to know how to enhance the quality of life in their neighbourhood. With this in mind, the team set out to design pilot

The initial work of the program focused on enhancing the understanding of what makes a community a great place to live through the eyes of citizens.

projects capable of being adaptable to each neighbourhood’s unique situation while strengthening the focus areas. In May 2015, a series of pilot projects aimed at enhancing these focus areas was launched.

Good Neighbour Toolkit: Offers inspiration and creative ideas on why and how to meet and develop positive relationships with neighbours.

Strong Neighbourhood Toolkit: Contains practical tips, hands-on tools, project ideas and step-by-step guides for small scale projects and events.

Neighbourhood Events: Combines mentorship, access to a Mobile Event Unit, and on-site event day support for resident led events. The Mobile Event Unit contains tables, chairs, tents, garbage and recycling cans, a sound system, and a variety of games.

Neighbourhood Grant: Provides up to \$1000 in matching funds to

support resident driven projects that foster neighbourhood connection and engagement. It is designed to empower residents and neighbourhood-based organizations to make their neighbourhoods even better places to live by actively enhancing drivers of attachment.

www.kelowna.ca/neighbourhoods

Provides program information, toolkit resources, Neighbourhood Grant and Events application forms, links to relevant resources and showcases Kelowna’s neighbourhoods in action.

In addition to these projects, the program seeks to work with multiple municipal departments and

City of Kelowna

- Strong Neighbourhoods -

Together we're connected,
building strong neighbourhoods.



6,442 Residents participated in a Strong Neighbourhood Project in 2015

1,147 at events
875 with grants
4,420 at Park & Play

Of those residents...

95% indicated that they met new neighbours

97% indicated that they got to know their neighbours better

33 Neighbourhoods were engaged through the Strong Neighbourhood Project

101 residents engaged in the planning and organizing of projects and events

19 community and neighbourhood-based organizations engaged in one or more aspect of the Strong Neighbourhood Project

5 Neighbourhood Associations actively engaged in the project
4 Policy & Planning public engagement events supported

1,375 Volunteer Hours invested in Kelowna neighbourhoods

All Strong Neighbourhoods pilot projects involved review and implementation support from Parks, Bylaw, Community Policing, Communications, Policy & Planning, Roadways and Active Living & Culture

Drivers of Attachment

Each driver of attachment, as determined through the community survey, has been strengthened through the Strong Neighbourhoods Project

	4 projects enhanced neighbourhood AESTHETICS
	23 projects & events demonstrated neighbourhood LEADERSHIP
	2 projects & 2 tools focused on SAFETY
	23 projects, events and activities provided SOCIAL OFFERINGS
	23 projects, events and activities built RELATIONSHIPS between residents and City staff



neighbourhood associations in addressing complex neighbourhood issues. The Strong Neighbourhoods Program has worked as part of an interdepartmental team to support a neighbourhood feeling plagued by safety concerns. While other departments looked after tangible needs, the Strong Neighbourhoods Program team worked with a core group of neighbours in helping them develop a strategy to engage additional neighbours, to provide opportunities for neighbours to get to know each other and to gather together in their neighbourhood park. The neighbourhood is feeling more confident that they can make a difference and are already planning for what they can do next to encourage more people to recreate in this park space. ■

GLENDA COOPER

works for the City of Kelowna as a Neighbourhood Development Coordinator. She is currently completing her Master of Arts degree in Community Development.

WHEREABOUTS...

PEOPLE AND PLACES OF BCRPA

Eva Riccius joined Saanich as the new Senior Manager, Parks. **Doug Henderson**, Director of Saanich Parks & Recreation retired at the end of March. As of July 1, the University of Victoria's current Director of the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, **Dr. Doug Nichols**, will step back from this office. **Dr. John Meldrum** will take up the reins and lead the group forward for the next 3 years. The Director of Community Services, **Barry Reynard**, has retired from the Community Services Department of the City of Dawson Creek and **Duncan Redfearn** is taking over the position. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is very pleased to announce the appointment of **Preston Corrigan** as IT Section Manager. In Mission, Program Coordinators, **Amanda Tesluck** and **Melissa Kendzierski**, are off on maternity leave and have been replaced by **Stephanie McCormick** and **Krista DeSousa**. **Nicole Spoon-**

er has replaced **Stephanie McCormick** in the Recreation Leader role. **Jason Horton** has filled the role of Manager of Parks & Facilities which was vacated by **Kerry By-south's** retirement. **Jennifer Thornton** has moved from the City of Abbotsford where she was a facility manager to the District of Kent in the role of Director of Community, Recreation & Park Services. In Richmond, **Liesl Jauk** is now Manager, Arts Services and **Joyce Rautenberg** is the new Affordable Housing Coordinator. **Melanie Burner**, former Arts Programmer is now the Community Facility Coordinator at the Seniors Centre. **Nicole Tjepkema**, formerly Recreation Facility Coordinator, is now the Community Facilities Coordinator for Arenas. **Karen Arce**, formerly Guard Supervisor, is the new Recreation Facility Clerk for Arenas, and **Trevor Shaw** is the new Maintenance Supervisor for Arenas.



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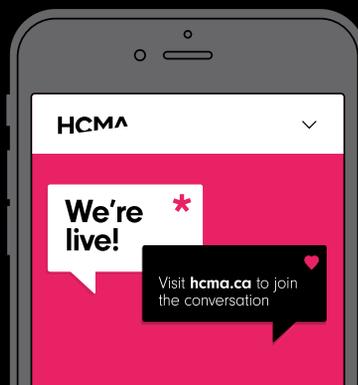
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IN USE AT LANGARA COLLEGE

THE FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA



THE FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA 2015 is part of a shift happening within the Recreation field in Canada. “It is a call to action that invites leaders, practitioners and stakeholders in a variety of sectors to collaborate in the pursuit of common priorities while respecting the uniqueness of individuals and communities across Canada”. (Framework for Recreation in Canada p. 5).

Faculty in the Recreation Studies Department at Langara College recognize the Framework’s relevancy and are integrating it into the courses within the Recreation Leadership Diploma Program and the Bachelor of Recreation Management Program. Here is how the instructors are bringing the Framework to life in their courses:

“I distributed the framework to my RECR 1160: Foundations of Leisure and Recreation class last week and talked about the process (the story) of how it came to be — which I think is almost as important as the document itself in terms of recreation people across Canada coming together to make this happen.”

“In my RECR 2295: Special Topic on Connecting to Nature course, I used it as part of the Week 10 readings — the third goal in the framework is “Connecting People to Nature”— I asked them to focus on that goal within the framework and we talked

about its role as a national document and connected it to other national documents that highlight connecting to Nature.”

- JANET READY

“In my RECR 4270: Management of Recreation Facility Systems course, I used the Framework as one of the Week 11 readings. This unit focused on Current Issues and Trends in Recreation Facilities.

I asked the students to create a poster that depicts a current issue and trend in recreation facilities — under the poster they were asked to add an explanation of the trend that they chose and to cite the source of their explanation of the trend. They were then asked to support their explanation with an example or a story.

The framework was also referenced in my BCRPA – Langara Performance Measurement Research Project.”

- JOANNE EDEY-NICOLL

“In RECR 1162, a key theme that the class has explored is lifelong active living and the potential that recreation professionals have on the development of healthy habits through the holistic growth of an individual. We’ve discussed the impacts of physical literacy and the importance of inclusive environments in the recreation setting.”

- YUE-CHING CHENG

Cyndy Chwelos has embarked upon an applied research project that looks at Community Engaged Arts in Recreation with an emphasis in community cultural development. The research connects findings to the five goals of A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 including Active Living, Inclusion and Access, Connecting People with Nature, Supportive Environments, and Recreation Capacity.

In RECR 4150 Community Recreation Systems, students were asked to identify two things they learned by reading the “Framework for Recreation



JANET READY

The Framework is a once in a lifetime national document that encourages recreation dialogue on a national level and raises the profile of community recreation in Canada.

in Canada” that they feel would be helpful in understanding and analyzing the recreation systems in their community.

Here’s what some of the students said:

FIRST STUDENT

I quite enjoyed reading through this Framework and learning about the various goals in recreation. There is one particular quote that I thought stood out and was very applicable to systems thinking:

“The Framework presents an opportunity to return to traditional paths and to forge new ones that will ensure recreation’s continued relevance and leadership in the journey to wellbeing. The time to move forward is now” (A Framework for Recreation in Canada, 2015).

This emphasizes to me that we need to continue on with our successes but continue to seek new opportunities and chances to improve our recreation

systems. We can use what we know works, but we need to look for new ways to make a difference and achieve change for the better. (RECR 4150 student)

SECOND STUDENT

I found this document in the first week of class, and was excited to find it. Having gone through it a second time with a slightly different lens, I am so amazed at how much good recreation information it pulls together all in one place.

The first idea is to “reaffirm historic values”. The document talks about recreation originally being rooted in outreach, and bringing people together. “Historically, recreation was considered a public good, which focused on outreach to vulnerable people, families and communities.” (p.7)

The world is changing so quickly as are our communities. Family doesn’t mean Mom, Dad and a couple of kids, and I think we are finding more vulnerable

people hidden in our society that we need to reach out to support through recreation. (RECR 4150 student)

THIRD STUDENT

First, I have to say how much I love this Framework. I remember when I first heard about this work being done and first read this Framework, I was energised and as I read it again now I have the same feeling! (RECR 4150 student)

FOURTH STUDENT

I would have to start this post off by saying it was so informative and long overdue! What an excellent document that brings recreation to the forefront of people’s minds, putting recreation on the map, and initiating conversations amongst recreation professionals at all levels. (RECR 4150 student)

The Framework is a once in a lifetime national document that encourages recreation dialogue on a national level and raises the profile of community recreation in Canada. The Framework is only as “alive” as we (the recreation practitioners and educators) make it.

IMMIGRATION:

WHAT ROLE DOES RECREATION PLAY?



WHEN DETERMINING HOW TO START implementing the Framework for Recreation, look no further than the issue of immigration. Immigration to Canada has been steadily increasing over the last decade with over 94,000 temporary residents and over 260,000 permanent residents arriving in Canada in 2014 (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2014), a total of 354,000 people annually, more than the entire population in the City of Burnaby.

Approximately 36,000 of those new immigrants arrived in British Columbia in 2014, with the Asia and Pacific regions dominating as the geographic origin of our new neighbours (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2014). These large numbers of immigrants and their increasingly diverse places of origins (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015) create unique challenges that face both recreation service providers as well as to the immigrants themselves.

IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES TO THE COMMUNITY

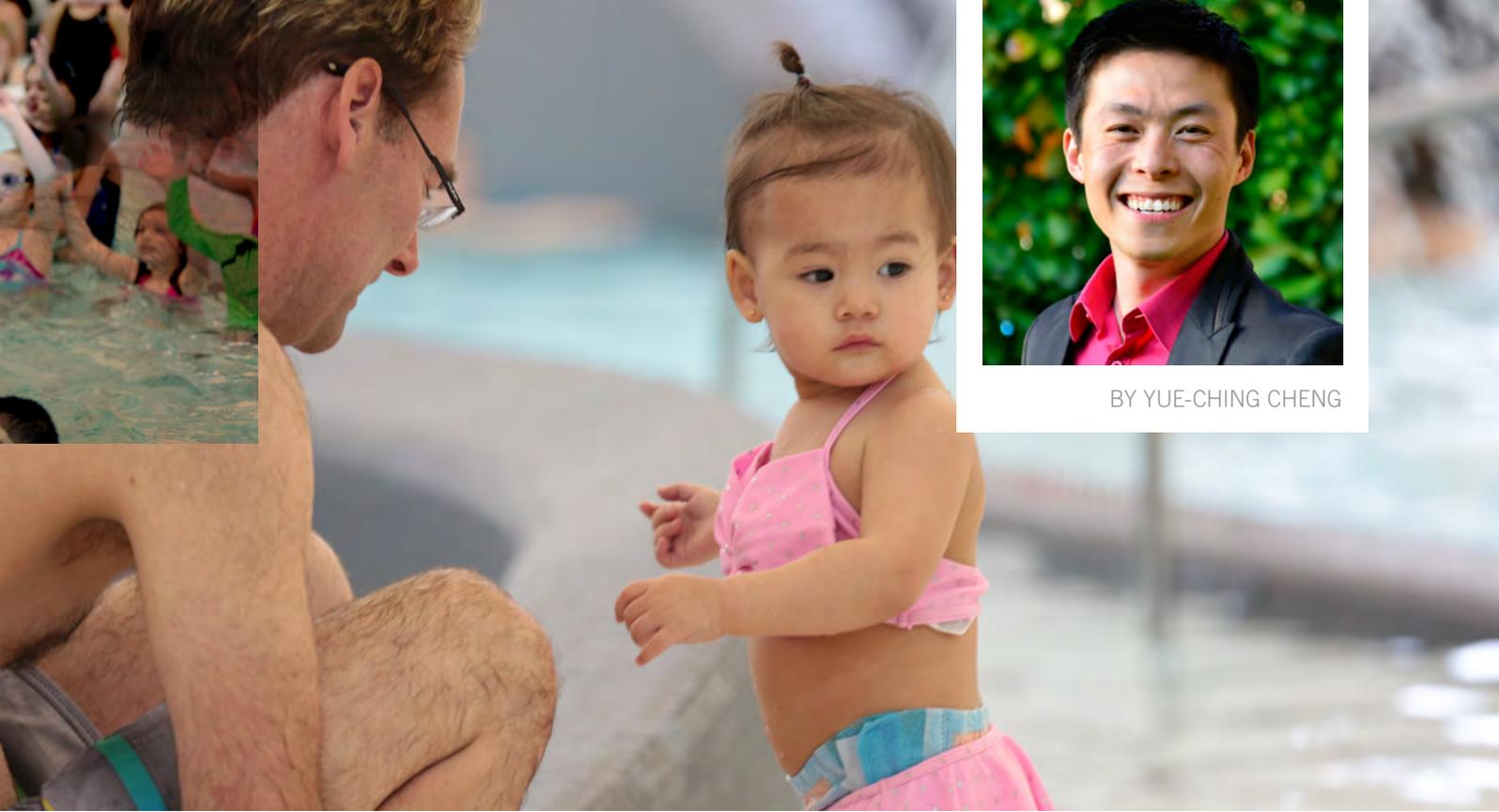
The process of immigration can be a complicated process but its rules and steps are based on law (albeit sometimes cumbersome and time consuming) with predictable cause and effect relationships between actions. The process of obtaining visas for entry may be frustrating, but are understood and relatively easy to explain. However,

once arrived in a new area of residence, the process of integration is much more daunting for individuals and their families. As Tsang-Fahey (1996) summarized, the process of integrating into a new society is a difficult one even when one ignores the most obvious of barriers, language. Culture makes the process of integration more difficult by the mixed messages that new immigrants receive when arriving in more liberal and tolerant societies such as Canada. For example, Tsang-Fahey (1996) gives the example of immigrants being encouraged to keep their traditions, but these same traditions alienate them from a 'Canadian' lifestyle.

However, the issue of language should not be the only barrier that is focused on when discussing the role of recreation in immigration. Economic barriers challenge visible minority populations across Canada (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, 2015), and these barriers limit the ability for new immigrant populations to access recreation services that promote and encourage community inclusion and integration.

Issues of integration in a new society are heightened in youth populations as individuals of this age group are faced with finding their own identities which straddle their new Canadian homes

In a recreation setting, individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds can explore new social relationships and find common ground between two or more cultures.



BY YUE-CHING CHENG

with the cultures and customs of their parents and home countries. They are breaking barriers and finding ways to integrate cultural beliefs and customs into established forms of leisure in Canada (Tirone, 2002). In a recreation setting, individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds can explore new social relationships and find common ground between two or more cultures.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES: INCREASING ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Our understanding of the recreation needs, and more thematically, the role recreation plays in immigration and the integration of new immigrants is limited as research has primarily been focused on immigrants of European descent (Karlis & Karadakis, 2005). There needs to be more research to explore recreation behaviour and cultural identity. However, given the very complex nature of the integration process,

coupled with the politically contestable roles and responsibilities of the different levels of government, it is essential that our industry advocates for the vital role it plays in creating and maintaining a healthy community through more than the lens of physical health.

The approach to understanding and overcoming the barriers to accessing recreation does not come from a top-down approach. Rather, the City of Surrey works with partners in the community, which then supports newcomer residents to access the services provided. Surrey has a rapidly growing, diverse population driven by immigration. To provide better access and reduce barriers to new immigrants, the City of Surrey works with many local organizations specialized in delivering services to new immigrants to support opportunities for social inclusion of all members of the community. One example of this partnership is the

collaboration between the City of Surrey and the First Steps, Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program. First Steps (a refugee settlement program for children aged zero to six and their parents) in introducing aquatic recreation opportunities to refugee families.

As part of the First Steps' program to provide parenting information in a Canadian context and support integration into local resources, the families are provided guidance on what is considered appropriate behaviours and attitudes in recreation facilities. At the Newton Wave Pool, First Steps' families are provided basic orientation and shown all aspects of facility usage and participation, information that can be taken for granted to someone growing up used to accessing community recreation services. They are shown how to pay at the front desk, who to approach for help, where the change rooms are located, appropriate attire and behaviours in a recreation setting, and

As an industry we are encouraged to think innovatively to engage the new immigrants that include the current community.

given instruction on safe ways to enjoy the aquatic environment. The approach and content was co-constructed by the First Steps settlement staff and City of Surrey lifeguard experts, and delivered together in the pool.

LOOKING FORWARD: BUILDING RECREATION CAPACITY

As communities continue to grow and change, municipalities are continuously challenged to be innovative and excited to be able to engage new and diverse groups of residents, coming from a diverse range of cultures and geographic origins. As an industry we are encouraged to think innovatively to engage the new immigrants that include the current community. This develops social cohesion and integration of multiple communities to live and recreate together, contributing to the richness of well-developed communities. As an industry, we need to reach beyond our comfort zone and connect with new groups to better understand their needs. We need to continue to develop our skills in community engagement. How do we find the groups that are the quietest and least vocal, as

these are the groups that may still need support to connect, integrate and find their way?

Although the majority of recreation professionals do not come from a Planning or Community Development background, many professionals have developed their own approach to long term planning in their communities through effective multi-stakeholder engagement, and being adaptable and flexible through collaboration. As many professionals are focused on day-to-day operational challenges, it is important to remember to continue to invest in the development of new skills to better understand our communities and the hidden opportunities surrounding us. Recreation professionals will have to continue to focus on engaging the communities they serve; to bring in different perspectives, and invite new community voices to the table in order to ensure their programming is truly meeting their community's needs. By diversifying the voices that council our decisions, we reduce the chances that we inadvertently limit our perspective to what we know. For many years, our driving focus has

been physical health. Why should we limit ourselves to only physical health when discussing the role of recreation? It is important that we broaden our discussions and outlook, to ensure that gaps are not created when we advocate and position our industry for the future. As an industry, we need to approach recreation more holistically, and definitely more than just a business or an avenue to pursue physical health. What the Framework for Recreation in Canada has done is to redefine recreation and allow our industry to participate in more than just discussions about physical health.

“Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.” - Framework for Recreation in Canada

It is imperative that we broaden our views and find the perspectives in which recreation impacts all issues in our lives, so that we remain relevant as an industry.

YUE-CHING CHENG, MSc, PMP

is a Community Services Coordinator with the City of Surrey and an Instructor in the Department of Recreation Studies at Langara College. He is also an active partner with the Cities of Port Coquitlam and Port Moody in the Youth Employment Training Program. Previously, he has served on the Board of Directors for Triathlon British Columbia and worked in several other municipalities.



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BY HEATHER TURNER

THE THIRD GOAL OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA IS CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE. FOR US TO DO THIS FOR OUR CHILDREN WE NEED TO LOOK AT:



UNWRAPPING BUBBLE-WRAPPED RECREATION

I INVITE YOU TO TAKE A MOMENT to reflect on your childhood. What was it that you couldn't wait to do after school and on weekends when you were about 10 years old? What did you absolutely love to do? Where was it that you did this activity? Were your parents there?

Close your eyes and go back to that time for a minute – I guarantee that it will bring a smile to your face.

I suspect that your vision didn't involve you playing on a playground apparatus or indoors on a video game. Most people, when asked this question, say their favourite memory was something like riding bikes in the forest or fields, climbing trees, or swinging on a rope, generally outdoors and beyond the watchful eyes of fretful parents.

Children of this decade are having vastly different play experiences than those of past decades and, while some of it is positive (they have amazing eye hand coordination and know how to google the answer to any question), there is also an alarming impact on the healthy development of our children.

Starting in the 1990s, parents began to hover over their children and pressures to protect them at all costs were immense. If my mother would have organized my play dates, driven me to every activity, supervised my free time and not let me go outside on my own, she would have been deemed paranoid! In the last few decades, these controlling behaviours have been synonymous with good parenting. Parents aren't trying to mess up their children but they are fearful. When we ask what they are afraid of, we most often hear abduction and serious injury (mainly from traffic). The reality is that children in Canada have never been safer. Still...they/we worry, not knowing that being over-protective has a downside.

Children learn about themselves and others through play. Three main types of free play have been well described in the literature: physical activity play (e.g., exercise play, rough-and-tumble play); object play (e.g., manipulating objects, toys); and pretend play (e.g.,

socio-dramatic). "Risky play", according to Ellen Sandseter, Associate Professor, Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education in Norway, is a subset of physical activity play that involves risk of physical injury and is categorized into the following categories: heights, speed, dangerous tools, dangerous elements (e.g., fall into something), and where children can disappear/get lost.

Several reports and articles have stated that risky play is important for children to have fun, test their physical limits, develop their perceptual motor capacity, and learn to avoid and adjust to dangerous environments and activities. Marc Armitage, an Independent Playworking Consultant from the United Kingdom states in the article entitled *Risky Play Is Not A Category – It's What Children Do* that "taking risks is simply one of the things children do when they are playing" and also that "being able to make mistakes at a young age is vitally important in terms of learning and development."



HEATHER TURNER

Children learn about themselves and others through play.

So what is the role of the parks and recreation sector in this issue? I suggest that it is significant. When parental fears for children's safety escalated, we responded by removing play apparatus that was considered too high or fast, we licensed some of our programs to assure parents of safe environments and we created rules, regulations and policies focused on safety. We at times lured parents in with statements of "your child is safe with us" and we have been fairly accused of putting more energy into making services safe than making them fun (e.g. playgrounds).

I believe that we (along with many other sectors) have to take responsibility for the role we have played in getting to today's state which suggests we can and need to play a role in reversing it. Here are five ideas on what we can do to

make sure that children now and in the future can realize all of the benefits of play and also have the ability to assess and navigate risk in play and in life.

1. Examine our rules, practices and policies and remove the one's that aren't necessary – the ones that are there "just in case".
2. Let kids play. Intervene and interfere less – let them climb, explore, get a little lost, wrestle and go fast. Have confidence that they will play within their limits and work things out....otherwise they may stumble with each new step in their lives if someone isn't beside them.
3. Assess our facilities, venues and services through a Risk-Benefit lens; ensuring that we are clear on what benefits we are trying to provide for users and what real risks arise that

need to be mitigated. This approach would replace Risk Assessments which exclude the benefits part from the assessment.

4. Create some truly fun and challenging play areas and experiences. Perhaps it's time to bring back the notion of adventure playgrounds, revisit the playground safety standards and listen to the research about what is needed to create simple play areas that enhance healthy child development.
5. Link up with health, injury prevention, risk management and education advocates who share the same vision and passion and increase the awareness and action to provide quality free play and risky play experiences for our children.

HEATHER TURNER

is currently Director, North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission and the President elect on the BCRPA Board of Directors. She volunteers on a number of local, provincial and national boards and is also an international-level diving official.

YOUR INSIDER'S GUIDE TO BEING OUTSIDE

hin.bcrpa.bc.ca

Developed specifically for parks and recreation practitioners, the BCRPA's Healthy in Nature website supports your healthy in nature activities.

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- **Quick reference guides**
- **Documents and reference material related to:**

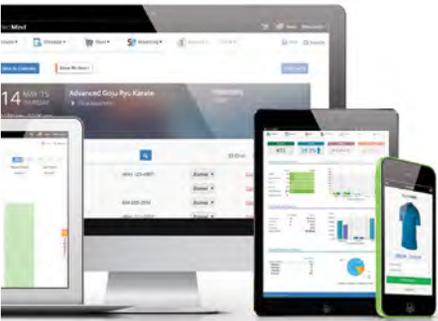
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IT'S NO SECRET THAT TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO REVOLUTIONIZE SPORT IN MANY WAYS. While these improvements have seen athletes break records almost weekly, there has been little improvement in technology used by recreational facilities to manage operations and grow their memberships. BC-based PerfectMind is disrupting the parks and recreation industry with cutting-edge software that makes it easier than ever for recreation centers to streamline their operations, improve overall business performance and connect with their communities.

PerfectMind provides a platform-as-a-service (PaaS) for membership-based organizations of all sizes spanning 21 countries. Customers can book facilities and register for activities on- and offline while staff can also book facilities, schedule activities and help their members. The software automates membership renewals, payment and billing processes as well as streamline activity registrations and facility booking. Integrated marketing and reporting allows organizations to create targeted emails and track performance of different campaigns. The platform is currently used by recreational facilities, cities, municipalities, fitness/health and wellness studios and franchises.

PerfectMind has also been chosen by academic institutions seeking to lower costs and improve efficiencies in the face of growing funding shortages. The Chilliwack School District chose PerfectMind to manage multiple operations across different departments. Now, the

14,000-student school district uses the software to manage all 35 school and facility locations.

“With PerfectMind’s software, we are a much more efficient operation that cuts costs, grows, and potentially increases revenues,” said Chilliwack School District Facilities Manager Mark Klassen

Cities throughout British Columbia have been signing on at an increasing rate. In fact, 15 municipalities have selected PerfectMind as their software provider in the past four months alone. They include the City of Victoria, Capital Regional District and the Town of Comox. Each of these cities chose the software because of its ability to deliver what they need coupled with industry leading customer service.

“We recognize that our customers are busy and their organizations are large and complex so we have developed our software to seamlessly support all their business, reporting,

membership and marketing functions from one consolidated platform,” says PerfectMind CEO Farid Dordar. The CEO emphasizes that their goal is to help member-based organizations and their staff create stronger relationships with their customers, which will lead to enhanced profitability and performance.

The Olympic Oval in Richmond, B.C. also successfully adopted PerfectMind to automate billing, event registration and integration with their existing accounting software. PerfectMind allows community and recreation centres to use a single platform to manage a complex relationship of departments, software and rentals.

The deeply-engrained focus on technology that is user-friendly allows recreational staff to do more of what they love – spend time with customers. Despite having grown rapidly over the last 16 years, PerfectMind CEO Farid Dordar says that the company has no plans on slowing down anytime soon.

Visit us at <http://get.perfectmind.com/bcrpa>

BCRPA REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

THOMPSON OKANAGAN



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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

Spring marks the beginning of many programs in Regional Parks in the Central Okanagan. In early April, **two Tracks beginner walking programs** began at Mission Creek Regional Park and Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park. Participants develop their endurance by walking five minutes longer each day to a total of 60 minutes by the end of the program. The true success of this program though is the encouragement that fellow walkers give one another on their journeys towards better health. The **Explore your Parks program**, which offers two hikes per month, recently held two **Beginner Birding workshops** at Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park. Over 30 people attended each session and all participants were able to identify one dozen local birds by the end of the program, regardless of their bird knowledge prior to the workshop. Regional Parks received a funding grant from the **UBCM Age-friendly Community Planning & Project Grant**. Regional Parks will be creating an Age-friendly resource that will contain low-

barrier trails, docks, beaches, fishing piers and events that are contained within our Regional Parks system. This resource will be available in the summer of 2016. The **Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan**, or EECO was a busy place over **spring break as day camps** were held both weeks for children aged 5-7. The children spent their days outside and connected with nature through exploring the insect life in ponds, catching rainbow trout in the children's fishing pond, identifying local birds, including a Western Screech Owl, and seeing the remains of a tree stump that had been dug out by a hungry bear waking up from a winter's sleep.

VANCOUVER ISLAND & SOUTH COAST REGION



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SAANICH

A new **Youth Development Strategy** has been adopted and an **Older Adult Strategy** is underway. The heating system at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre is being replaced with **air source heat pumps**. This system will be tested for use in Saanich's other three centres in the

future. A sub-committee of Council's Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee has been established to focus on **LGBTQ issues** in the community. With over 800 ha of land in 172 parks, Saanich has a lot of parkland to look after. In particular, Saanich prides itself on its strong natural areas program that covers parks of all sizes along with trails throughout the municipality. The **Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program** is an integral part of caring for the natural area parks by removing invasive species and replanting with native species. Our volunteers work on rocky outcrops, creek side forests, wetlands, wildflower meadows and waterways. This hands-on, inclusive, ecological restoration program has been in place since 1999 and has been growing each year. Teams of Pulling Together volunteers are active in more than 40 different parks. In 2015, the volunteers worked over 13,500 hours doing work not covered by parks staff. That's double the number of hours logged in 2012!

The majority of our registered volunteers are in the 50+ age group, most with a keen interest in environmental issues, many retired from natural resources careers. They volunteer for many reasons including: giving back to the community they live in, being active in nature, socializing with friends, and taking care of natural areas. We also have many drop-in volunteers from a broad range of the community from faith to school groups. All in all Saanich residents and natural area parks are benefitting greatly from this volunteer program.

SOOKE

Sooke's population continues to grow and young families continue to move to the region, placing increased demand on programs and facilities. SEAPARC Leisure Complex identified, through their 2015 Strategic Planning process, that acquisition of **additional lands** for long term growth and expansion as well as the creation of an **exercise and weight room facility** were their top priorities. A **referendum** seeking approval to acquire 23 acres of land adjacent to SEAPARC for future recreational development



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will be held April 30, 2016. SEAPARC is working to replace high energy use lighting in the facility with **LED lighting** in 2016. The design phase of the LED project is 90% complete. A CRD Climate Action Analyst and the design contractor are currently investigating and pursuing **energy savings grants from BC Hydro**.

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

The CVRD has installed a **bike maintenance station** at Island Savings Centre in Duncan. The station offers cyclists basic tools for easy fixes. This includes a pump, wrenches, hex keys and other bike tools that can be used for simple adjustments and enjoyable riding. The station is available for use by the public and is located on the west side of the building next to the electric vehicle charge stations. This station is a pilot project. If it is successful, additional stations will be installed at priority cycling locations within the CVRD. Island Savings Centre in Duncan launched **Parkour for children and youth** this past term with great success. This new program teaches the movements of Parkour with a focus on safety, and with a sense of sustainability, respect and discipline for the environment around the athlete.

LADYSMITH

With the existing Recreation Master plan now 16 years old, the Town of Ladysmith commenced a **Parks, Recreation and Culture plan process** in late 2015 and hopes to have the final plan in plan by May 2016. This project will help shape the next 10 years in the community. The Town of Ladysmith was awarded two Federal grants relating to asset management and has begun developing an **asset management plan** and policies relating to facilities and infrastructure as well as conducting **assessments on numerous facilities**.

WEST SHORE PARKS AND RECREATION

West Shore Parks and Recreation continues to have many exciting new initiatives that are keeping staff busy. Brand new program spaces in the **Neighbourhood Learning Centres** at Royal Bay and Belmont Secondary Schools are

complete and ready for programming. Royal Bay features a dedicated youth centre, licensed preschool classroom and outdoor play space and a multipurpose room. Youth programming will begin this spring, and preschool registration is underway for September 2016. Programs will begin this summer in Belmont School's beautiful multipurpose room and kitchen. Both spaces will be operating with a full slate of programs in September 2016. The **weight room** at the Recreation Centre is undergoing an upgrade with new Canadian made Atlantis strength equipment being brought in to replace the original equipment. The **Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Elite 10 event** was hosted at the Q arena from March 17-20, and generated a great deal of energy among staff, local curling fans and the whole community. For the first time since the inception of the Elite 10 event a women's team will be competing against the men.

UVIC

Over 100 UVic BA, Recreation and Health Education and BSc, Kinesiology students are hoping to complete a **cooperative education experience** during the summer 2016. Students are currently working in areas that include the fitness, event management, rehabilitation, social engagement, before and after school programs, television production and integration of folks living with disabilities. From Lahore, Pakistan to Victoria, BC from Banff, Alta to San Felipe, Philippines the power of mentorship helps students to learn, contribute and put their understanding of building community into action.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

The SCRCD installed **'Beach Access' signs** at particular beach access trailheads maintained by the SCRCD Parks Division. This program follows recommendations made in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to provide location information to the public on shoreline access trails. A management plan was adopted in January 2016 for Coopers Green Park. The SCRCD initiated the **Coopers Green Park Management Plan** process to help create a long-term vision for the park that will help reconcile present day challenges and concerns and help guide future

decision-making as Coopers Green Park continues to evolve. The Management Plan is an opportunity to understand the values of Coopers Green Park users today and explore innovations that could create a healthy, thriving environment and recreation destination for the future. SCRCD hosted the **Midget Tier 3 Hockey Provincial Championship Tournament** from March 13 to 17, 2016 at the Gibsons and Area Community Centre. Ten BC teams of players ages 15 to 17 attended the tournament including the host team from the Sunshine Coast Minor Hockey Association. Armed with fresh improvements and amenities, the **Dakota Ridge recreational area** had a successful 2015/2016 season with over 300 visitors on average per day. The Dakota Ridge recreation area offers world-class cross country skiing and snowshoeing on the Sunshine Coast. Each year, a growing group of dedicated volunteers provide assistance with operations and management.

NORTHEAST



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CITY OF DAWSON CREEK

The Community Service department is going through some **staff modeling changes** by dividing into four pods – Facilities, Programming and Events, Safety and Sustainability & Energy Management. Dawson Creek and Fort St John hosted a fantastic **2015 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge** with over 30,000 fans. An **economic impact study** for the event stated that the combined spending of operations and visitors for the event totaled close to \$6 million for the Peace Region and the Province of British Columbia. The communities will be sharing a legacy of estimated at \$120,000 stemming from the proceeds of the event. 2015 saw the installa-

tion of the **new Freon Refrigeration System** to replace the existing Ammonia System, supplied by Trane Northwest for the Dawson Creek Curling Rink, Dawson Creek Memorial and Kids Kin Arena. The three facilities were re-opened in October and had a successful winter season. 2016 will see the review of current Fees and Charges. The Recreation Department is developing some new initiatives using some of the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 information. A key area this summer is to **development partnerships** of groups with similar initiatives to offer programming that remove barriers, bring groups together to keep people physically active and connecting as a community and promote the park and trail system in our community.

LOWER MAINLAND



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DELTA

Delta Parks, Recreation & Culture (DPRC) has worked with the Delta School District and various Parent Advisory Councils over the past 5+ years to replace or **upgrade playgrounds on school property**. Collectively the playgrounds

were treated as community assets with the rationale that the same child using the playground during the day as a student was using it after school hours and on weekends as a resident of the community. The Delta School District identified the sites that required some investment and Delta Parks, Recreation & Culture staff worked with the PAC's to evolve the design. In terms of funding, the Delta School District did the civil work on the site (removal and disposal of existing equipment if applicable, site prep, final landscaping), DPRC provided funding in the amount of 50% of the project cost or \$35,000 (the lesser of the two) for the purchase and installation of the new equipment, and the PAC raised the remaining dollars. In 2015, the DPRC began working with our Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission further on the concept of **reintroducing risk into play** in our community. We revised our playground upgrade program with the Delta School District late in 2015 to encourage the re-introduction of risk in play. The aforementioned arrangement (\$35,000 or 50%) was still available, but we added in an option for the Delta School District and the interested PACs. If a site was identified as appropriate to construct a natural play environment which would help to both engage children with nature and teach them about risk in a safe way, DPRC would provide **\$45,000 of funding and an additional \$5,000 in design expertise** (either internal resources or approved contractors) to help guide the design of the site. The \$45,000 does not come with a minimum match – a PAC

could raise \$5,000, conceive a play experience that cost \$50,000 and we would provide the remaining \$45,000. One of the interesting challenges that was encountered was the assumption by many that these types of natural play or adventure playgrounds are \$500,000+ (or even seven-figure) projects. The world-class Terra Nova park project in Richmond may have influenced some of this assumption; but once we had both staff and political leaders understand that natural or adventure play spaces can be constructed for \$50,000 or less, there was full support.

CHILLIWACK

The City of Chilliwack is in the process of presenting its budget to Council which includes a number of initiatives that will expand on **neighbourhood connectivity and community engagement**. The **Neighbourhood Grant Program** will have two streams that residents can apply for. One is the Grass Roots Grant program which allows for funding of projects and the other is the Celebration and Activity Grant program which allows for funding of events and activities such as block parties, festivals and neighbourhood bar-b-ques.

With an influx of special events needing to be facilitated in Chilliwack as well as the new Neighbourhood Grant Program, the Recreation and Culture Department is seeking to fill a newly created **Marketing and Community Event Coordinator** and hopes to have the position in place by the end of May at the latest.

MISSION

Mission has broken ground on a **new skate park** on the Mission Leisure Centre grounds. It is replacing an old park built over 20 years ago and in poor condition. New Line Skateparks were retained to design and build the park with a budget of \$445,000. Local youth had a large part in the design of the park and are excited for its completion near the end of June.

The installation of the **first artificial turf field** in the community will begin this Spring with an

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anticipated completion in the Fall.

ABBOTSFORD

On March 10 the **Fraser Healthy Communities Forum** was hosted in Abbotsford. This event was a collaboration between Fraser Health, BC Healthy Communities and the City of Abbotsford. Over 150 members of the community registered for the event, making it the largest Healthy Communities forum so far! Delegates were inspired by the keynote address of Charles Montgomery which was followed by community specific action dialogue and afternoon breakout sessions on Integrating Health into Community Planning: Healthy Transportation and Mental Health and Social Connectedness in Our Communities.

VANCOUVER

In February, the Vancouver Park Board unanimously approved a Biodiversity Strategy to promote, protect and enhance the **urban wildlife** that Vancouverites and tourists cherish. The overarching goal of the strategy is to increase the size and quality of Vancouver's natural areas in order to better support biodiversity and enhance access to nature for all. Specific actions and metrics are outlined to reach accompanying objectives and targets. Maps of priority habitats and biodiversity hotspots provide an inventory of existing assets to be protected, maintained and enhanced through the various actions set out by the strategy. The existing Vancouver Bird and Urban Forest Strategies will benefit from the support of an overarching policy framework. Check out Vancouver's new Biodiversity Strategy for an educational and accessible read on how municipalities can better support biodiversity in an urban context.

CITY OF RICHMOND

After three years living and working in San Francisco, acclaimed visual artist, Rhonda Wepler returned to the Lower Mainland in early January to start an 11-month residency as the **inaugural Artist-in-Residence** at the Branscombe House, Richmond heritage site. The residency includes: free workshops in painting, textiles, sculpture

and photography, an opportunity to meet other invited artists and a monthly Open Studio day to provide visitors with a "behind the scenes" look at the creative process of working on a public sculpture commission. Artist-in Residence's reside and work in the studio apartment upstairs with the main floor remaining a space for public programs. Branscombe House is a restored Edwardian style structure located at the prominent intersection of Railway Avenue and Steveston Highway in the residential area of historic Steveston. One of the earliest homes built in the area, the house is significant for its historical association to the development of Steveston, both as a residential building and through its connection to the Branscombe family's general store. It reflects the pattern of commercial and related residential development that occurred early in Steveston's history. For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/branscomberesidency.

On February 24, the City and School District No. 38 once again partnered to promote **ERASE Bullying Day** by encouraging everyone to wear pink on February 24 to symbolize their intolerance of bullying and to demonstrate "Pink Shirt" behaviour year round - being respectful, supporting diversity and maintaining a safe and connected Richmond. For the first time this year, ERASE Bullying promotional designs were created as part of the **Respectful City Youth Artist Poster Submission Initiative**. Local youth (aged 13-18 years) were invited to submit a design

illustrating a respectful, safe and connected Richmond. Two local high school students' submissions were chosen and featured on posters that were displayed at schools and community facilities throughout the city, as well as in the local newspaper and on social media. Find out more at www.richmond.ca/youth.

Documentary and technology have been combed to bring to life the **Nikkei Stories, a 10 video series** to commemorate the history of the Japanese Canadian community of Steveston. With the City of Richmond app, a smartphone becomes a window into history as one wanders throughout Steveston. Many of the stories capture the tenacity and ingenuity of the Japanese community when faced with extreme difficulties, racism and injustice. Yet the stories are not ones of victimization, rather stories of strength, resilience and grace. The films can be enjoyed by taking a self-guided walking tour of Steveston, where 10 red-and-black interactive signs can be found. Each sign corresponds with one of the videos of the Nikkei Stories and the locations link to the Japanese community's history in Steveston. These interpretive signs include a map, a QR code and a link to the Nikkei Stories website. A walking tour brochure is also available, which includes the map locations of the interpretive signs plus additional information about other Japanese Canadian sites in Steveston. The video stories were produced by Orbit films, in cooperation with the City of Richmond, Telus and the Steveston Historical Society.



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The **Richmond Museum's new online artefact collection and new website** was officially launched on Thursday, March 10. This online collection offers searchable access to over 2,000 of the 20,000+ artefacts found in the City of Richmond's collection. As the recipient of the BC History Digitization Program Grant through the UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Museum staff photographed specific artefacts representing stories of migration and immigration—illustrating how people arriving from all over the world have adjusted to life in Richmond, and, in turn, how Richmond has been shaped and influenced by them. The new Richmond Museum Society website now offers quick and easy access to essential information that supports its vision to make the history of Richmond relevant, engaging and accessible. Each page provides current and detailed information about the Museum's exhibitions, collections, school programs and special events. Visit the online collections at <https://collections.richmond.ca/Museum/Portal.aspx> and the Richmond Museum Society website at www.richmondmuseum.ca.

Richmond City Council approved more than 65 grants with a value of more than \$835,000 as part of its annual **community grants programs**. Funds go toward supporting local and regional organizations which provide a wide variety of important community services. Richmond's grants programs are designed in order to support these groups to achieve their objectives through additional support and funding which in turn benefits the whole community. To address specific community needs the City established four different grant programs: health, social and safety services; arts and culture; child care capital; and parks, recreation and community events. The City has been steadily increasing the amount of funding awarded through its grants program. This program is not designed to be a primary funding source for the organization it supports but rather assumes a support role and serves to provide some additional assistance to ensure community needs are addressed and to build community group's capacity to deliver important services. Funding for the grant program primarily comes from casino revenue received by the City, with ad-

ditional funding for child care grants from the City's Child Care Development Reserve, which is funded by contributions from new developments. For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/citygrants.

ABBOTSFORD

Tree Canada announced Abbotsford as one of 13 communities across Canada have been awarded almost \$300,000 in grants for their innovative urban forestry projects as part of the **2016 TD Green Streets program**. The City of Abbotsford's Urban Forestry staff has determined the need for more street trees within residential neighbourhoods along with a section of road along South Fraser Way. This 'Green Streets' project will see the installment of 150 street trees in preparation for Canada's 150th birthday celebration in 2017. Before planting 150 trees, community engagement will occur with residents and businesses who will receive a tree. First, residents and businesses will be sent an **information package** about the project which will include a letter, tree selection form along with some general questions and answers about trees. A fact sheet will also be enclosed in the communication package which will outline some common questions and answers often heard about trees. Secondly, the volunteer Tree Team will **knock on doors** to answer any questions residents may have about the program. These volunteers will also be well versed in Punjabi as the trees will be placed in culturally diverse neighbourhoods. Thirdly, a **neighbourhood block party** will celebrate the 'Green Streets' initiative and a tree display will be set up in two local TD Canada Trust branch locations to celebrate trees during National Forest Week. Once the community development piece is complete, city staff, or contactors, will plant the trees. Finally, the volunteers will place a **tree tag** on each tree that was planted. This tree tag will provide residents and visitors with a short story about the tree and the project.

The Community Capacity Building Team is gearing up for the 2016 **Involve Abbotsford Symposium**, to be held on May 11th, 2016, from 10:00 am – 3pm. More information on this symposium can be found at www.abbotsford.ca/involve. This year Brenda Robinson will be

the keynote speaker, delivering a humorous talk on the perils and joys of the "Intergenerational Workplace". Brenda is an experienced, well-received speaker who delivers her presentations with wit and warmth. The day will also have the following workshops:

- Social Media Videos on a Budget – how to make a social media ready video highlighting the work of your organization on your smartphone, tips and tricks!
- Budgeting for Non-profits and Local Sports/Arts Groups – a financial expert will deliver a 101 course and answer the more troubling questions
- Social Media Marketing – Latest platforms and strategies to push your profile to the masses
- Tourism Abbotsford – how Tourism Abbotsford can promote and support local Abbotsford non-profits
- Dealing with Difficult People

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OCTOBER 1, 2016

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Vancouver

VISIT: www.bcrpa.bc.ca/youth

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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
- Vulnerable Populations
- PoolSafeBC

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

POOL OPERATOR COURSES

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.

VISIT: <http://bcrpa.bc.ca/poolop>

ELSEWHERE:

ParticipACTION TEEN CHALLENGE

A national physical activity program created to get youth moving. Registered Community Host Organizations (CHOs) are eligible to apply for up to \$250 to support a one-time event and up to \$500 to support an ongoing program (4 weeks or longer for a minimum of 30 minutes

per week). Funds can be used to support facility use, transportation costs, nutrition, coaching or equipment.

VISIT: www.participaction.com/teen-challenge



(Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do It!)

Together with the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, and with support from the Provincial Health Services Authority, the BCRPA is delivering MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition ...Do It!), an internationally acclaimed program aimed at improving children's physical activity levels, nutrition and self-esteem in these communities across BC:

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- Agassiz
- Burnaby
- Campbell River
- Cranbrook
- Langley
- Maple Ridge
- Nanaimo
- North Cowichan
- North Vancouver
- Penticton
- Powell River
- Richmond
- Saanich
- Surrey

VISIT: www.bcrpa.bc.ca/MEND
or call the MEND Regional Coordinator
at 604-629-0965 ext. 241.

COMING NEXT YEAR

Spring Training

BCRPA's Annual Provincial Parks and Grounds Spring Training.
Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, 2017
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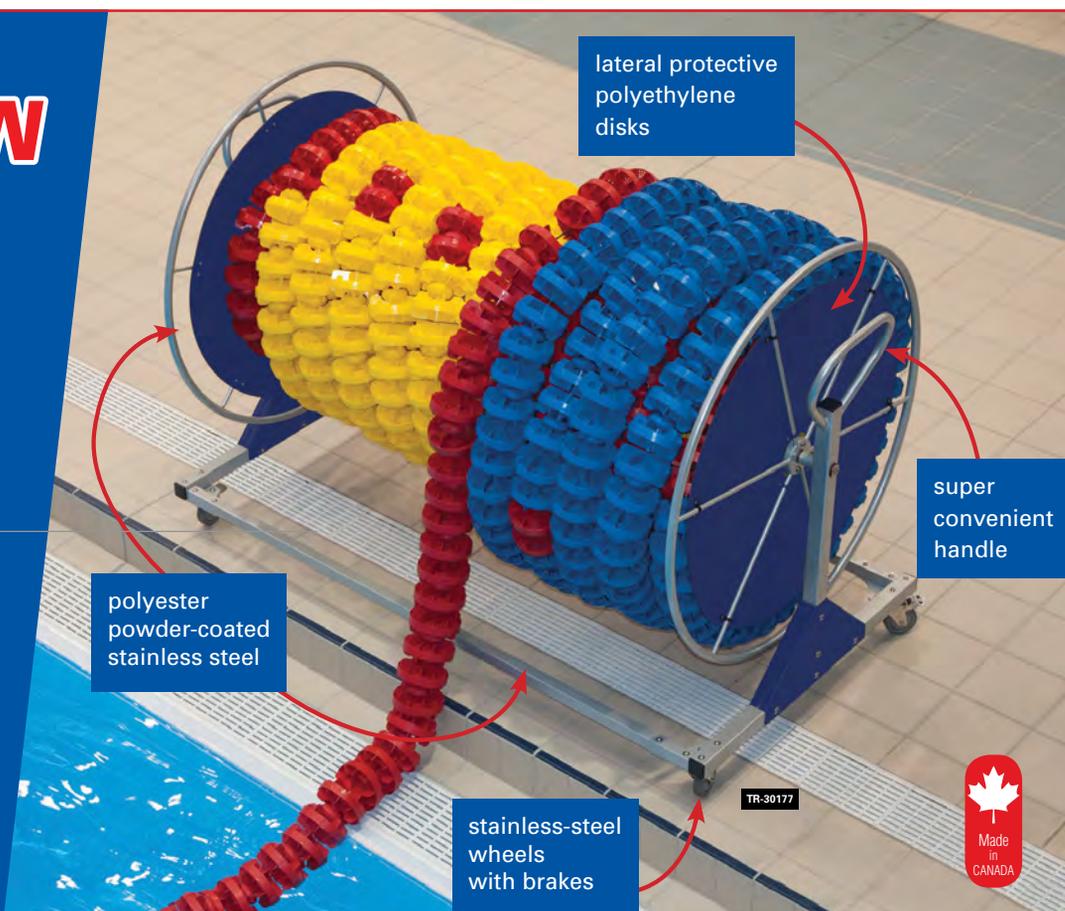
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