

AGENDA
Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Goward House
Thursday May 25, 2017, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

- 1. WALK THROUGH HARRO WOODS (6-6:45)***
- 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (attachment)**
 - April 27, 2017
- 3. HARO WOODS PLANNING PROCESS (CONT.)**
 - Presentation from Parks Planner
- 4. STRATEGIC FACILITIES DISCUSSION**
 - Discussion led by the Strategic Facilities Program Manager
- 5. OLDER ADULT STRATEGY**
 - Update from Recreation
- 6. L.I.F.E. UPDATE REPORT (attachment)**
 - Update from the Senior Manager Recreation
- 7. VICTORIA WATERWAYS LOOP REPORT (attachment)**
 - Update from the Senior Manager Recreation
- 8. DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS (attachment)**
 - Update from the Senior Manager, Parks
- 9. DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION (attachment)**
 - Update from the Senior Manager, Recreation

* Please meet at Goward House prior to 6:00 p.m. for a prompt 6:00 start on the walk

** Dinner will be provided

* Adjournment *

****Next Meeting: May 25, 2017****

Please advise Elizabeth at Elizabeth.vandenhengel@saanich.ca or
475-5494 local 3430 if you are unable to attend.

Go Green!
Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall
April 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Chair: Dean Murdock

Members: Mayor Atwell, Pamela Carroll; Stefanie Yao, Tom Hatcher, Graham Hill, Chris Spicer, Dex Owen (Student Liaison),

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Ted Austin, Dave Marecek, Tom Hatcher, Daryl Dagneault, Anne Whiteaker, SD 61 Trustee

Guests: Tom Bryce, Manager Saanich Commonwealth Place

MINUTES

MOVED by G. Hill and Seconded by S. Yao "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting February 23, 2017 be adopted."

CARRIED

FEES AND CHARGES

Mayor Atwell gave the Committee an overview of a procedural change with respect to fees and charges. Committee discussion occurred and the highlights are noted:

- Current procedure has staff updating the PTR Advisory Committee periodically through the year, and the Committee has ongoing discussions regarding Fees and Charges. The Committee then considers all discussions when weighing the three options with respect to Fee and Charges and then a recommendation is made to Council.
- A structural change to the Finance and Audit Standing committee will see to branches that consider different topics:
 - Personal issues
 - Finance issues
- The procedural changes will allow more opportunity for discussion.
- The procedural change will appear as follows:
 - The Finance Standing Committee will discuss Fees and Charges and present PTR Committee with information.
 - The PTR Advisory Committee will discuss and return a recommendation to the Finance Standing Committee.
 - The Finance Standing Committee will make a recommendation to Council after input from the PTR Advisory Committee.

SAANICH COMMONWEALTH PLACE HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

SAANICH COMMONWEALTH PLACE HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

The Manager of Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) gave the Committee an update on high performance sport at SCP, the following was noted:

- In 1994, The District of Saanich, entered into a 25-year commitment to support high performance sport as part of the region-wide responsibility to build on the 1994 Commonwealth Games legacy.
- The District of Saanich entered into a multi-party arrangement with the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada with the formation of the 4 million trust fund to help underwrite the operational costs of the competitive zones-50 metre and the dive tank.
- The fund provides \$330,000 per year to Saanich. The agreement expires August 31, 2019.
- Since SCP opened in 1993, it hosts more than 800,000 annual visitors and is home for 5 high performance aquatic sports which supports approximately 700 athletes.
- Many of the athletes have represented Canada at various international meets.
- The clubs host between 45-50 competitions at SCP annually. These competitions bring provincial, national and international visitors to Greater Victoria.
- The operating agreement gives the clubs priority access to the competitive zone areas at below market rental rates.
- Canada Sport Centre Victoria occupies 4,800 square foot office space with is used to support numerous High Performance Sport organizations.
- The upcoming expiry of the Operating Agreement allows the District the opportunity to have a fresh look at the role of High Performance Sports building a healthy community and the role that Saanich wants to play in supporting High Performance Sport.
- Saanich should identify the potential of High Performance Sport to generate economic, social and cultural benefits so that a High Performance investment strategy can be developed.
- There are multiple options to consider such as:
 - Partner Model-Saanich works with partners to provide necessary financial and other resources to High Performance Sports as agreed to from time to time.
 - District Model-Saanich alone would provide all necessary financial and other resources to High Performance Sports as agreed to from time to time.
 - Sponsor Model-Saanich would solicit corporate sponsors to provide necessary financial and other resources to High Performance Sports as agreed to from time to time.
 - Community Model-Saanich would re-assign SCP's competitive components for general community use, responding to the evolving demand for aquatics programs and services. Saanich would provide the operational resources as required.
- The current low interest rates do not support a fund of \$4 million, consideration of a larger amount for the fund should be considered.
- Of the \$330,000 funds Saanich accesses yearly, \$40,000 are ear marked for High Performance Sport issues.
- Efforts should be made to continue funding High Performance Sport, as these Sports benefit the community economically, socially and culturally.
- Philanthropy should be explored as a funding avenue.
- Lifecycle of the facility is approximately 50 years.

CEDAR HILL PARK PLANNING

The Park Planner presented the Committee with an update on the development of the Cedar Hill Park Plan. The following comments were noted:

- Initiative to have the Park Plan was from the local community.
- A Management Plan for Cedar Hill Park would be a valuable document.
- The recent clay court issue and the 2012 golf course decision may have influenced the public's desire to have the creation of a formal Management Plan for the Park.
- Public will want to participate in the direction the Park is headed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNCIL POLICY (99/550)-COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

The Senior Manager, Recreation presented the Committee with a report on Community Health Partnerships and Commercial Advertising and the following was noted:

- In 1999 Saanich Council directed that within Community Health partnerships no commercial advertising was permitted at any of the Community Recreation Centres.
- This restriction was initially added to mitigate the market advantage to health services business operating within the recreation centre over community based businesses.
- Saanich has had a long, thorough and transparent tender process and sixteen years later, in 2017 it may not be necessary to restrict advertising within the recreation centres.
- Community based businesses continue to thrive within the market place even within a single block from many Saanich facilities.
- Service providers provide fair market value of rental space and access to the facility through rental agreements or revenue sharing.
- Revenue generated through health services contributes significantly to a centre's bottom line.
- These service partnerships are now fully integrated components of service within the three recreation centres and these services are a vital part of the continuum of services Saanich offers its citizens.

MOTION: Moved by P. Carroll and Seconded by C. Spicer "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorses the proposed changes to Council Policy (Reference 99/550); Recreation Centres – Community Health partnerships and Commercial Advertising to allow contracted health service providers to advertise within the recreation centres."

CARRIED

BUSINESS SYSTEM ENTERPRISE REPLACEMENT

The Senior Manager, Recreation updated the Committee with the replacement of the business enterprise system and the following was noted:

- The current platform will not be supported by the vendor in 2018.
- New system will go live in the fall of 2017 and run on existing Saanich hardware.
- The vendor has arranged to support the existing platform until early 2018 to help with the transition to the new software.

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

The Senior Manager of Parks, provided a Division update to the Committee.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided the Committee with the Recreation update. It was noted that Council will present an overarching report on May 15, 2017 with respect to the MacKenzie Road Interchange and the proposed berm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Mena Westhaver, Community Services Programmer
Date: 5/18/2017
Subject: 2016 Leisure Involvement for Everyone (LIFE) Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee accept this report as information.

BACKGROUND

The LIFE (Leisure Involvement for Everyone) program assists individuals and families living on a low income to access recreation. Qualification for the program is based on Statistics Canada Low Income Cut Off (LICO) thresholds. Current LICO are as follows:

<u># of people in household</u>	<u>Annual income</u>
1 person	\$21,780
2 persons	\$27,112
3 persons	\$33,331
4 persons	\$40,467
5 persons	\$45,898
6 persons	\$51,766
7 persons +	\$57,633

While the Saanich LIFE program only supports Saanich residents, the program itself is recognized and support throughout the Greater Victoria region by all the Parks and Recreation Departments.

Residents apply for the program by visiting one of the four Saanich Recreation Centres with proof of residency and income from the previous year.

In 2016 the program offers two scenarios of assistance:

Option A: Participants receive 52 FREE drop-in passes for the year and a variety of additional discount coupons for different programs. The 52 drop-ins can be used at any Greater Victoria Regional Recreation Facility.

Option B: Participants receive an annual access pass at 50% off of the cost (\$214.00). This can be paid for in one lump sum or through monthly payments. The annual pass can only be used in Saanich.

DISCUSSION

The 2016 LIFE assisted 2,327 adults (including older adults 55 years+), 864 children and 435 teens for a total of 3,626 LIFE members. 63 of these individuals chose "Option B" for their LIFE membership.

In addition to drop-in admissions, all LIFE members that choose "Option A" received four 50% off coupons for Saanich Recreation registered programs (valid up to \$50 each), specific discounts on age appropriate programs (for example: a free week of Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program for children) and teens and adults received a free weight room orientation.

In addition to the above, senior LIFE members who wish to join one of the four Saanich Older Adult Activity Centres, will have their membership paid for by the program. In 2016, 48 older adults took advantage of this opportunity.

SUMMARY

The LIFE program is only one way Saanich supports low income residents living an active and healthy lifestyle. Funding from Canadian Tire JumpStart and Kidsport Victoria provide funding for youth ages 3-18 years to participate in organized sports and activity based recreation programs.

Moving into 2017, in answer to the requests of our patrons, a third option has been added.

Option C: Participants can receive an annual REGIONAL access pass at 50% off of the cost (\$243.00) for use at any Greater Victoria Regional Recreation Facility. This can also be paid for in one lump sum or through monthly

NEXT STEPS

That the Committee receive this report for information.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Nathalie Dechaine, Manager-Community Development and Business Systems, Parks
Date: 5/17/2017
Subject: Update: The Victoria Waterways Loop

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation (PTR) Advisory Committee revisit the Victoria Waterways Loop proposal following the outcome of Saanich Parks working with stakeholders to identify ways to mitigate wildlife disturbance in the Colquitz River Estuary.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update PTR, as requested, on the Victoria Waterways Loop (the Loop) proposal that was presented to PTR on October 27, 2016.

DISCUSSION

Background

On October 27, 2016, Mr. John Rogers presented the Loop proposal and introduced the Loop Group to PTR. The proposal is specifically seeking endorsement from Saanich to improve ease of use by installing way finding signs along the Portage Trail portion with other rest stops and paddle friendly docks. They are also asking Saanich to promote the Loop in their facilities and programs (more details on the attached October 27th meeting minutes).

One of the areas the Loop Group proposed to be promoted includes Portage Inlet leading to the Colquitz Estuary, which is part of the federally designated *Victoria Harbour Bird Sanctuary*, established in 1923. Saanich Parks has recently received several complaints from community advocates about paddlers, including a dragon boat, disturbing wildlife in the estuary simply by their presence. Some recreational paddlers also enter the estuary when the tide is too low, which results in the sensitive benthic environment ("mud flats") getting dredged by the bottom of their boats and/or stirred up by their paddles.

While the Loop suggests it “largely bypasses” the bird sanctuary areas, Saanich Parks is not confident that recreational paddlers will not enter this area, and by promoting the Loop, may actually increase recreational paddlers in this sensitive area.

Saanich Parks has initiated a project to identify effective ways to mitigate disturbance in the Colquitz River estuary. This project is being prepared in conjunction with the Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Parks management and implementation plans. The project will engage various stakeholders and partners with a goal of garnering effective community support for reducing wildlife disturbance in the Colquitz River Estuary.

Until Saanich Parks can work with its community partners to satisfy the greater community’s and ecological interests, Saanich Parks is recommending that PTR wait until that process has concluded before making a recommendation regarding the Loop proposal.

ALTERNATIVES


- 1. That PTR supports the recommendation as outlined in the staff report.
- 2. That PTR does not support the recommendation as outlined in the staff report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no anticipated financial implications anticipated.

CONCLUSIONS

Until Saanich Parks can work with its partners to satisfy the greater community’s and the Colquitz estuary’s ecological interests, Saanich Parks is recommending that PTR wait until that process has concluded before making a recommendation regarding the Loop proposal.

Prepared by 

Nathalie Dechaine

Manager-Community Development and Business Systems, Parks

Approved by 

Suzanne Samborski

Director of Parks and Recreation

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: May 25, 2017

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – May, 2017

The following update is provided for the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee:

Maintenance – EI-2 – Spring is here, sort of, and our crews are out mowing parks and sports fields. The grass is now growing faster than we can mow it and all crews are out doing their best. Baseball parks are in full swing and our maintenance crews are busy keeping the ball fields in the best and safest possible conditions. We have almost completed our soccer field rehabilitation after the soccer season has worn the grass off the fields. Soccer is drawing to a close with just a few tournaments left on the books. The parks mechanics shop continues to be busy supporting all Parks Sections. Our weekend refuse/washroom worker will be starting this week (May 18th) which will definitely help bring our service levels back to a more manageable level. Park use permits are increasing as well as the support needed to ensure all goes well.

Construction – EI-3-3 – Construction Section is currently working on 3 major projects:

1. Sierra Park Playground and partial asphalt trails replacement – old playground equipment was removed and new equipment is getting installed; old asphalt sections have been removed and new aggregate base was installed. The project is expected to be completed and the new playground opened in mid-June.
2. Gloria Beach access – a new asphalt access ramp is being constructed including metal railing supporting pedestrians using this ramp as a beach access. The ramp has just been paved and the railing is expected to be installed in the next two weeks.
3. A gravel access ramp for pedestrians off Lindsay Street is being constructed onto the new section of the Colquitz River Trail. This includes a boulder retaining wall and new bench. The project is expect to be completed end of May.

In the recent weeks the following projects were also completed:

1. Replacement of two bridges in the Swan Creek Park in the vicinity of McKenzie Ave and Glanford Street
2. Copley East and West Parks trail realignment for a new bus stop and crosswalk on Vanalman Ave.
3. Re-grading of some areas of Tolmie Park to improve drainage
4. Installation of a new 20 ft. long 'special sequoia log' bench at the SCP Recreation Centre

Horticulture – EI-2 – Crews continue to be busy keeping up with fast growing turf which will slow down when/if we start getting hotter weather. Bulbs are being removed and we will be preparing to plant our summer annual displays by month's end continuing into early June. Calls for service to neighbourhood traffic islands have increased dramatically as the weather is encouraging weed growth.

Engineering has started work on Rendle Green at Richmond and Cedar Hill X Rd and

we expect to be in to replace the landscape in July. We are also supporting engineering with landscapes at Newton and Dean, McKenzie and Borden St, and Carey Road at Ravine Way.

Urban Forestry – EI-1-3 – Staff are responding to pruning and tree removals based on Requests for Service from the public. With warmer/ drier weather finally arriving we've been able to start on our seasonal park pruning program. We have been keeping our stump grinding crew busy between finishing off tree planting and stump grinding.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5 – Staff continue to support Pulling Together volunteers and school groups in many of our parks as they work tirelessly to remove invasive species. The restoration planting along the new Lindsay/Wilkinson portion of the Colquitz Trail is complete and a watering truck has been busy keeping the plants and trees watered. Trail users have had nothing but positive feedback about the new trail. The boulevard tree planting program is complete for the season. The Galloping Goose/Carey site and Sierra Park will have some trees planted in the next couple of weeks. Small tree maintenance programs continue with mulching and de-staking before the summer watering program begins. Boulevard watering trucks will begin their programs in the third week of May. Restoration site watering/weeding began in the second week of May and will continue throughout the hot spring/summer months. The boulevard Lesser celandine treatment program has just wrapped up; the Shiny geranium treatment program, being carried out by a Provincial contractor, was completed in the second week of May. Other invasive species treatment programs, such as Garlic mustard and Poison hemlock, are starting up as the weather warms. Parks trail vegetation clearing has begun on the beach access sites.

Projects, Planning and Design

Wilkinson Lindsay Bridge/Pathway Project – Trail construction by the contractor is substantially complete. Parks Natural Areas staff are putting the finishing touches on the project and Parks Construction is adding a trail connection from Lindsay Street to the trail with associated landscaping enhancements. Wayfinding signs will be added in the coming weeks to fully complete the project. Anecdotal comments from trail users are very positive and appreciative of the work Saanich has done on the trail. A tour with interested councilors is in the planning stages with a date to be confirmed shortly.

McKenzie Interchange – MoTI hosted a public open house on March 13th to share draft plans for the construction of a large planted berm along the south edge of the highway. The proposed berm will consist of materials (marine clays) excavated from lowering the elevation of the highway. Part of the berm at the eastern end could be inside the leased area of the park pending a decision by Council. As a result, staff have been reviewing the design of the berm, trails and plantings and providing feedback to Ministry staff. Council approval will be required for any berm construction within the leased area of the park. A date for this to come before council has not been confirmed.

Haro Woods Management Plan – Work with the Haro Woods Advisory Group is continuing to finalize the draft vision and goals for the draft Management Plan. Find out more at: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/haro-woods.html>

Park Capital Improvements in 2017 – McMinn Park – Detailed construction drawings are nearing completion. At this time the plan includes a new pickleball court where the existing sportcourt is located, an enlarged sportcourt relocated closer to the playground, a zipline, new playground equipment, new park furnishings, improved pathways, and tree planting. An extensive drainage plan has also been developed to address this wet site. A final cost estimate is in progress with construction anticipated to start in June. The central portion of the park will be closed during construction. Perimeter forest trails will remain open. More information is available at:
<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/mcminn-park-improvements.html>

Sierra Playground – Construction is underway for replacing the playground equipment and improving some adjacent pathways. Work is progressing with drainage complete and the pathway bases prepped and ready for paving. The play equipment will be installed in the next two weeks with the playground set to re-open early June. Tree planting and irrigation will complete the project.

Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project – Our first public event, an 'Ideas Fair' is scheduled for:
Thursday, June 8
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Art Studio 1, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

We also plan to engage students from local schools as well as organize a Stakeholder Workshop over the next few months. Watch for updates on the project at:
<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/cedar-hill-park.html>

Mt. Douglas Park Access Plan –A number of recommendations from the Mt Douglas Park Access Plan are currently in progress:

1. Create effective signs to alert drivers about speed limits, pedestrians and cyclists on Churchill Drive.
2. Explore improving existing undeveloped park access points around the park (eg. Woodcrest Place). We have recently met with neighbours of the Woodcrest Place access and have agreed to better delineate the R/W.
3. Formalize undesignated spaces in Beach parking area and include disability parking stalls within the current footprint. These enhancements are in conjunction with plans to install disability-parking stalls at the Churchill parking area and Glendenning parking area.
4. Review R/W Agreements with Park neighbours to obtain access. Currently looking into the Seaview Suites R/W and parking area.
5. Complete Churchill Drive entrance improvements. Still ongoing work to do with the gate and related elements with Friends of Mt Douglas Park before finalizing construction plan.
6. Consider Summit parking/amenities improvements. Working on finalizing a concept plan to share with Friends of Mt Douglas Park.

7. Consider adding time restrictions in popular areas to encourage more turnover. For example a 2hr max. at Glendenning parking area. We considered this as part of the plan to include disability-parking stalls at each parking lot but due to low level of support indicated by the public and the limited enforcement resources, Parks will not be pursuing this.

A number of other recommendations were referred to the Active Transportation Plan and those have been forwarded to the lead consultant for inclusion in the upcoming draft plan.

Gloria Beach Access - Improvements to the Gloria Beach Access, which is located between 5065 and 5055 Cordova Bay Road are currently underway. Saanich Parks is acting on safety concerns expressed by citizens who have had some difficulty navigating the slippery gravel surface down to the beach. A new paved surface and handrails will be installed along with a few other minor improvements.

Gorge Bridge Interpretive Sign – Parks staff and community members have been busy working on a three-sided Interpretive Sign about the history of the Gorge Bridge. The bridge has undergone seven distinct transformations since the Hudson's Bay Company installed the first bridge in 1848. The plan is to have the sign kiosk installed along Tillicum Road at the entrance to Gorge Park.

Copley Park Football Field – This is the only dedicated football field in Saanich. The condition is quite poor due to inadequate drainage and grading. The outdated lighting system was recently removed due to safety concerns. Working in conjunction with Victoria Minor Football Club (home field user group) the field will be rebuilt to include better drainage, proper grading and improved lighting. Costs will be shared between the club and Saanich. The work is expected to take place over the summer. The new field will be ready for play next March.



Tolmie Park Opening – Mark your calendars



Together with the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association, we will be hosting a park opening on **Saturday, June 17 from noon to 2 pm**. There will be some fun activities, a pickle ball demonstration and cake. Hope to see you there!



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 5/20/2017

Subject: May 2017 Monthly Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Divisions activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Campus

Junior Golf is thriving at Cedar Hill Golf Course! Due to a significant bequest, a new Junior golf programme has been established in partnership with the Cedar Hill Golf Club. Fourteen (14) youth ages 4-8 participate in 7 – 45 minute group lessons at a nominal cost of \$40. The Lleutwyler Junior Golf Fund supports this programme with about \$80 per child. There are 23 youth playing in the 9-17 year old category. Each pays \$250 for an annual golf pass and the fund provides group and private lessons, club storage, tournament entry fees and memberships to Golf Canada and the Cedar Hill Golf Club (total value approx. \$600 per junior). In previous years, we sold approximately 8 junior annual passes per year.

Limelight Youth Arts Festival (May 4 – 16)

This annual event organized by Saanich as part of National Youth Arts Week. Limelight is made possible through the collaborative efforts of youth artists, teachers, community volunteers, the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill and the Victoria Arts Council.

60 artists representing secondary and independent schools from across Greater Victoria were featured in the largest annual show of student work in the region. The opening reception welcomed over 250 people and featured talented youth music and spoken word performers by Oak Bay and Reynolds Secondary students. Chek 6 News stopped by to do a feature on the

exhibit and its aspiring young artists. <http://www.cheknews.ca/youth-art-from-across-greater-victoria-showcased-at-local-exhibit-312925/>

Youth Open Mic Nights

The second Queer Youth Open Mic Night for LGBTQ teens, family and friends is this Saturday, May 20. The first event hosted approximately 70 youth and supporters and was a great success. These events are organized by Saanich Recreation Youth Services in collaboration with the Youth Empowerment Society with support from The Victoria Foundation.

Community Services

The LIFE program continues to assist families living on a low to no income. With a consistent growing need in assisting families with the cost of recreation, we are working closely with the Canadian Jumpstart Charities program to assist more kids in Greater Victoria. The first third of this year is showing to be once again a record breaking funding year for our families; to date over \$20,000 has already been allocated in registration and equipment fees with the support of Jumpstart!

The Flipside Youth Activity Centre received a BCRPA Move for Health Day grant for our Wheel Jam on May 10. 25 participants attended with their BMX's, skateboards and scooters and played on our Fresh Park Mobile Park elements like rails, ramps and boxes. Food, music and prizes ensured a good time for the skaters and their champions, too.



The Flipside hosted a Cinco de Mayo Youth Mexican Fiesta and Patio Party with the financial and people-power assistance of RBC. Approximately 90 youth turned out including many international exchange students, some of whom are Mexican, and led a number of line dances engaging many of the participants. Two of our SPD Bike Officers were also in attendance in plainclothes for most of the evening playing with and engaging the youth. Despite the lack of tropical temperatures, youth enjoyed the festive food, Latin tunes, hot pepper-eating competition, sombrero games and piñata!

Saanich Cycling Festival

Dark ominous clouds lingered throughout the day which resulted in a much smaller crowd than anticipated for the annual Cycling Festival which took place on Sunday, April 23. An estimated 600 people braved the cool, breezy day to cycle to the Saanich Hall where a wide range of free family activities took place. Three live bands played on stage throughout the afternoon (Reynold R&B Band, Hung Jury, Bijoux de Bayou) to entertain the families that were participating in cycling activities, information displays, and Canada 150 themed games. A total 16 different organization participated in the 2017 event including;



Bike to Work Week	Bikemaps.org	BC Transit
Coast Capital Insurance	CRD Trail Ambassadors	Cycles West
Games 2U Victoria	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition	Mac's Cycle Centre
North Park Bicycle Shop	Oak Bay Bicycles	Peddleheads
velofix	Saanich Environmental Services	Saanich Arts & Heritage
Saanich Fire Department	Saanich Engineering	Uptown

PISE - Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

Pearkes has been experimenting and piloting a number of different drop in style fitness classes during this time frame in an effort to attract new participants and to enhance the options for our current pass holders. Of the 6 pilot classes, half of these "trial classes" had strong enough participation rates to warrant continuation of the programs. The others will be tried again in the Fall. The classes that will continue are: Tabata – a series of short duration high intensity moves and exercises; HIIT – high intensity interval training and Spintervals – short duration, higher intensity spin or stationary bike exercises. The common theme appears to be the need for shorter duration, higher intensity workouts that fit into the busy lives of people.

Spring skate lessons are underway with the majority of levels and age categories being full. We have some waitlists at the beginner levels or preschool age levels. We have also seen a rise in requests for private lessons, power skating lessons and for adult learn to skate lessons.

Events at Pearkes in the last month included a cross or multi denominational Good Friday Service which attract over 2500 people from around the region; a kickboxing event highlighting some of the elite Canadian talent in the sport and a Dodgeball tournament. Eclectic and diverse offerings for events by all standards!

Upcoming Events include:

May 19-22: Falcon Gymnastics Competition

May 26-28: Saanich Firefighters Benefit Association Car Show

June 16-18: Victoria Regional Pickleball Association Tournament

June 27: Spectrum High School Dry Grad Festivities



Pearkes has started a pilot program in partnership with Craigflower Elementary and Shoreline Middle School to offer introduction to Lacrosse session on the dry floor arena. With a couple of sessions underway we've averaged 45 students in each session. 4 more sessions are planned through May and June. In the first session with Craigflower students, only 10% of these students had even tried lacrosse before. This has provided some great exposure to one of our national sports and utilizes daytime dry floor space that is often underutilized.

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

The steam room reconstruction is now well underway and completion is set for June 23rd. The river pool motor has reached end of life, so it will require a replacement – there is a 4 week wait on the motor, so it will be installed just prior to shutdown. Shutdown will start June 19 and we reopen July 4th.

National Life-Jacket Day was Thursday, May 18th and we promoted life-jacket use and boating safety in our swimming lessons. The Red Cross mascot "Buckles" made an appearance.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

SCP hosted the VISHKHI Indian Dance Festival for women and children, where traditional food was served and dance performances were enjoyed by all attendees.

The weight room received new non-cardio equipment, which is being enjoyed by all patrons, as testified for a record number of visits on May 9th of 569!

The pool side hosted a number of events including the Beginner Triathlon for MS, on May 7. This event is geared to beginners, and is not a race, but more of a training experience for beginner triathletes, or those who want to experience a triathlon in a non-competitive and supportive atmosphere. This event is also an important fundraiser for the South and Central Island chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. This year's event raised over \$14,000 dollars.

The Pacific Coast Wavemakers Swim Meet was held the last weekend of April with 350 youth participating from all over the province, as well as participants from the Yukon and Alberta.

The Provincial Summer Diving Meet was held on May 12, 13 & 14 with about 200 athletes, and the Island Swimming Medley Challenge May 19, 20, and 21 hosted 375 local and provincial athletes.

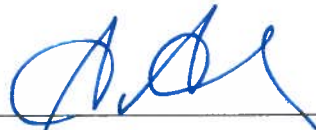
Prepared by



Kelli-Ann Armstrong

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