

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee
From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services
Date: September 1, 2021
Subject: Community Services Division Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of Community Services Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Older Adult Services: Older Adults participants are thrilled about the [NEPT \(Neighbours Engaging on Phones Together\)](#) telephone based activity program. One participant shared the excitement they felt opening up the kit each week to find something new and we have heard from this first group that the program is wonderful and that they are grateful. We are surly grateful to connect with them and are so thankful to have the resources in staffing and grant money to run this program. By connecting with our many partners we hope we are showing how these types of programs could be run ongoing for those that cannot access centres.



[Social Table Tennis](#) has returned to G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre's field house, as we await space in the teen centre, when Saanich Fire is able to transfer back to the hall. Plans for resuming favorites that Older Adults have not had access to yet during this pandemic at Cedar Hill Social Club such as Bridge, Carpet Bowling, games league and socials are going well for the fall. We are excited to welcome Older Adults back to things they love with ongoing safety protocols regarding communicable disease considerations.

You can see a snapshot of the many fall programs available for older adults in our redesigned online catalogue which will include an [Older Adult Activity Listing](#). It will be featured in the Saanich News and Times Colonist early September for programs running in the first eight weeks of fall and then a second print comes out October for the last eight weeks of fall. We anticipate this being helpful material for any Older Adult who is not online but who desires to know about and participate in activities and programs in their nearby community.

Community Arts: Hampton Park's beautiful new mural by artist Sarah Jim, a member of the [WSÁNEĆ Tseycum First Nation](#), for the [We The West Basketball Festival](#) is now complete. The theme of the design is the interconnectivity of the land, sea, and sky.

[Voices in Nature](#) invited the public to experience the beauty of nature and the arts together August 24 to 26 from 5-7 p.m. at [Outerbridge Park](#). In collaboration with Pacific Opera Victoria, a diversity of intimate performances are stationed along the trails of the park.



Exhibitions: A Pre-show exhibit for the “[Scattered Artists](#)” August 28-29 Tour ran at [Tillicum Centre](#) through August 26. The Main Gallery at **Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre** hosts Garth Homer Society’s exhibition “[ArtElectric Mind](#)” through September 13.

Diversity, Equity and Parks programs: This summer we were able to continue with some yearly celebrations and also add some new ones. We took advantage of Beckwith Park with its larger bathroom building, parking lot and extra large field space to hold Community Eid Picnic on July 25 and the Punjabi Mela on Aug 22. We also had the honour of working with local Indigenous performers to create the inaugural IYAKT Indigenous Music Festival on Aug 21 at Beckwith Park. There had been discussions about creating this event a few years ago but with recent events locally we felt this year would be a great year to bring it to life.

Not a normal summer but we were able to offer a variety of musical performances that would work for peoples various comfort levels coming back out into community. No big concerts like Music in the Park but we did have a couple smaller community concerts with stage, sound and food trucks. We also continued with last year’s solo/duo performances and had Music in the Bay on Thursday evenings 6-7 at Cadboro-Gyro Park. These allowed us to offer a variety of music genres from Folk, Blues, Celtic, Cajun, Latin and Country. Laster in August and early September as we near the Harvest Moon and our Moon Festival we also had Taiko Drumming and Peking Opera. We were also able to continue Senior Living Complex performances for those seniors who are not getting out.

Financial Assistance: As we approach another fall and return to school, we are preparing to best serve the needs of identified low economic school communities. We created a relationship with Tillicum School Elementary in 2013 supporting after school programs for them in partnership with PISE as our direct leadership team. Over the past eight years the program has grown to operate three days a week providing a space for children 5-11 years to be exposed to physical literacy and provide social engagement opportunities for them. These programs operate throughout the school year. Due to new guidelines at the school and additional programs, we are expanding to include one day a week at the Pearkes Recreation Centre. The operations of this program are dependent on grants which primarily are supported by the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities program and the BCRPA.

Child and Youth Services: This summer we [served over 120 families](#) in our community. We were pleased to see the return of families year after year who appreciate the high quality, creative, affordable programs we offer.

[Breakout Adventure Youth Camps](#) have been running with high energy exploring all that Saanich has to offer. Walking trips and out trips to Mount Doug Park, Beaver Lake & McMinn Park have been a big highlight. We are thankful to have the space of the Upside Teen Centre to use for all of our youth camps. We were able to [accommodate youth who need extra support through the inclusion program](#), and youth

who have been home schooled this year. After as tough pandemic school year it's so nice to see them regain their social opportunities with peers.

[Junior Leadership Camp](#) made its debut the week of July 19-23 & August 3-6. A group of 12 youth 11-14 years, learned what life would be like as a leader at a day camp. Staff have the group participating in the wildest and wackiest games, teaching strategies for gathering groups, learning how to make transitions fun and cultivating a community of true summer camp vibes. The youth are constantly on the go and participating in new experiences.

The [WYLD Youth Mentorship \(Willing Youth Leading Diverse Communities\)](#) program has taken off in a way we never thought possible. Allowing youth the flexibility to choose their own schedule has helped them to be mentally and physically present for their weeks at camp. Our SNPP staff have once again proven themselves to be fantastic mentors, leading by example and helping to shape these future leaders. Youth Services had over fifty applications with our ability to take twenty successful youth leaders; we are thrilled with the quality of this program. Youth are gaining confidence in leading games, learning about child guidance, taking initiative to assist the leaders in all aspects of camp! Many of these leaders will return on our continuum of leadership offerings and opportunities thorough out the year, and hopefully will work for Saanich in the future!



[SNPP \(Summer Neighbourhood Playground Program\)](#) has been running very smoothly after the first week of hot weather disruptions! Staff have hit their creative stride and have been incorporating lots of exciting themes and activities such as slime making, relay races, nature crafts and challenge the leader! SNPP parks have also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the [Saanich police crime prevention team](#), karate lessons, and the inflatables into our camps. The kiddos have had a blast with our partners and have gotten to create relationships and try new things they might ordinarily not get to do!

SNPP has also benefited from the reintroduction of our leadership continuum in the form of the WYLD leaders back into the program. They have brought a thirst for knowledge and youthful exuberance to our camps which is refreshing to see over a long 10 week summer! We have also heard and seen great work being done accommodating our inclusion kiddos into SNPP, and have received good feedback and collaboration with our parks department!

This fall we are looking forward to offering even more new programs that have been designed to safely catch youth back up on all the opportunities they missed out on throughout COVID. By partnering with the unique facility resources we host in our own rec centres, youth will have the opportunity to get back to the pool, the ice rink, our teen social spaces, and gain valuable leadership skills through many workshops and trainings we will be offering. Youth services will continue to work with our school and community partners to make sure our teen centre spaces are welcoming and available to the public, and full of the creativity and life our young people bring.



Pictured above are our Break Out Adventures Camp Staff joined by the Community Crime Prevention Officers, all decked out for the Prom Theme at camp!



Special Events, Film & Volunteers: The annual Cadboro Bay Festival scheduled for Sunday, August 8th was scaled back this year as COVID19 restrictions begin to ease and people start to get comfortable returning to large social gatherings. The festival was part of the Saanich summer concert series featuring 3 live bands on stage throughout the afternoon from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Local musicians from 3 bands will entertain guests: Tropic Mayhem (Beach Boys, Surf), Cookeillidh (Celtic) and Late Shift (Classics, Oldies).

The featured element of the Cadboro Bay Festival has always been the annual sand sculpture display which took place in July this year so that the sand display could remain in the park throughout the summer. Six local artists carved four separate sculptures as well as logo wall to highlight our community partners. Residents were encouraged to vote for their favourite Sand Sculpture (Voting Link: bit.ly/2021Sand) as part of the Pepper's People's Choice contest. Winnie the Pooh has been the overwhelming choice to date receiving the most votes by far. One lucky resident and the winning sand sculptor will receive a prize package of items donated by the businesses within the Cadboro Bay Village.

2021 Sand Sculptures included: Saved by the Bell by Ken Abrams, Winnie the Pooh Finds the Pots of Golden Honey by Andrew Briggs, Dragons Lullaby by Fred Dobbs and the Ornerly Octopus by Phil Olson.