



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

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

From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services

Date: June 01, 2022

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 is now actively working with new and returning Saanich Volunteers who applied for our Community Ambassador Welcome Desk Program. We know that there is a variety of ways to be welcoming, and we look forward to developing this program with the community and volunteers over time. We will be soft starting by offering added welcoming services over the summer, from the hub of the desks located in the main lobbies. We intend to grow the program slowly over time with the focus on quality over quantity, and with the engagement of community feedback, centre goals and volunteer skills as key in the development of the offerings.

Volunteers will initially be trained to be able to give site tours of our facilities to newcomers or interested members of the public. These tours will include the accessibility features and the external surrounding parking and transportation of the site. The volunteers will also be able to share community information on upcoming events, celebrations, projects and programs. They will help people navigate the online world of Saanich as another core skill, in addition to being a welcome smile or a helping hand near the entrance of our centres. Each Volunteer will eventually specialize in a welcome feature that they can offer such as helping host lobby social times for Older Adults for example or facilitating a monthly Safety Series where Saanich Police Inspectors help build public safety skills and share timely information.

We will keep you informed about the program as it develops! If you have ideas or feedback from what you are hearing is needed from the public these days in our centres, let Alison know, Alison.Chamberlain@saanich.ca. Offerings will be shared with the public ahead of time on RecOnline as well as periodically in the PRCS E-news and Connections Guide. This gives the public a chance to plan ahead, knowing these offerings will happen and indicating their interest in participating. We will

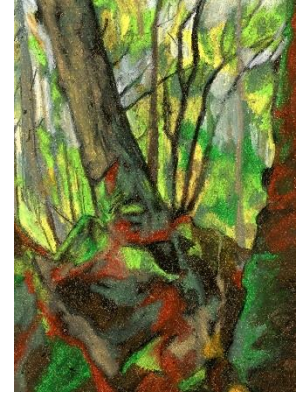


always welcome a passerby question or participation and welcome all opportunities to contribute to a welcoming atmosphere.

Community Arts:

Events:

The second annual Voices in Nature event runs June 1 and June 2 from 5-7 p.m. in Outerbridge Park in collaboration with Pacific Opera Victoria. Experience the beauty of nature and the arts together, enjoying intimate performances and activities with a diversity of artists stationed along the trails of the park.



Arabella Young, *Generations*

Exhibitions:

- Cedar Hill: Limelight Youth Art Exhibition and Showcase, June 1-20; Opening Reception: June 3 7-9pm, live performances
- Saanich Municipal Hall through June 13: Alison Baxendale, *Outside In*; Silver Swans Quilters; Arabella Young, *Into the Natural World*
- Tillicum Centre through June 12: Kate Brooks-Heinimann, *Pollinators*
- Watch for new displays at Pearkes Community Recreation Centre!

Financial Assistance: Financial assistance can look many ways. Here is a little celebration of the past, present and future!

Last month we highlighted our ability to connect a new family to recreation. The young couple had recently managed to safely leave their homeland in the Ukraine and while seeking refuge here, they are now connected to Saanich Recreation.

One of the largest grant funders, the national Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities program, recently funded a new multi-sport facility on the Peninsula and invited Jumpstart recipients from Tillicum Elementary School here in Saanich. This partnership opportunity happened this morning resulting in more kids being active! The pandemic paused many things....but KidsFUNd kept things going to support children living in a family home on a low income. This fund has suffered greatly as we were unable to rely on the main annual "KidsFUNd" Celebration day to keep the fund plush. However, on July 10th in coordination with Strawberry Festival, we will be back! A huge thank you to our partners the Saanich Fire Charitable Foundation and Thrifty Foods for their ongoing support.

Always something to celebrate and to look forward to despite the dollar sign!

Child and Youth Services: For five years now, Youth services has partnered with Sheepdog self-protection to offer courses and workshops to young women and teens on how to fight back to protect themselves. This month 12 youth gathered at Gordon Head Rec to learn new skills in prevention strategies and situational awareness. They had a blast together and finished up with a pizza party to talk about their learning evening.



Special Event Summer highlights:

June 1, 2022 – Flag raising and Proclamation of Saanich Pride Month

June 16, 2022 – Saanich Pride in the Park at Beckwith

June 25, 2022 – IYAKT Music Festival at Braefoot

July 1, 2022 – Gorge on Art/Canada Day

July 9, 2022 – Uptown Multicultural Festival

July 10, 2022 – Saanich Strawberry Festival

August 7, 2022 – Cadboro Bay Festival

Full listings at: <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/events-list.html#categories=community-engagement-opportunities,other-events,saanich-community-events,saanich-volunteer-opportunities>