

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre, Lam Room**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2019, from 7:00 p.m.**

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**\*\*\*\* WALKING TOUR WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 p.m. \*\*\*\***

- Page 1** 1. **WALKING TOUR CUTHBERT HOLMES PARK & COLQUITZ RIVER** (see attached map)
- Page 2** 2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)  
▪ May 23, 2019
3. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
4. **BIKE PARK UPDATE**  
▪ Presentation by the Manager Park Planning & Development
5. **PARKS AND RECREATION CLIMATE ADAPTION STRATEGY AND RESPONSE**  
▪ Presentations by:  
– Senior Manager of Recreation  
– Senior Manager of Parks
- Page 6** 6. **DIVISION UPDATES**  
i. Recreation (attachment)  
ii. Parks (attachment)  
iii. Community Services (attachment)
7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

\* Adjournment \*

**Next Meeting: TBC**  
In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 475-5494 ext. 3430 or  
jeff.keays@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

**Go Green!**

**Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.**

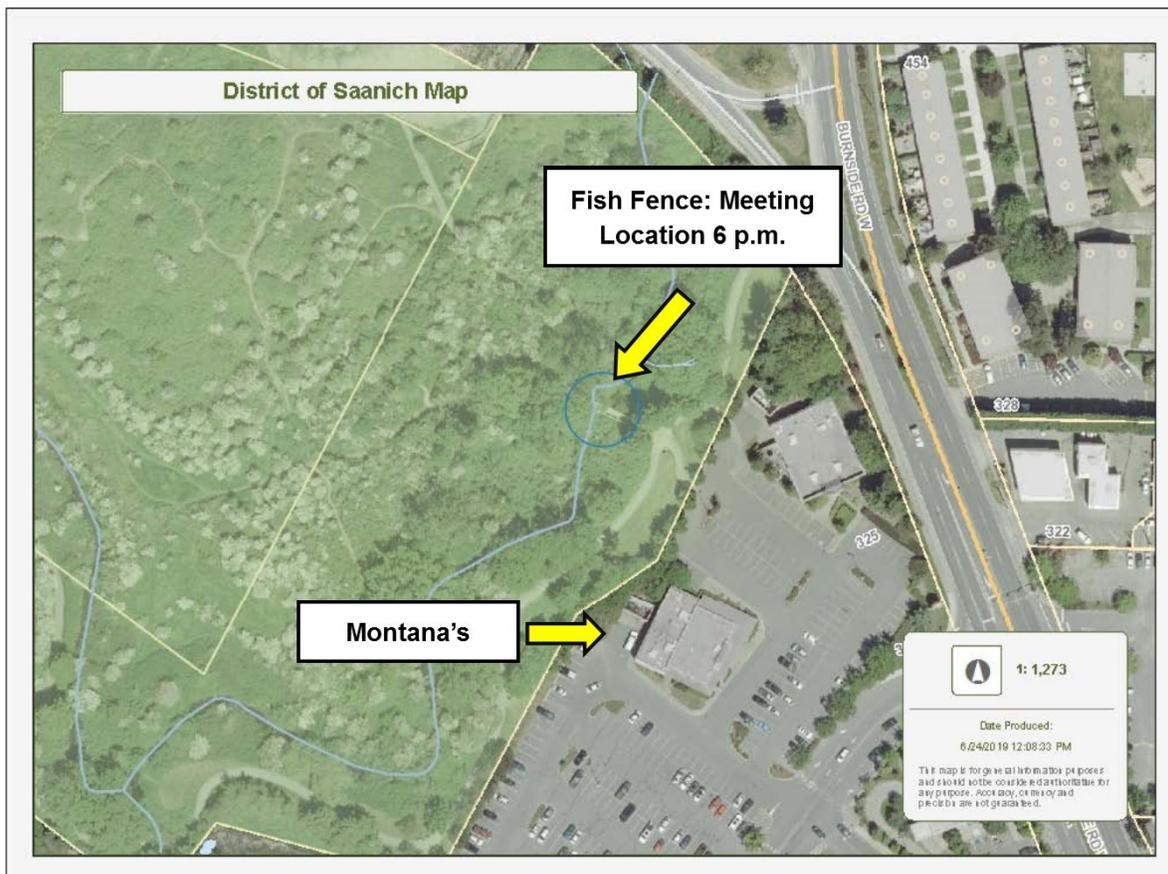
## PTR – CUTHBERT HOLMES PARK AND COLQUITZ RIVER

On Thursday, **June 27<sup>th</sup>** the **PTR** committee will be touring the trail network in Cuthbert Holmes Park and the Colquitz River. The tour will commence at **6:00 p.m.** and will be led by Colquitz River steward, Dorothy Chambers, who will highlight the many natural features of the area, including the fish habitat and new viewing area along the river's fish fence. In addition to the amenities, Dorothy will also speak to the ongoing stewardship efforts by the community that aim to ensure the Colquitz remains a healthy and vibrant salmon spawning area, while at the same time continuing as a destination of choice for nature/wildlife lovers and local area schools.



The tour will also include a brief visit to the berm area around the McKenzie interchange construction zone. Eva Riccius, Sr. Manager Parks, will provide a brief update on the post-construction restoration plans for the impacted areas.

**Cuthbert Holmes: Location Details:** The trails we will be walking in Cuthbert Holmes Park are relatively flat and accessible to all users. There is on-site parking; however, carpooling or walking/biking is encouraged. There are washroom facilities available in G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre.



**MINUTES**  
**PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**May 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Ted Austin Pamela Carroll; Elise Cote; Daryl Dagneault; Lyndsay Edgar; Peter Haddon; Wyatt Matthews; Dex Owen; and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager Community Development/Business Systems; and, Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Michelle Peterson, President, Hampton Little League.

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by W. Matthews and Seconded by D. Dagneault: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 2, 2019 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**FIELD RENAMING – HAMPTON PARK**

The Manager of Community Development/Business Systems provided the committee with an overview of the proposed field dedication request at Hampton Park. The following was highlighted:

- The Hampton Little League (HPLL) Board of Directors are proposing that Little League Field No. 1 be rededicated as Curt Waldner Field.
- Significant features of a park can be named separately based on a recommendation from a community organization, reviewed by Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee and
- Mr. Waldner has been a volunteer with HPLL for over 13 years.
- During that time he has dedicated hundreds of hours of volunteer time maintaining the fields turf, infields and park infrastructure. In addition to the preceding he has also been responsible for:
  - Maintenance of the clubhouse exterior, and batting cage roof;
  - Construction of new dugouts;
  - Coordination and installation of new electric scoreboards;
  - Revitalized park branding infrastructure through installation of new flags, logos and signage.
  - In addition to his role as Head Grounds Keeper, Mr. Waldner has also served as a coach, the Vice President of HPLL, an official and supported of the Challenger Baseball Program.

- Challenger Program athletes are encouraged and supported by Curt in the upkeep and cleanliness of the park.
- There is no record of this field ever being renamed or dedicated in the past.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted.

- The dedication would take place at the clubs closing ceremonies at the end of June.
- The renaming would for field No. 1 only.
- Per the policy, parks are typically named after the street on which they are situated or abutting.
- Mr. Waldner is well known in the baseball community. This is an appropriate, and well deserved, dedication.

**MOTION**

**MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by D. Dagneault: “That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the request from the Hampton Park Little League Board of Directors, to rename the Little League Field No. 1 in Hampton Park to Honour Curt Waldner by calling the main field Curt Waldner Field.”**

**CARRIED**

**2019 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided an overview of the Memo, Summary of Ideas and dated May 15, 2019. The following was noted:

- The items noted in the memo will be considered as the monthly agendas are developed.

In response to questions from committee members, the Senior Manager, Recreation stated:

- Sub-committees are approved by Council and are meant to support the development of specific policy recommendations. Informal workgroups may be established for items within the committees mandate, secretarial and administrative support is not provided to informal workgroups
- The Advisory Committee Terms of Reference are developed and approved by Council.

**MOTION**

**MOVED by W. Matthews and Seconded by P. Carroll: “That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive the Senior Manager, Recreations May 15, 2019 Memo for information.”**

**DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION**

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the May Parks Division Update report dated, May 15, 2019.

**DIVISION UPDATE PARKS**

The Senior Manager – Parks provided and overview of the May Parks Division Update report dated, May 23, 2019.

**DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the May Community Services Division Update report dated, May 23, 2019.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair advised that members could submit their requests directly to him, or through the clerk. The following comments were highlighted:

- There should be consideration of reinstating the annual volunteer appreciation awards.
- Inviting Community Associations, and “Friends of” or similar types of organisations to present on their parks/recreation related activities could be considered.
- Regular updates by school trustees would be welcomed.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2019 and will include a walking tour of the Colquitz/Cuthbert Holmes Park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Secretary



## 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:** 6/19/2019

**Subject:** June 2019 Monthly Report

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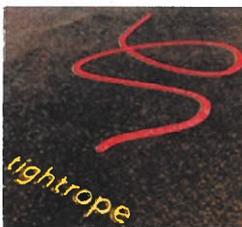
### RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

### PURPOSE

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

### DISCUSSION



#### **Physical Literacy Project rolls out in Saanich Recreation Centres this June**

The Physical Literacy Indoor and Outdoor Markings Regional Initiative project is rolling out this summer in thirteen recreation centres throughout the region. In 2018, via the regional Health and Recreation Partnership Committee, (HARP) the Greater Victoria Active Communities were awarded a Community Wellness Grant from Island Health to fund the project. The project entailed development of semi-permanent markings for installation at recreation centres throughout the region that would highlight particular fundamental movement skills, foundational in development of physical literacy.

Participating centres had the opportunity to choose indoor or outdoor markings scaled and suitable for their spaces from a selection of colourful standardized templates. Finalized designs include line and zig-zag patterns for running, balancing and walking, foot prints for skipping, and lines, dots and lily pads for one and two foot hopping. It is intended that the markings will not only provide an engaging physical literacy activity for centre visitors, but also serve as an educational and conversational piece for continued sharing of the importance of physical literacy and fundamental movement skill development.

Like reading and writing, movement is a learned skill, and according to the International Physical Literacy Association, physical literacy encompasses the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life. All complex movement patterns, like hitting a baseball or dribbling a soccer ball, are comprised of

smaller foundational movements, and like learning the ABCs and 123s, mastering the fundamental movement skills at an early age sets individuals up for successful and enjoyed lifelong participation in physical activity.

When visiting our centres be sure to check out and try out the installations.

### **Cedar Hill Recreation Centre**

On June 2nd, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre hosted a doubles clinic and exhibition match featuring Olympic Gold-Medalist and 12-time Grand-Slam Doubles Champion, Daniel Nestor as well as current Team Canada Davis-Cup Captain and ATP Pro, Frank Dancevic. The clinics, which had a total of 28 participants, provided an amazing opportunity for players of a wide range of ages and abilities to step on court with the Pros and get some excellent tips and exposure to the strategies of high-level doubles. Following the clinics, nearly 100 spectators arrived to view two sets of exhibition tennis. The first set featured Daniel and Frank pairing up with Victoria's Raj Mahal and Vancouver's Max Brown, both nationally ranked senior-level players. The second set was an exciting mixed-doubles which featured top-ranked Oak Bay Secondary player and Japanese Junior Champion Chiho Mushika, as well as Uvic No.1 Alejandra Gutierrez, originally from Colombia. The event marked a rare opportunity for tennis fans to meet and greet Nestor, arguably the most successful tennis player in Canadian history, right here in Saanich.



### **Gordon Head Recreation Centre**

Building Maintenance staff have completed the prepping for Gordon Head's annual facility maintenance shut down June 17 - 30. Our big project this year is the installation of new exhaust fans in the pool area which will reduce noise, improve sound quality, and keep the system running 24/7. The existing fans are so loud, patrons request them to be turned off during waterfit and early morning swimming, thus impacting air quality and the ability to remove humidity from the pool deck. Other projects include replacing pumps/ motors/shower controls/valves, rebuilding the deck shower, draining all pools,

checking tile and re-grouting the pools, electrical and mechanical work, re-finishing the floors, painting, minor construction, and much more. We hire a number of casual labourers to do this work, as well as our entire Building Services Worker team. We are also replacing the panels in the pool climbing wall.

Our new outdoor Physical Literacy markings 'official' unveiling took place on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm, (installed beside the outdoor ping pong table by Skate Park). In celebration, we hosted a free outdoor Kindergym with activities, light refreshments and small prizes to be won.

Summer ECO Camps for preschool-aged children are all full with waiting lists. We offer six weeks of ECO camps and alternate between Beaver Lake and Swan Lake. The demand for these camps was incredibly high this year, with many filling up on the first day of registration. We currently have 110 children on the wait list.

Aquatics hosted a free Family Swim sponsored by Fortis BC on June 9, as well as our 5<sup>th</sup> Trans, 2 Spirit, Non-Binary swim on May 21 from 6:30-8:30pm.

### **G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre**

We are winding down our Lacrosse season as we get ready to re-install the ice. During this year's Green Arena Dryfloor season, we refreshed the players' benches, rebuilt parts of the rink boards and repaired the gates. Additionally, painting was done in the dressing rooms, new stainless steel counters installed by staff and electrical lighting addressed.



The RFP for a new electric ice re-surfacer was distributed for tender and closed early June. Staff are set to evaluate this and hope to have a new re-surfacer delivered by early 2020.

The renovations of the Fitness Change room showers is still ongoing. We have had a variety of delays, but last week all the parts arrived on site, and now the finish line is in sight. Revised opening is mid July.

We are also in the final stages of allocating ice for 2019/2020. This year's allocation has proven particularly difficult, as we have had several new large requests. Capital Region Female Minor Hockey Association, is a new league requiring ice times. Across Canada, Female Minor Hockey Leagues have shown to increase/sustain female participation in the sport. We have worked closely with the new league and other groups to find ice for them within the already heavily subscribed arenas at G.R. Pearkes. Outside of our regular groups, we only have a few hours available each week, primarily during the day and after midnight. There is no available Ice during the prime afterschool, evening and weekend times. As a public recreation centre, we strive for a balance for all of our users, programs, and rental groups. We will continue to do the best we can, given the scarcity of ice not only in Saanich, but also in the region.

## Saanich Commonwealth Place

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Waterfit at Commonwealth Place was highlighted in the Saanich News. The emphasis of the article was focused on one of our terrific instructors - JoAnn Gillespie - as well as the welcoming environment, suitability for any age or skill level, and the affordability of a pass with Saanich.

May 16<sup>th</sup> – several of the senior programmers and administrative staff joined the group from Community Services for a presentation on the cultural make up of Saanich and Greater Victoria based on 2016 stats. The presentation was hosted by the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria, it was eye opening and informative session for all of those that attended.

On the evening of May 21<sup>st</sup>, SCP hosted a dinner and learn on High Performance Sport Clubs and their affiliation, for council members.

The Best in the City contenders have been announced and Commonwealth Place has been voted in the top 3 – we will find out where we rank in the Top 3 later this month!

On June 8<sup>th</sup> SCP hosted a ParticipACTION Mermaid Afternoon Swim funded by a \$400 ParticipACTION Community Better Grant. Over 240 people attended the swim – many of the children (mostly girls, but a few boys and parents) were put into



tails, while other people brought their own tails or just wanted to try the monofin.

There was also a craft table where participants made jelly fish and a spin wheel for Saanich swag. Overall, the whole event was a resounding success.



SCP has also been awarded a Swim to Survive Lifesaving Grant for \$1000. This will be used to support Swim to Survive week July 21 –

27. This will provide marketing materials and patron education. A special thanks to Programmer Alison Sheehan, for submitting both grant applications.

Prepared by:   
Kelli-Ann Armstrong Senior Manager, Recreation

# THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

**REPORT TO:** Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

**DATE:** June 27, 2019

**FROM:** Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

**SUBJECT:** **Parks Division Update – June, 2019**

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

## **Maintenance – EI-2**

Maintenance is continuing to provide core services. Seasonal staff have returned to keep parks in great shape for spring and summer activities.

Baseball season is up and running hard and the maintenance team has been working to keep fields in excellent condition and safe for the season. Maintenance activities such as aerating, mowing, topdressing, over-seeding and infield leveling are some of the activities we are continuing to do to ensure safe play.

Dust control of our gravel parking lots has been or will be done soon.

Roadside mowing and rough mowing programs have started. We are continuing to receive lots of calls about long grass on roadsides and boulevards. We are helping residents understand their responsibilities under the revised Boulevard bylaw.

The irrigation section has been completing small installations and changes to existing systems. The major irrigation project to replace the system at Prospect Lake soccer field has been completed. We have also completed a drip system for our tree nursery which will allow each individual tree to be watered and not the surrounding areas helping to keep the stock healthy and saving water.

The Parks refuse truck is back from repairs. We have our weekend refuse/washroom staff in place to add increased summer service to public washrooms and parks refuse collection. Homeless camp clean ups are increasing and they are dealt with as they are reported according to the Parks Management and Control Bylaw. Donations (dumping) in parks are unfortunately ongoing.

The Parks mechanic shop is busy repairing the turf crew equipment as needed.

## **Construction\* – EI-3-3**

The Construction Section has been working on the following major projects:

- 1 Parks ID Signage** – New Parks ID signs were installed in several Saanich parks. The project will continue through the spring and summer. To date 28 parks have been completed.
- 2 Quadrant 3 (north east) Trail Resurfacing Program** – work is being completed on gravel trails within Quadrant 3.
- 3 McMinn Park** – preparation work for the bike skills park is scheduled to begin pending sourcing appropriate base materials. The contractor will be removing

turf and topsoil and installing aggregate base for the future bike skills park. Saanich crews will assist with the supply of base and jump building materials. The project has been delayed a few weeks due to circumstances beyond Saanich's control.

- 4 **Gore Park** – Construction work will commence in July.
- 5 **Cadboro – Gyro Park tennis and pickle ball courts renovation** – Construction is scheduled to commence in July.

\* More detailed information about the above projects are in the Projects, Planning and Design section of the update.

## **Horticulture – EI-2**

Horticulture crews are wrapping up the planting of summer annual displays at facilities, streetscapes and some of our signature parks, and will be focused on keeping them and all our shrub beds weeded and healthy throughout the rest of the season. Hanging baskets have been placed at Saanich Commonwealth Place, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Municipal Hall and Parks/Public Works Yard, with a total of 47 this year.



Calls for service to neighbourhood traffic circles continue to come in at a steady pace and we are responding while also doing maintenance (weeding and watering) on some of the recently renovated islands.

Turf crews are keeping up with mowing on their routes now that the flush of spring growth is settling down.

## **Urban Forestry – EI-1-3**

The Urban Forestry staff continues to work with Engineering on plan designs, as they relate to trees, for streetscape improvement projects in order to try to protect trees during construction and to come up with new tree planting locations during the landscape design process.

In preparation for the upcoming Canada Day celebrations, the two arboriculture crews have recently pruned the boulevard trees along Gorge Road West, from Admirals to Tillicum and also trees in Gorge Waterway Park.

The stump grinding crew has been focused for the last month on the stump grinding requests and will continue to do so until the end of June, at which time this crew will transition over to Natural Areas to help with the seasonal trail maintenance.

171 requests for service calls for public trees were received over the last 30 days.

### **Natural Areas – EI-1-5**

The invasive plant crew is mostly focused on Poison hemlock this month. The crews will be digging Poison hemlock all spring and into the summer before the seeds set in. We have also established an area in Quicks Bottom Park where we will do a trial on some Yellow Flag Iris this year. We have staked our treatment area and are now gathering materials to begin this new trial during the summer. We will be inviting the CRD and HAT to help with this new treatment and monitoring.

Our trail crew(s) have completed the beach access maintenance and have moved into regular trail vegetation maintenance for the year. Some of the Camas seems to be late to setting seed, so we are leaving those trails until the seed has set. We are also responding to a high demand of Calls For Service about trail clearing, spear grass concerns, as well as fire hazard areas due to the very dry spring we are experiencing.



Many of the PT volunteer groups are beginning to wind down for the summer as the conditions are very warm and the ground is firming up with the lack of rain we have had. Those who continue to work year round receive continued support although it is less pressure on our operations crew allowing them to work on other projects and invasive removal in the parks. School is nearly out and we finished June strong by supporting two invasive pulls with classes in Vantreight and Swan Creek Parks. Additionally we participated in the annual Eco-Literacy day at Strawberry Vale Elementary.

We have three full time watering trucks active now; two are watering our boulevard and park trees and one is watering our long list of restoration sites.

### **Projects, Planning and Design**

**Washroom Strategy** – The Public Washroom Strategy survey closed on May 21. Changes to the document will be made to reflect input, and then circulated for final internal review.

**Cedar Hill Park Management Plan** – Staff continue to work on Phase 2 of the project. The virtual open house closed on June 21. At the time of writing this report, 857 people had completed the survey. Comments received will shape the last phase of the process which is the completion of the plan in preparation for presenting to Council in the fall.

**McMinn Park** – Despite an unforeseen delay by the contractor we are still hopeful the facility will be completed in time for part of the summer.

**Reynolds Park Playground Replacement** – Parks received additional feedback on the proposed concept plan for the new play equipment at Reynolds. Construction drawings are nearing completion and play equipment has been ordered. The project is scheduled to start construction in mid-August in order to accommodate the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program which runs in the park from July to middle of August.

**Gore Park Enhancement** – This small park located at Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Road is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Plans are being finalized and work will begin later this summer. The project is scheduled for completion in advance of Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, 2019.

**Horner Park Renewal Project** – Staff began the public engagement phase by starting with a short brainstorming session with Grade 8 students from Cedar Hill Middle School on June 17 and attending the Mt. Tolmie Annual Meeting on June 22, 2019. More public engagement is planned before developing the plan further. A virtual open house will remain online until August 30, 2019.



**Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams”** – Staff continue to work with the Memorial Avenue Committee (MAC) to coordinate the design and installation of the four additional interpretive signs (four were completed in 2018) to be placed in various locations along Shelbourne Street. The exact sign locations have yet to be finalized, but one will definitely be placed in Browning Park along with the sign placed in that park in 2018.

**Tripp Substation Youth Park** – Staff have started developing a Project Charter for this project. The media release indicating the lease agreement with BC Hydro has sparked interest in the site and we hope to carry that momentum this summer and fall as we start engaging stakeholders and neighbours about design and elements in the youth park.

**Mount Douglas Park Pedestrian Bridge** – Staff are working with the Friends of Mount Douglas Park to investigate sites to construct a pedestrian bridge over Douglas Creek to connect the Churchill Trail to the Douglas Trail while giving park visitors the opportunity to view the creek. Part of the project will be to close off some unsanctioned trails and restore those riparian areas.

## **Community Development and Business Systems Section**

### **Victoria Mavericks Dugout Upgrade**

The Victoria Mavericks Baseball League recently installed a four-foot high chain link fence in front of its Lambrick Park dugouts, which sit two feet underground and face toward the playing field. Completed on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the new fence adds safety to the previously unprotected dugouts by blocking foul balls and preventing serious injury to

seated players, as well as by preventing fielding players from falling down the open stairs when trying to catch foul balls. It also creates more space for players to watch the games. Using revenues from donations and registration fees, the league contributed an estimated amount of \$2,280 and did not require funding from Saanich. Volunteer members of the organization completed the installation over eight hours with support from two professional contractors experienced in fence work. Mavericks president Jeremy Campbell said in an email to Saanich that the project went “extremely well” and expressed his gratitude for our approval of the fencing.



## Report

**To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**From: Cristina Caravaca, Community Services Manager**

**Date: June 27, 2019**

**Subject: Report on Community Services Section**

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## RECOMMENDATION

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

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of current Parks and Recreation - Community Services activities.

## DISCUSSION

### Community Services Updates by Focus Area-

**Multicultural Services:** We hosted an “Intro to Recreation” program supporting the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria adults and seniors. There were facility tours and an introduction session for archery at Commonwealth Place, tennis at Cedar Hill and lawn bowling at Gordon Head. The program is designed to introduce newcomers to community recreation, activities they may not have tried and clubs in the local area.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, staff attended the “Changemakers Gathering” hosted by M’akola Development Services. This evening event was a kick-off to Indigenous People’s Week. It featured drum and dance performances, speakers, an interactive art project, and networking time with local leaders. During the day various Westshore recreation providers offered free clinics on swimming, mountain biking, tennis, golf, soccer, rugby, and lacrosse.

**Older Adult Services:** Saanich Council approved full funding for the Older Adults Strategy in this year’s budget. Funding will allow the actions and goals from 2018 – 2019 to begin implementation.

A new icon was implemented in the summer Active Living Guide to assist older adults in determining which classes are best suited for their ability (e.g. a “chair” = option of exercising while seated). Icons were in Health & Wellness section only and will expand as necessary. Other icons for cognitive abilities and mobility are also being researched.

The Respite program at Commonwealth Place has secured funding from Island Health to continue the program. Saanich’s pilot program is serving as a model that Island Health would like replicated in other municipalities and is looking to support other locations.

The Royal Oak Neighbours Engaging in Activities Together (NEAT) program finished up on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The group bonded well and wanted to continue with a Stretch & Strength class for another 4 weeks which ended June 5<sup>th</sup>. The group would like to continue meeting and have tentatively agreed to meet at Commonwealth Place to self-organize a walk then have a social get together in the café. Two members of the group have offered to be the “social ambassadors”. A permanent location will be important for this group to maintain their momentum. The next Saanich NEAT program began June 5<sup>th</sup> at Amberlea. The group is very eager and happy the program has started in their building.

The Health & Recreation Partnership Committee has completed a final draft agreement between Island Health and Greater Victoria Municipal Recreation Centres that will allow health practitioners access to recreational facilities on a case by case basis. The goal is to have clear procedures in place for both practitioners and Saanich staff when they are transitioning clients into community recreation facilities. The final draft is expected to be approved by July.

**Volunteer Services:** Volunteer Fairs continue to be a valuable recruitment avenue, with our recent attendance at the Camosun College Employment and Volunteer Expo which targets Sport and Wellness students looking to find careers in Health and Recreation. Direct delivery to high school youth leadership programs has also proved worthwhile and, of course, word-of-mouth continues to be a recruitment avenue as satisfied volunteers share their experiences with friends and family. Leveraging our membership with Volunteer Victoria, we are inputting our volunteer positions into their database which reaches 1000’s of potential applicants. Additionally, we are using their Weekly Media Column tool to submit positions that are then advertised in the Times Colonist “Life” section every Tuesday, many other papers including the Black Press, Saanich News, CTV two, VIHA, Monday Magazine, the Business Ads and Play in Victoria, and on Radio CFUV 101.9 FM every Thursday. Further, we are using an additional tool, “NewsFlash”, targeting young potential volunteers by distributing those opportunities directly to schools and youth-serving organizations.

**Community Arts:** Saanich Artists Studio Tours wrapped up with over 35 artists from Broadmead, Cadboro Bay, Gordon Head, Mt. Tolmie and the Cedar Hill areas. Three unique weekend tours were offered as well as one group preview exhibition. Artists were pleased with the turnout and valued collaborating together and welcoming and connecting with the community in their neighbourhoods and studios.

Gorge on Art returns as part of the Canada Day Picnic on July 1, along the scenic Gorge Waterway. Meet artists and watch them work in a range of media and enjoy classical musical presented by the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

### ***Saanich Exhibitions***

#### **Arts Centre at Cedar Hill: June 19-July 7**

- Main Gallery: Camosun Fine Furniture Graduation Exhibition
- Cafe Gallery: Platinum Painters: Brush Strokes II

## **Special Events - Mark your calendars!!**

Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> Gorge Canada Day Picnic 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Gorge Waterway

The summer event season is just around the corner with several large festivals quickly approaching. Residents of Saanich have the opportunity to celebrate their community starting with the Gorge Canada Day Picnic along the beautiful Gorge Waterway on. The main stage at Canada Day will shift to the Gorge/Tillicum corner this year which should help to spread out the large crowd which is estimated to over 10,000 people each year.

Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> Saanich Strawberry Festival 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Beaver Lake Park

Strawberry Festival celebrates 53 years of family fun and this year the lower level stage returns to feature cultural performances by Lkwungen Traditional Dancers, Chinese Culture Dance Victoria, Bollywood Beats and the popular Sanpaguista Dancers. The upper level main stage features the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual performance by the Commodores Big Band as well as two other local bands. The traditional serving of strawberries and ice cream will take place from 1-3 pm on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday, August 11 Cadboro Bay Festival 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Cadboro – Gyro Park

The Cadboro Bay Festival is expanding on August 11 to now feature the Pepper's People Choice sand sculpting competition. A total of 6 individual sand sculptures will be created by local artists. Saanich is home to several talented sculptors who will put their skills to the test. New additions to this year's event will include the SKAM Theatre performance, the return of interactive Hand Drum workshops and some new children and youth activities.

**Youth Services:** As a part of the Youth Development Strategy, Community Services has created connections with middle schools through the Disc Sport component of the Physical Education curriculum. We are now able to bring in equipment and setup a 9 hole course and run PE classes throughout the day. This school year we had 33 PE classes play disc golf.

New Saanich Youth Awards! It was standing room only on the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Cedar Hill Golf Course's Banquet Room, as Saanich Youth Services hosted their Youth Awards event. The evening began with a warm welcome from staff and Acting Mayor Councillor Chambers. The event included a tasty and youth-friendly dessert buffet, including a chocolate fountain which proved to be a fan favourite.

The event aligned with many of the priorities indicated within the Youth Development Strategy, but focused particularly on increasing supports and opportunities for youth to be engaged in their community. In all, 12 individual and group awards were handed out to local youth and youth workers. Awards were presented to young people in our community who demonstrated exceptional resiliency, dedication, volunteerism, friendship, and/or commitment to making their community a better place.

Awards categories and winners included:

### **Big Change Award**

Winners: Autumn Baird, Fatne Choumou-Bokhit

**Community Enhancement Award**

Winner: Jonas Kobrc

**Eco-Citizen Award**

Winner: Sophie Sianen

**Friendship Award**

Winners: Alexandra Zabararas, Simeon Bail-John

**Trailblazer Award**

Winner: Alice Rous

**Youth Group Award**

Winners: Reynolds Secondary Spoken Word Collective, Upside Trans Youth Drop In, MX Group Royal Oak Middle School, Saanich Peninsula Youth Health Clinic Advisory Group.

**Youth Worker Award**

Winners: Mike Innis & Patrick Coates - Foamblasters

Nominees were shortlisted by a panel made up of Saanich staff, community members, and youth. Nominators ranged from teachers, family members, youth workers, principals, police officers, and coaches.

All shortlisted nominees were recognized at the event with each individual category winner receiving an award certificate along with a yearlong Saanich Parks & Recreation Pass. All shortlisted youth groups received a Youth Start Up Fund (\$250-\$500) to be used towards a future community project, initiative or event.

The stories that were shared on this evening were testament to the amazing capabilities of young people in our community. Their stories were both inspiring and heartwarming, and also reflected the diversity of youth who represent a demographic which are not used to such recognition.

By all accounts the event was a success and we look forward to planning the 2020 version already!