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grow

# Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Communiqué

Volume 2 • March 2006

*City of Richmond's vision is "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada."*

## Introduction

Welcome readers to the second edition of the PRCS Communiqué. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you, our partners, with an update on highlights in Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services as well as key initiatives that the City is involved in that may affect our Division. Updates in each Communiqué will include:

- City Major Projects
- Divisional Projects
- Research and Trends
- Contributors to the Well-Being Outcomes

Please refer to the box at the bottom of this page for contact information or to provide us with feedback. Volume 3 of the PRCS Communiqué will be distributed in May 2006.

## Community Vision and Values

Developing a common vision and values for all those involved in planning for and/or providing parks, recreation and cultural services in Richmond is important so that all contributors can work toward a common goal.

Community values articulate what is important to the community; and the important fundamental principles and beliefs.

The vision articulates a common understanding of what the desired future is. This is important for making basic direction, goals and activities.

The shared community vision is: *"Richmond! Striving for a connected, healthy city where we cooperate to create and enjoy a dynamic and sustainable quality of life."*

The following values are the foundation for this shared vision:

### *Healthy Lifestyles*

We encourage individuals to live an active, healthy lifestyle and together build healthy, social, physical and economic communities.

### *Diversity*

We appreciate and celebrate all forms of diversity.

### *Choice*

We strive to provide accessible, affordable, equal opportunities that respond to the diverse needs of our community.

### *Community Engagement*

We believe that the community has a meaningful role in civic affairs. Through collaborative planning and learning, we share responsibility for achieving a common vision.

### *Volunteerism*

We believe that volunteers make a valuable contribution to a healthy community. Volunteerism creates a sense of community ownership and pride, cultivates community leadership and helps build our community capacity.

### *Safety and Security*

We believe that people feel safe and secure when we have well-planned, strong, connected neighbourhoods and a sense of caring and belonging.

### *Environment*

We are committed to responsible stewardship of the natural environment (including protecting community amenities), stewardship of our cultural heritage and maintaining the urban/rural balance of our island setting.

### *Sustainability*

We believe that integrating the management of environmental, economic, social and cultural elements ensures that all resources of the City are respected, preserved, enjoyed and utilized in a sustainable manner, for both current and future generations.

If you would like more information about the content in this volume, please ask your Coordinator. If you would like to suggest highlights for future editions, please contact Kim Somerville @ 604.276.4062 or email: [ksomerville@richmond.ca](mailto:ksomerville@richmond.ca)

## National Volunteer Week

*April 23-29, 2006*

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services would like to recognize the many volunteers who contribute their time and energy towards Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada."



## Access Policy Update

The draft Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan 2005 – 2010 recommends that the City develop clear, consistent direction through system wide, council approved policies. The first of these priority policies to be addressed by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (PRCS) is access to services and facilities.

Recently, a community forum on Access was held at City Hall and the draft policy was presented. Following attendees' support, the draft policy was presented to PRCS Committee of Council, who then directed staff to engage in further consultation with the community.

Further consultation will take place throughout the Spring. City staff, including Coordinators and Programmers will bring the draft policy forward to community groups for discussion. It is expected that a final recommended policy and implementation plan will be submitted to Council in June 2006.

## Planning for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services in City Centre

A number of factors are driving the need for a comprehensive planning process for parks and recreation & cultural facilities in the City Centre, including:

- a changing and rapidly growing population
- aging infrastructure in the Minoru precinct
- the acquisition of Garden City Lands and the development of the Richmond Oval and surrounding neighbourhood

Since November 2005, City staff have been involved in background work to ensure that there is thorough understanding of the planning issues in this unique geographic area. As a result, the guiding principles for planning in this area were endorsed by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee of Council on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

These guiding principles will provide a framework for further planning and create a common language for staff and community partners to use in discussion planning alternatives:

### 1. *Recognize our unique urban environment.*

- a. Densely populated residential areas
- b. Thriving business sector
- c. Culturally diverse community
- d. Transit oriented community
- e. Proximity to the waterfront
- f. International Gateway City

### 2. *Plan for sustainable development.*

- a. Social - plan for places and spaces which support cultural harmony and a complete community
- b. Environmental – plan for safe environments, appropriate open spaces and green facilities
- c. Financial – take advantage of partnerships and development opportunities to support initiatives
- d. Cultural – include arts and heritage as a vital part of the planning process
- e. To provide transportation choices with links to pedestrian, bicycle and public transit

### 3. *Balance current and emerging needs.*

- a. Acknowledge the differences in the North and South areas of City Centre
- b. Recognize the existing needs of current residents
- c. Coordinate planning with progress regarding the Richmond Oval, Minoru Precinct, Garden City Lands, Canada Line and the International Destination concept.
- d. That the City is ensuring the adequate future capacity of City Centre facilities

Future steps will include consultation with community partners in the area to help determine the best-coordinated approach to planning for City Centre.





opportunities for direct input by individuals and groups not represented on the planning team. It is expected that the Youth and Older Adult Service Plans will be completed in early Summer 2006.

## Service Plans

The draft Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Master Plan for 2005-2015 identified the need to develop service plans across the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Division. The first of these service plans to be initiated is the Volunteer Service Plan. Work began on this plan in September 2006 and is expected to be completed later in the Spring.

During the first week of March, work on the Youth and Older Adults Service Plans began with a dedicated planning team. The team consists of community group representatives and City staff working together to envision a coordinated approach to delivering these services. Regular updates will be available throughout the process, as well as

## Research and Trends

Eva Busich-Veloso, Seniors Coordinator for the City of Richmond, recently researched trends in the older adult population which affect the provision of parks, recreation and cultural services. These trends include, but are not limited to, the following:

### *Older adults are the fastest growing population in Canada.*

This will have a great impact in the future provision of recreational services for this age group. Canada, BC and Richmond will soon have a greater number and higher proportion of seniors, resulting in opportunities and challenges for our society.

### *Older Adults are living longer and healthier*

Older adults are living longer and remaining healthier than ever. The implication of this trend is that seniors will have the greatest amount of active retirement time in history. Indicators of longer, healthier lives include advances in medicine, technology, health care, healthy living, as well as changes in attitudes towards the aging process.

### *Diverse population*

Seniors are a very heterogeneous group. Moreover, this heterogeneity extends beyond the various generations that comprise the label 'senior'. The ethnic and age diversity of this group will require more specialized and varied recreational programming for older adults.

### *Changes in health care*

The health care system has moved towards encouraging "Aging in Place", where older adults with limitations are cared for in their home rather than being institutionalized. This has great implications for community recreation. More specialized, service area oriented programming is required to meet the needs of this group that may be isolated and have difficulty accessing services.

### *Changes in the aging process*

Older individuals are aging differently than their counterparts forty years ago: they're more knowledgeable, more informed, more involved in the life of their community, have more money, and have the longest retirement in history. They will be active participants in the delivery of services for themselves.

## Seniors' Week

June 5-11, 2006

Seniors in Richmond will be honoured and recognized in June for their positive contributions to the community.



Seniors' Week acknowledges the diversity of seniors and helps to promote an understanding of and encourage positive attitudes towards seniors and their vital role in society.

This June, celebrate Seniors' Week in Richmond with open houses, free classes, workshops, special presentations and lifestyle opportunities.

## Community Forum

The First Annual Community Forum will be held in the Fall. The theme for this year's presentation and discussions is Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan. The forum will be designed to provide an opportunity to discuss topics that are of interest to a broad range of community organizations.

An organizing committee of both community volunteers and City staff is being pulled together to create the event.

### *Responsibilities of committee members will be:*

- To attend the event and assist with logistics
- To participate in 3 or 4 planning meetings
- To determine desired outcomes and format of the event
- To identify content and discussion topics
- To identify speaker(s) if deemed desirable

If you're interested in joining the committee or if you have any questions about the event or committee responsibilities, contact Vern Jacques at 604-276-4158 or [vjacques@richmond.ca](mailto:vjacques@richmond.ca)

## 2006 Divisional Highlights

### Parks Capital Projects

#### *Automatic Irrigation Control Systems*

Budget: \$250,000

The pilot project involves the installation of electronic computer controlled irrigation systems at some of the City's park sites. Benefits of this project include better environmental water use, healthier horticulture landscapes and long term cost savings.

#### *Artificial Turf Sportsfield Complex*

Budget: \$2,750,000

Approximately 6 acres of synthetic sports fields will be installed at Hugh Boyd Park, which can accommodate four soccer fields or two football fields. Working in conjunction with the Soccer Alliance and their financial contribution of \$250,000 towards the project, the City is scheduled to start construction in June.



#### *Park Characterization*

Budget: \$200,000

This program was initiated as an effort to enhance the quality of the City's existing park system. For 2006, new playground design and construction will take place at King George Park.

#### *Garden City Community Park*

2006 Capital Contribution:  
\$694,151

Construction of a new water park playground, additional parking and a new caretaker's facility will be implemented to enhance the park's amenities.



#### *Garden City Public Washrooms & Water Park Mechanical Building*

Budget: \$550,000

In conjunction with the development of a new water park playground, the City plans to install a new facility that includes public washrooms and a mechanical equipment room to house the water park's equipment, controls, pump systems and services.

#### *Parks Advance Design & Planning Program*

Budget: \$75,000

This program provides sources for ongoing planning, project management and construction of both immediate and future projects, either in park construction or strategic open space planning. It allows the City to be prepared and efficient in managing future capital construction.

#### *Ball Diamond and Sandfield Construction*

Budget: \$150,000

Construction of two senior ball diamonds at Blundell and Manoah Steves Park will replace the existing facilities at Hugh Boyd Park. The extension of the sand based field at Blundell will help accommodate both soccer and softball groups.

#### *Steveston Water Park Playground*

Budget: \$600,000

Work commenced in 2005 with the relocation of the tennis courts, demolition of the tennis wall and re-construction of the lacrosse box.



This year, a new water play area will be installed next to the existing children's playground.

#### *Terra Nova Northwest Quadrant Park*

2006 Capital Contribution:  
\$500,000

Acquisition of the Terra Nova North West Quadrant lands were a result of the 1996 Referendum. Development of these lands will provide Richmond with a legacy for generations to come. With panoramic views of mountains, river activity, the airport and Sturgeon Banks, as well as its connection to the dyke trail system, the park area will have both local, historical and regional significance.



For 2006, projects include the construction of a slough habitat system, which reflects a heritage feature at Terra Nova in the early days and the restoration of some of the existing heritage homes within the area. Viewpoints and more trails will be added to enhance the park's character.

#### *Unsafe Playground Equipment Replacement Program*

Budget: \$100,000

This will be the 6th year of a phased program to adhere to the Canadian Safety Association (CSA) requirements.

In 2006, the program will focus on safety issues that have been identified at existing City playgrounds. Staff will work with the Health Department to inspect City playgrounds and rectify potential hazards identified by these new standards. Emphasis will be placed on fixing or replacing individual components of play equipment, removing or replacing outdated equipment, and/or upgrading the surfaces under play equipment.

### Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park

Budget: continuation from last year's capital.

Richmond's newest neighbourhood park was officially opened on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Phase 1 of park development is now complete, including:

- trails that wind through the forest and an ornamental garden
- a children's playground
- new lawn and garden areas

Phase 2 includes interpretive signage, fencing, landscaping and the development of a frog pond.

Planning, design and surveys for 2007 projects will include:

- Oval West Park
- Trails
- Park characterization
- Sports field drainage upgrades



## Recreation and Culture Guide

Production of the Summer 2006 Recreation and Culture Guide is underway. The Summer Guide will be distributed to Safeways, Save-On-Foods and community facilities on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Online and Touch Tone Registration will begin on Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:01am, followed by Call Centre and In-Person registration during regular hours of operation.

Planning for the Fall/Winter 2006/07 Guide will begin in April with Fall registration scheduled for mid-July.

For more details about upcoming programs, contact your Facility Programmer.



## Electric Ice Resurfacers

Richmond City Council approved \$449,378 at the February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Council Meeting for the purchase of three new electric ice resurfacers.

The first Olympia-Ice Bear will be delivered this Summer, with the second and third machines to be delivered shortly after. The new, zero emission vehicles will replace three 10 year old propane powered Zambonis.

The Olympia-Ice Bears will result in a significant reduction of green house gases and eliminate the need for twice daily air quality testing for carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide levels. Monthly "Air Care" type testing completed by certified City of Richmond mechanics will also no longer have to be completed.

City staff have spent considerable time over the past six months reviewing and testing both the Olympia-Ice Bear and the Zamboni electric ice resurfacer. A full mechanical review of both machines was conducted by City mechanics.

All three of the new electric Olympia-Ice Bears will go into use next Fall at the Richmond Ice Centre - making it a clean air facility.



## Garratt Wellness Centre

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the City of Richmond will officially open Garratt Wellness Centre on Saturday, April 1st from 10:00am to 12:00pm, with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 10:15am. Exhibits, demonstrations and self-guided tours will be available at the event.

Garratt Wellness Centre, established on the former elementary school site, is a community health partnership designed to provide a seamless continuum of services from diagnosis to self-management for people of all ages living with chronic health conditions. Programs and services at Garratt focus on chronic disease management and prevention and educating people with conditions such as diabetes, heart failure, asthma and hypertension.

Partners, including the *Canadian Diabetes Association*, *S.U.C.C.E.S.S.* and the *University of Victoria's Centre for Aging* as well as a multi-disciplinary team of VCH and City staff collectively contribute to improving the quality of life for Richmond residents.



## Museum & Heritage Strategy

This Spring, work will begin on developing a Museum and Heritage Strategy. A consultant will be engaged to work with the City and the community through the process.

Objectives of the strategy are:

- Understand the current state of museums and heritage in Richmond;
- Increase awareness and understanding of the value of museums and heritage within the community and to raise their profile in Richmond;
- Determine needs within the community and of the various sectors and develop strategies and priorities to meet those needs;
- Determine how museum and heritage opportunities can best be carried out by the City and outline the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders;
- Coordinate and prioritize museum and heritage planning, capital projects and operations within the City, including the need for expanded museum services and space;
- Determine the long term role for the City in the growth and development of Museum and Heritage Services;
- Foster links between groups and sectors;
- Identify opportunities for expanding and attracting new museum and heritage tourism opportunities;
- Ensure efficient use of existing resources; and
- Develop policies for Council consideration.

It is anticipated that work will commence in June and be completed next spring.

## Cultural Diversity

City staff have been involved in a range of initiatives aimed at continuing to ensure that services meet the needs of all sections of Richmond's culturally diverse community. These include:

### *Richmond School Board and the City of Richmond Translated Booklet*

This booklet, which will be available to elementary schools at the end of April, will help parents register their school age children (particularly 6-12 year olds) in recreation and cultural opportunities offered by the City and its partners. It will explain how to use the City's Recreation and Culture Guide, what opportunities exist in Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, where the guide can be found and facility contact information. The information will be translated initially, into four languages - Mandarin, Tagalog, Russian and Punjabi, with copies available in other languages when needed. The booklet will be used as a resource by Richmond School Board's team of Cultural Interpreters when they work with parents who face cultural and/or language barriers.



## International Youth Week

*May 1-7<sup>th</sup>, 2006*



International Youth Week is a time for youth to be appreciated and for their efforts to be recognized within the community.

Youth Week is about cooperation, not competition,

activity, not passivity and solutions, not problems. It is a project of ideas, creativity, and visions for a brighter future. Its about young people organizing and participating in activities.

Youth grow up to be healthy contributors to the community when impacted and developed by individuals and youth friendly organizations. By reinforcing supportive atmospheres, empowerment, boundaries, and constructive use of time, a positive identity can be created for Richmond's youth.

Celebrate Youth Week and help develop future leaders in our community.

## Newcomers Guide to the City of Richmond

City staff are working with Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (the official City Council advisory committee on intercultural issues) to help produce a "Newcomers Guide" to the City and its services. The aim of this project is to produce an accessible and inclusive guide for newcomers and residents alike, that reflects the needs of Richmond's culturally diverse population.

Objectives of the project include:

- Assist newcomers to the City of Richmond with access to services and resources.
- Contain information about the City of Richmond and other levels of government as well as information on relevant community agencies/community services and support organizations
- Create a guide that will assure newcomers that they are welcome to the City of Richmond and that the City is assisting them in their settlement and integration into the community
- Create a guide that serves to present the City of Richmond's multicultural and inclusive identity

It is anticipated that the guide will be available later in the year, with copies available in the main community languages spoken by newcomers to Richmond.



## Asian Heritage Month

May has been designated as Asian Heritage Month. Asia, is made up of over 50 countries, all with their own unique culture, heritage and traditions. To celebrate Asian Heritage Month, the City of Richmond will be co-presenting *explorAsian*, a festival celebrating Pan-Asian arts and culture.



Currently, the City is looking for a wide range of community groups to participate in events taking place at the Richmond Cultural Centre. Opportunities exist for visual arts displays, art demonstrations, dance and musical performances, poetry and literary readings.

For more info, contact Suzanne Greening, Arts Coordinator at 604-231-6433 or [sgreening@richmond.ca](mailto:sgreening@richmond.ca)



## Delegations to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Community organizations that are involved in parks, recreation and cultural services in Richmond are invited to make presentations at regular meetings of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of Council. The committee is interested in hearing directly from groups about their activities, achievements and concerns.

A schedule of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting dates and times are as follows: April 25, May 24, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, October 24, November 28 and December 28.

Each meeting will allow for one delegation and the presentation and ensuing discussion will be limited to 30 minutes. Delegations will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Should your organization be interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please submit your requests to:

David Weber - Director,  
City Clerk's Office  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

## City Major Projects

### Proposals for Development of Oval Lands

The City has invited proposals for the acquisition and development of 18.6 acres of prime waterfront land on the banks of the Fraser River and adjacent to the site of the Richmond Oval.

The prime waterfront land has been divided into seven parcels, which are available for sale or lease. Four of the parcels are designated for high density residential, two parcels are designated for commercial use and the seventh parcel is designated for a hotel or mixed-use development.



More details and updates are available on the Advertised Tenders portion of the Business and Development section of the City's website.

### Canada Line Open Houses

Construction for the Canada Line (formerly known as RAV) continues to build momentum in Richmond. Its projected opening date is in 2009.

On February 13, work began along the east side of No. 3 Road between Granville Avenue and Sea Island Way in preparation for the elevated guideway. Construction also continues in the Bridgeport area. Construction on the YVR line includes work near the Arthur Laing Bridge and north of Grant McConachie Way.

The Richmond traffic management study is now complete. It provides measures to help mitigate construction-related disruption. A summary is available on the Canada Line website at [www.canadalineline.ca](http://www.canadalineline.ca).

Tree preservation work is underway along various Richmond segments of the Canada Line. The City has approved InTransitBC's tree management plan, which commits to no net-loss of green-space, and works to minimize impacts during construction. Trees will be moved and protected, while some trees that cannot be transplanted will be removed and replaced after construction of the Canada Line.

InTransitBC is holding detailed station design public open houses from January to June. Four will be held for Richmond: two for Richmond North (Bridgeport station & OMC) and two for Richmond (Cambie, Alderbridge and Richmond Centre). The two remaining scheduled open houses include:

- Richmond North #2 Mar 28 River Rock Hotel
- Richmond #2 May 16 Richmond City Hall

Additional information is available on the City website at [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca) or on the Canada Line website at [www.canadalineline.com](http://www.canadalineline.com).

## Contributors to the Well-Being Outcomes

In each issue of the Communiqué, we highlight staff and our community partners who have contributed to the Well-Being Outcomes. This article focuses on staff at the Arenas who recognize the importance of building a variety of relationships in order to provide sustainable programs, activities and services to the community

Arenas operations are involved with many groups and have formed many different types of relationships with the public and private sector and independent groups (contracts, partnerships, direct service). The Arenas service the Richmond community as well as neighbouring municipalities in the Lower Mainland.

*The following are examples of non-traditional opportunities and events hosted at Richmond Arenas:*

- **Special Events:** Canadian Cancer's Relay for Life, Circus Gatti, World Junior Badminton Championships, National Karate Championships, Maccabi Games, Taekwondo National Training Camp, Musicfest, Air Cadet Band Competition, Gymnastics Recitals, Battle of the Badges Hockey Game and various commercial shoots.
- **Sports & Activities:** Newly formed Richmond Rockets Speed Skating Club starting in September 2006; Women's Hockey League started in 2004 and now has 12 teams, new recent requests to start up a Synchronized Skating Club and host various new events. As well, the following minor sport groups use space: Richmond Minor Lacrosse Association, Richmond Minor Ball Hockey, Richmond Girls Ice Hockey, Richmond Ringette, Richmond Minor Hockey Association, Seafair Minor Hockey Association, Richmond Youth Rollerhockey League and Connaught Skating Club.
- **Programs:** Skating Lessons (95-100% full every season) and Winter Wonderland Public Skates (11,000 visits in 2005). Drop-in programs for hockey, child hockey, figure skating and stick and puck have all grown in usage.
- **Tournaments:** Christmas Midget Hockey Tournament (56 teams in 2005), Ringette Tournament and Seafair Hockey Tournament.

### *Meeting the Well-being Outcomes:* **LIVE.CONNNECT.GROW**

Three outcomes themes are essential to the lives of all Richmond residents. They reflect the fact that different aspects of living contribute to individual well-being and quality of life.

The three themes – **LIVE.CONNNECT.GROW** are key components of the Well-being Framework. They create a common purpose for organizations and individuals who are part of the parks, recreation and cultural services system and quality of life services in Richmond.

To **LIVE** focuses on the basic physical, mental and spiritual "being" needs of individuals and families who want to live healthy, happy lives.

To **CONNECT** addresses the needs an individual or family has to fit with their physical environment, with the people around them and with their community.

To **GROW** addresses the needs an individual or family has to use discretionary time for fun and enjoyment and to enhance their skills beyond the basic levels.



## Arenas Services met the following **LIVE.CONNNECT.GROW** Outcomes:

### *To Live:*

1. There is increased awareness of the benefits of living an active, healthy lifestyle

### *To Connect:*

1. The city and community work together to meet community needs

### *To Grow:*

1. There are increased opportunities for residents to develop leadership skills
2. The community has taken advantage of the potential benefits and opportunities related to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games

Arenas Services is an example of how Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is creating financial sustainability by making effective choices when entering new relationships, partnerships, rentals or supporting events. The Arena's challenge is to ensure a sound budget and maximize facility usage while balancing prime rental space with public and community group space.

**A JOB WELL DONE ARENA STAFF!**