

## **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services**

# **Master Plan 2003 Update**

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

### **Confirming the Values and Vision: October 29<sup>th</sup> Open House**

The Open House was very well received with more than 100 people attending. The objectives of the Open House were to introduce the Master Plan Process to the public and to provide an update on the progress, test the proposed community values and vision and invite and receive public input. The story boards and feedback form are available on our web site at: [http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/docs/1430\\_OpenHouseBoards.pdf](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/docs/1430_OpenHouseBoards.pdf)

There was overwhelming support from all who attended for the identified vision and values. Respondents were also asked to anticipate the most important issues facing Richmond's quality of life sector in the next 10 years. The following challenges were identified as the top five:

1. Growth and over-population;
2. Transportation and traffic;
3. Integration and community building;
4. Aging population and services for the elderly;
5. Maintaining sufficient green space and open space.

Respondents were also asked to rank their community priorities. The top priorities included:

- Community centres
- Libraries
- Trails
- Natural areas
- Heritage facilities
- Aquatic centres
- Cultural facilities
- Performing arts / theatres
- Waterfront amenities
- Neighbourhood parks and playgrounds
- Playing fields / outdoor sport complex

The information collected will be used in the future to ensure we have captured an accurate picture of the community's vision and values.



### **Neighbourhood and Community Building**

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff invited Jim Diers from Seattle to speak about his experience as a community developer and advocate. Jim created the Department of Neighbourhoods in Seattle and now works as a consultant with communities and organizations across North America. Jim talked about the importance of working with volunteers and creating opportunities to build community. His workshop was interesting, passionate, challenging, hilarious, thought provoking and very enjoyable.

As well, some of our staff recently heard John McKnight, an internationally well known academic in developing communities, speak at a workshop in Chilliwack.

### **Investigating Current Reality: Presentations to the Community Working Group**

Community groups from a variety of sectors presented to the CWG on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The presentations were an opportunity for the CWG to gain an understanding of the existing programs and services offered across the City. The groups were asked to present on the following topics:

1. Who do they currently serve?
2. What programs and services do they currently provide?
3. What facilities and amenities do they currently use?
4. What is their operating structure?
5. How are they funded?
6. What issues and challenges do they face and where do they see their organization in the future?

Selected staff facilitated a variety of groups in the following areas:

Aquatics, Arenas, Arts, Childcare, Community Centres, Persons with Disabilities, Environment, Health and Wellness, Heritage, Seniors, Social Services, Sports and Youth.

Thanks to the staff for helping facilitate the process – Connie Baxter, Sean Davies, Alison Dennis, Marg Elfstrom, Jamie Esko, Suzanne Greening, David Ince, Vern Jacques, Karen Jones, Derrick Lim, Mike Redpath, Ross Sakai, Scott Schroeder, Leslie Sherlock, Kate Sparrow, Marty Tanaka and Wayne Yee.

### **Special Thanks!**

Thanks to the volunteers who presented to the Community Working Group on November 19<sup>th</sup>: Jacob Braun (seniors), Nora Wright & George Atkinson (CCA), Diane Bissenden (health), James Sullivan (persons with disabilities), Barbara Williams (arts), Bill Donaldson, Roger Barnes, Cheryl Taunton (sports), Lori Bartley (environment), Frank Klassen (arenas), Brian Wardley (RCSAC), Karen Adamson (youth), Rosemary Mundigel (aquatics), and Bob Mukai (heritage).

**Great work everyone!**

### **Where we are at in the Master Plan**

The next meeting of the Community Working Group will mark the end of the current reality phase of the Master Plan. The next phase, beginning in January 2004, will look at designing our future directions at a philosophical/higher level. The final phase, which will begin in approximately March 2004, will identify the resources required to achieve the future state.

### **Want more information?**

The Master Plan process and resulting documentation is available on the City Website at: [http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/leisure\\_index.htm](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/leisure_index.htm)

or contact Denise Tambellini-Abraham at 604-276-4349 or Cathy Volkering-Carlile, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services at 604-276-4068.

