

# Recreation and Culture



*Recreation and Culture is responsible for facility maintenance, community events and sports field bookings.*

## First Quarter Report, 2014



**CITY OF  
CHILLIWACK**

# Recreation and Culture

## First Quarter Report 2014

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### Chilliwack Senior Secondary Synthetic Turf Facility



On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the official grand opening for the Chilliwack Secondary School was held. Later that same week, the Chilliwack youth soccer teams and school P.E. classes began using the Chilliwack SS synthetic sports field for the first time. The field, designed to handle both soccer and field hockey games, was constructed in partnership between the Chilliwack School District and the City of Chilliwack. The joint use agreement identifies that the School District will use the field during school days until 6:00 pm and the City is on the facility in the evenings, weekends and holidays. The City is responsible for the allocation of community use, field maintenance, field lighting utility costs, and servicing of the dedicated community washrooms attached to the building. For the School District's part they will look after garbage pickup and locking the parking lot gates in the evening.

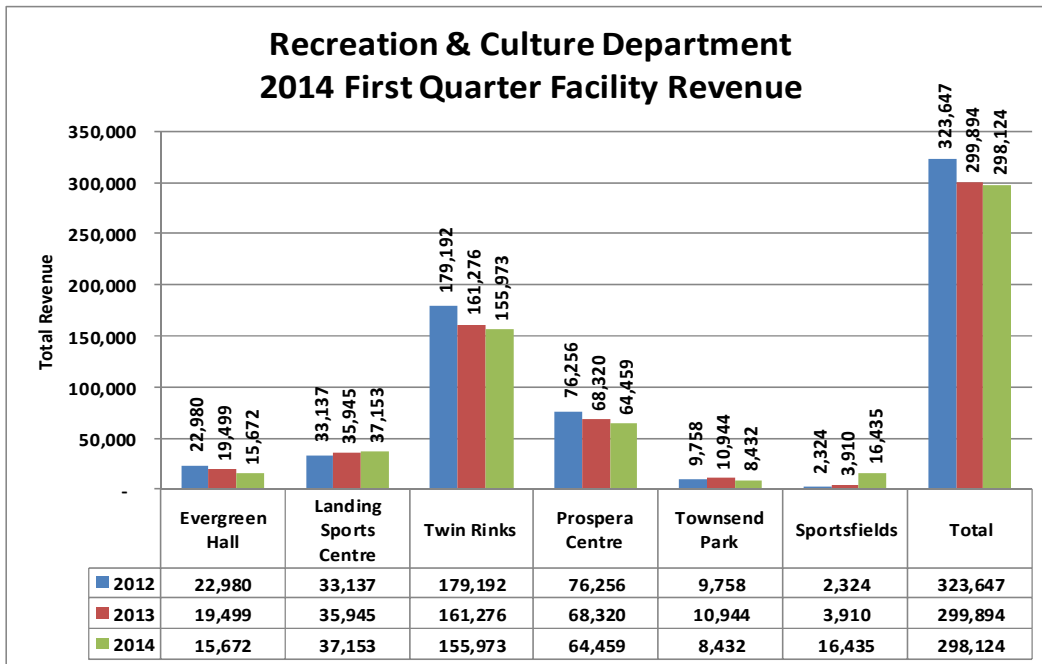
A reserve fund has been established for both the City and School District to cost share in the eventual turf replacement in approximately 10-15 years. The Chilliwack SS turf field is another example of how a strong partnership between the City and School District can maximize school and community opportunities.

### Family Day 2014

A highlight event of the first quarter in 2014 was the Free Family Day Skate. With funding secured from the Province of British Columbia, the City of Chilliwack was able to offer free skates at both Twin Rinks and Prospera. Staff provided face painting and balloon magic to round out the events. In total over 500 people took part in the skates. The City also helped secure funding for the Leisure Recreation Group to provide free swims on Family Day as well.



Family Day Skate



**Yarrow Community Elementary School** has been host to a number of fun activities over the last few months that have helped to chase away some of the winter blahs people may have been experiencing. The sports programs continue to be very popular with the young and old(er) alike. The school now has a thriving kids ball hockey league on Saturday mornings, with over 40 players coming out for 12 weeks of fun. Yarrow Community Elementary School partnered with FVRL/Yarrow branch and hosted an Arts Presentation featuring 'Hoop Dancer' Teddy Andersen. Many of the neighbours came to enjoy it with the students. In mid-February the facility hosted students in the UFV PE/Kinesiology departments and played alongside some as everyone learned about wheelchair basketball from Marni Abbott. The facility had a set of wheelchairs on loan for 3 weeks while participants

learned how to play more adaptive sports and games. With the ASSAI funding the Community School have completed another 8 weeks of the popular kids pilates/zumba classes (20 primary kids) and an excellent 8 week Clay Play session (16 kids) taught by one of our parents, local potter Cathy Terapocki. The Family Carnival co-sponsored with the school PAC was hugely successful. Some of the other programs offered have included; Advanced Digital Photography, Adult and Kids Spanish classes(25 combined), Indian Cooking(14 adults), Acting Outright ( 14 kids x 10 weeks), Hip Hop/Break Dance Workshop, Babysitter Course (18 kids), Run, Jump Throw Training on Pro d day. The facility rentals continue on pace for a record year with a total of 54 new contracts for this quarter. Just around the corner is Tykes Blast Ball, Easter Brown Bag 'n It Day, Family Kite Day, Month Long Earth Day/Environmental Celebrations,



Pottery Class



Kids Ball Hockey League





**Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society's** Tween Club drop in program that runs weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30pm and which is open to students in grades 3 to 5 has grown since the fall of 2013. This club provides weekly theme-based fun activities which include sports in the gym, games, movies, crafts and monthly soc hops. The need for this program in the downtown area is evident as the participation level has increased from a consistent average of 14 tweens attending weekly from Central and surrounding schools to an average of 20 tweens attending weekly. Due to the socio-economic factors of the population attending the program, 75% of the tweens that attend the program have to be subsidized by the Society so that they can participate. This program gives an opportunity for vulnerable youth to have some of their most basic needs met, including a warm safe place to interact and thrive while connecting in a positive way with their peers, as well as the benefit

of supportive role modeling by staff and volunteers. The success of the program is due greatly to the hard work of the Tween Club supervisor and the dedicated group of high school volunteers who consistently have been helping out weekly. Attendance for this program for the first quarter of this year was 219 students.



**Greendale Elementary Community School Society** program participants thoroughly enjoyed the ASSAI programs offered this quarter. There was a further eight weeks of ukulele and eight weeks of a mixed sports program consisting of curling, golf and tennis. The sports program was repeated to an older group of children during the coming eight weeks and include some outside sessions.

The Acting Outright class will present the end of season production on April 15; and the school is looking to host a drama based camp this summer.

Following popular trends, the recent 'Loomatics' attracted 20 children to each class.

GECSS introduced regular Seniors programming with a weekly yoga spot and are continuing to inquire into other activity programs for Seniors with the hope of having them up and running in the near future.

The pre-school soccer program extended its provision to include a class for children aged 5-7.

Late Spring or early summer has often been a quiet time as fitness programs lose their appeal when the warmer weather arrives; however this year, everyone is about to enjoy new programming with cooking classes starting in April and a first aid course to be held in May.

Valley Christian Ministries continue to use our facilities every Sunday.

During the first quarter seventy plus attended regular weekly evening programs including Karate, Zumba, Fusion, Seniors Yoga and Yoga.

Sixty children attending regular after-school/late afternoon programming, and seventy plus attended special programs and events including Home Alone and Babysitting courses, a Seniors Yoga taster, Food Safety training and a children's craft course.

# Recreation and Culture

**Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association** has enjoyed a busy, fun, winter session of afterschool programs. Winter programs offered included, to name a few ; Robotics, Fusion intro. to Gymnastics, Monday Night Multi-Sport Mania, Creative Kids make Music ), Yoga for Kids, 3D Animation, Discover Dance ,Cupcakes & Cake Pops, Red Cross Babysitter training, At Home Alone plus, Baking up a Storm, and a Create Greeting Cards Class (Valentine’s theme). New programs this winter included: Tiny Chefs Cooking Adventures, Discover Super Science, Volley Ball Basics (grades 4, 5, 6) and “Yoga and Meditation” for Adults.

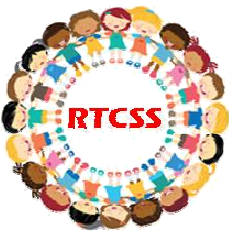
PHECSA’s drop-in programs are busting at the seams! The drop-in program “Tween Night” held on Friday evenings for youth in grades 5 – 7, has been so popular that attendance numbers are being capped at 55 kids per session. Parents are very supportive of this great program which offers kids the chance to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment. The Busy Bees caregiver/parent & tot program is also often at full capacity. Numbers are capped at 15 families each week due to limited space.

This wonderful program offers a variety of themed crafts and story time, plus lots of free play time, while providing participants with a chance to connect with others in the community. The Primetimers program has seen an increase in membership to 16 participants per week. This weekly drop-in group provides seniors with a chance to enjoy conversation and coffee. The private piano lessons are operating at full capacity, and currently has a wait list.

PHECSA does not offer an annual special event in the January – March period, but preparation is being made for the annual Easter Eggstravaganza to be held on Saturday, April 19th, and ARTragEous Creative Arts Festival which will happen this year on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The winter season of January – March often finds travel difficult due to the weather, and having activities close to home is very convenient for families here. The community of Promontory Heights is greatly enriched by the variety of programs offered throughout these winter months, and wishes to thank the City of Chilliwack for the continued support of our after-school, and drop-in programs.

**Rosedale Traditional Community School’s first** quarter has proved to be once more a busy season. We welcomed the Quilters Guild for a Quilters Bee and are happy to have them return several times during the year. The Chilliwack Soccer Association members attended weekly soccer clinics during the first 7 weeks of the year, and we host a 3 day Pickleball Tournament with visitors coming all the way from the Island. We continue to provide a wide variety of programs in the evenings for all ages. Attendance for all events was approximately 8,000 participants.



*Sewing Classes at RTCSS*



*Pickleball at RTCSS*





## WHERE ART COMES TO LIFE!



The first quarter of 2014 was very busy for the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. The theatres were bursting at the seams with dozens of exciting performances as well as almost six weeks of the annual Lions' Club Music and Dance Festival. Great theatre offerings included Holmes and Watson Save the Empire, Till Death: The Six Wives of Henry VII, Driving Miss Daisy as well as the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts' very popular production of Shrek, Cinderella, and The Backyardigans for the younger crowd.

Comedy was again very popular with the fourth annual performance of I Am Woman Hear Me Laugh, celebrating International Women's Day and the Comic Strippers. Elvis landed in Chilliwack with Elvis Elvis and Randy Elvis Friskie taking to the stage. Ballet Jorgen thrilled audiences with Romeo and Juliet, as did Ballet Kelowna with Innovations.

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society partnered with The Drive and Tractorgrease to produce two more fantastic concerts in the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre featuring young local bands; Benjamin Butterfield and Oto Carrillo joined Sarah Hagen for two more Rain Mountain Classical Music Series coffee concerts, and Aboriginal Punk Rock Cellist Cris Derksen blew the audience away with a stellar concert that included participation from the Spirit of our Communities Aboriginal Youth Group. The Nylons and the Official Blues Brothers Revue brought the audience to their feet with fantastic sold out concerts, and audiences thrilled to extreme sports films and magic with The Best of the Vancouver International Film Festival and An Evening of Wonders starring Vitaly Beckman.

The Chilliwack Art Gallery continued to be filled with excellent exhibitions curated by the Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and the music, arts and crafts, and performance studios were filled with amazing programs for all ages and levels of experience.

The quarter ended with notification that the Centre's Artistic and Managing Director was nominated as Presenter of the Year by the British Columbia Touring Council for a third consecutive year!





## CHILLiwack museum & archives

### Archives Collection

Chilliwack Museum and Archives Director Deborah Hudson, and Archivist Shannon Bettles, worked to provide Shaw TV's Jonathan Horst with background information on the Irwin Block, prior to the hundred-year-old building being torn down on March 20th. As an indirect result, a number of photographs of the building's interior, taken during its heyday in the 1950s, were donated to the Archives by long-time Chilliwack resident Bertha Martin, who worked in the building as a waitress at Hipwell's Lunch Counter, for 23 years.



*Marie McGill with her recent art work*

### Exhibitions

**14 Gold: Images from the 2010 Olympics (January 18 – February 27th)** displayed a selection of photographs taken by award-winning photographer Jenna Hauck during the 2010 winter games in Vancouver. Visitors to the exhibit included a group of ESL students who participated in a Chilliwack Community Services program developed specifically around the exhibit.

**British Columbia Inspirations (March 8th - April 17th)** features a combination of landscapes and abstract paintings by internationally exhibited artist Marie McGill, and includes a number of recent works inspired by Chilliwack's spectacular scenery.

### Education Program

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives offers eleven curriculum-specific education programs, developed largely for elementary school students. Twenty-six regular programs were booked this quarter, with a special evening session developed for a local Girl Guides group.

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives participated in a special "Wonder Sunday" project developed by the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) in Victoria, which involved museums from around the province sharing program ideas on the theme of "Towns".



*Hipwell's Lunch Counter c 1950 Irwin Block Building*



# Recreation and Culture



The **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve's** first three months of 2014 had thirty-five volunteers acting as hosts at the Rotary Interpretive Centre and welcomed 3,200 visitors. An additional twenty-five volunteers supported the GBHNRS by working in the administration, bird survey and on the gardening teams. Over 800 visitors attended our free community events this quarter. The New Year's Day Walk, World Wetlands Day, Heron Homecoming and our expanded Family Nature Festival were all very successful and well received. The Society's AGM was held in March.

The GBHNRS has been liaising with the City of Chilliwack to support site and building improvements in order to meet the needs of the centre and to accommodate the increase in visitors to the site as well as the expansion of community programming. Plans were completed in March for interior modifications to the Rotary Interpretive Centre these plans will satisfy the increase space for public programming and operations.



"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."  
— [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)



**CHILLIWACK  
HERITAGE PARK**  
*Events Happen Here*

This has been a busy quarter at **Chilliwack Heritage Park!** Heritage Park started off hosting the Pacific All-Star Cheerleading Championships. This was quickly followed up by indoor Arenacross action. The annual Home and Leisure show was very popular, attracting thousands of visitors looking for home improvement ideas. February saw the return of Arenacross as well as dog shows. March is tradeshow month and the facility had the very popular and well sought after Women's Show, Antique Arms and Collectibles Show, the BC Holstein Show and the Yard, Garden and Reno Show featuring the Big Red Barn BBQ event. Attendance for all events was 49,170.







## CHEAM LEISURE CENTRE

Swimming lessons and registered fitness programs started off at a high level with 1,190 participants registered. This is an increase of 127 participants over the same period in 2013. New class format highlights include Indoor Cycling, High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), Lean & Mean Ladies Training, and Baby Bootcamp.

Daily Average attendance was 871 for a quarterly total of 78,419.



Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre



The New Year always brings new members to the facility as fitness is front-of-mind of many. Members, new and returning, filled the weight room and fitness classes. Swimming lessons were also full in the pool.

Significant maintenance was completed in the first quarter at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre. Start block anchors were replaced on deck-side to prepare for the SwimBC Short Course AA Championships being hosted over the February 28<sup>th</sup> weekend and by the Chilliwack Spartans Swim

Club. Plumbing repairs and tile replacement in the change rooms and on the deck were other major projects of this quarter. The change room closure was also a good time to do some painting touchups.

The main event of this year's first quarter was the AA Championships Swim Meet. The facility hosted over 400 swimmers and as well as supporters and family. Daily average attendance for the first quarter of 2014 was 855 with a total of 76,986 visits.



Read. Learn. Play. | [www.fvrl.bc.ca](http://www.fvrl.bc.ca)



*Teddy Anderson*



*Dancing with hoops*

**Yarrow library** staff increased in January 2014 to four staff members. The new staff member is part of an innovative shared library assistant position with Sardis and Chilliwack and was added for Tuesday mornings. The Yarrow circulation desk was modified to accommodate new RFID technology with a more ergonomic design. This change both streamlines the circulation workflow and reduces the risk of repetitive strain injuries to staff.

Teddy Anderson came to Yarrow to demonstrate a meaningful and unique program to over 400 students, teachers, and FVRL library customers in February. On February 26th, Anti-bullying day, Teddy presented an impressive display of First Nation's dancing involving 30 colorful hoops and

delivered a powerful message of inclusiveness. This impressive program was made possible by the partnership between Yarrow Library, Yarrow Community School and Chilliwack Friends of the Library.

March featured a presentation by Brad Geary, an author who has recently been selected to audition for the popular television series "Dragon's Den". Brad gave a well received presentation about his simple system of investing. Feedback for this program was very positive.



*Yarrow Library*

**Sardis Library** kicked off the New Year by offering a new set of programs and an author visit at the Library. From January - March, Sardis Library Staff have introduced a variety of original new programs to customers including Lego Club, Knit and Knatter, Family Games Night, and monthly meetings of the Sardis Genealogy Group.

In January, Sardis Library welcomed 80 students in grades 4-5 for an author visit by Lois Peterson. The children attending are participants in the system-wide Reading Link Challenge Program and were thrilled to meet one of the authors in-person.

Ongoing original new programming has attracted a wide demographic of attendees. Lego Club is held once a

month and the sessions have been extremely popular. Kids ages 7 -14 have spent the hour long club using their imaginations to construct magnificent creations. Knit and Knatter has attracted knitters ranging in age from children to grandparents who vary in experience level from novice to highly experienced. Family Games Night unites generations: children, parents, grandparents, and encourages them to sit down together and play a variety of board games. Sardis Genealogy Group had their inaugural meeting in January and since then have had a strong showing at their monthly meetings, where

they are able to learn more about genealogy and utilizing the resources that FVRL has to offer.



*Author Lois Peterson talks to grade 4 and 5 students*



# Recreation and Culture



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The Chilliwack Library started the New Year started with a bang when the staff descended on Chilliwack Secondary School. And they weren't alone! FVRL's mobile initiative, Library Live and on Tour was on hand too. While the music pumped from LiLi the car, Chilliwack staff "carded" (registered as new members), 70 students, reduced obstacles to library use for dozens more, and strengthened relationships with teens. The first public "Listening Station" in all of FVRL was unveiled in the Chilliwack Library at the end of March. The listening station features four mounted and easy-to-use DAISY (digital accessible information system) players. Customers visiting the library

can now relax in a comfortable chair and listen to books or music from the collection. While usable by anyone, The DAISY players were chosen because they are accessible by sight-impaired people as well. The listening station is a result of the partnerships with the Friends of the Chilliwack libraries and the Chilliwack Lions Club. Despite the opening of the Sardis branch, the Chilliwack library has continued to flourish and expand its customer base. It continues to be a vibrant community hub with active and well attended book clubs, teen programs, eReading technology training, lectures, workshops and other interactive programs for all ages.

