

Recreation and Culture



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

First Quarter Report, 2015

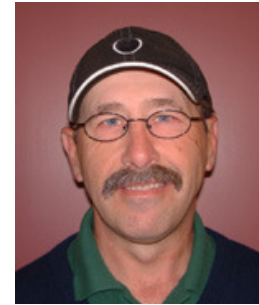


CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Recreation and Culture

Dennis Hutchinson Retirement

After 37 years of service with the District/City of Chilliwack, Dennis Hutchinson retired in January. As the Building Service Worker he was well recognized for his smile and friendly customer service not only with the public but with his peers as well. Dennis will be missed by all.



School/City Playground Funding In partnership with the Chilliwack School District and elementary school PAC groups, the City provides three \$10,000 playground grants annually to schools in need as prioritized by the School District. The grants are provided for the purchase of new or replaced playground equipment with two conditions, 1) funding participation from both the School District and the PAC committees, and 2) the playgrounds must be accessible for community use in the evenings and weekends. The three sites chosen for 2015 are: Watson Elementary, Robertson Elementary and Central Elementary



Twin Rink Special Events

The staff at Twin Rinks hosted three special skates in the first quarter of 2015. The events were well attended with 418 participants for the New Year's Winter Wonderland Skate, 450 participants for the Family Day Skate, and 143 participants for the Hawaiian Tropic Skate. At the Family Day Skate there was free admission for all participants through a \$1,000 Family Day grant provided by the Province of BC, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Family Day Skate

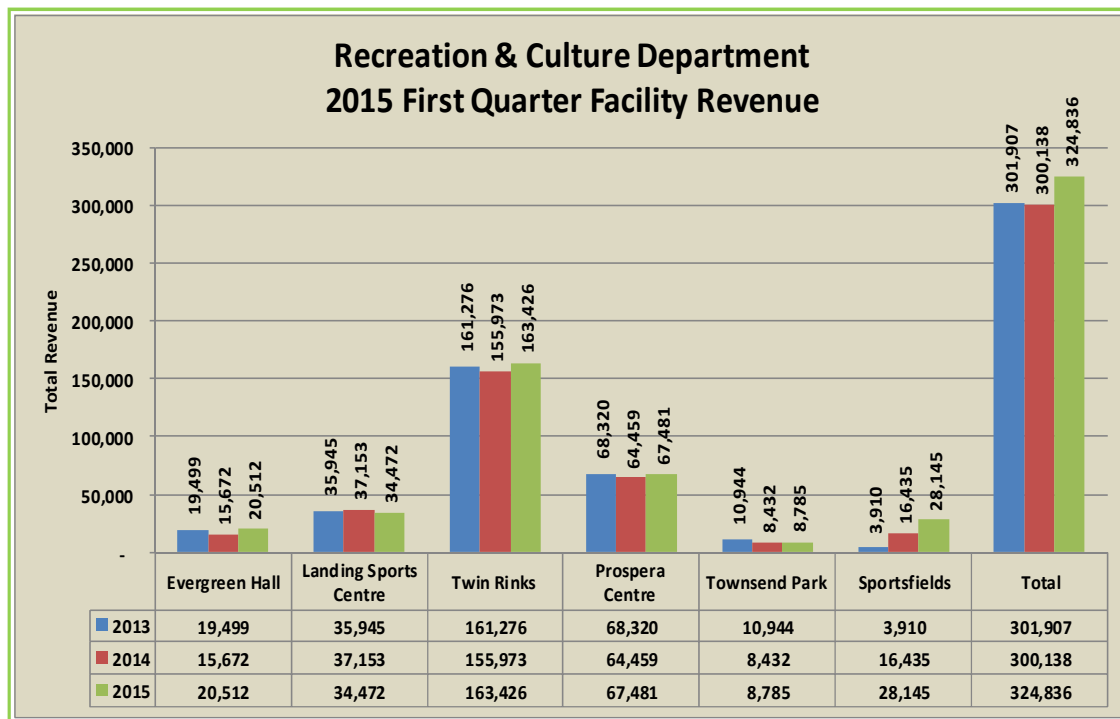


Hawaiian Tropic Skate



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Recreation and Culture Facility Revenue Report



Yarrow Elementary Community School Association

Yarrow Community School had many exciting programs to offer in the first quarter of 2015. One such program was Math Mania, was a free family evening and was co-sponsored by the UFV Math Dept. The evening was packed full of fun math games, puzzles and problems and had 100 participants and 15 volunteers from UFV. The Hip Hop Classes were also well attended with 36 kids from grades 1 to 6 participating. Fourteen participated and worked on hand built clay projects for an 8 week program, guided by Yarrow's local potter Cathy Terapocki.



The Farm to School Program received a grant for \$4000, the program helps encourage the student/families to eat healthier fresh foods by building gardens and growing themselves. Yarrow Elementary Community School now has its own garden on site.

Spring break was busy with day camps and an average of 12-15 kids participated daily bringing in just under \$1,000 alone. Ongoing programs include Boot Camp, Zumba, Pilates, Pickleball, Men's Floor Hockey, Karate, Family Place Brownies and many more. There were 18 rentals in January, 20 rentals in February and 10 rentals in March.



Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association

PHECSA has enjoyed a busy, fun, first quarter of afterschool programs in 2015. Programs offered included: Tiny Chefs, Baking up a Storm, Floor Hockey, Discover Dance, Delicious Cupcakes & Cake pops, Kindergym, Mom, Dad, & me Gymnastics, Pilates Body Sculpt, private Piano lessons, “Yoga and Meditation” for Adults to name a few.

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 as it 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 and is 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, all while providing participants with a chance to connect with others in the community.

For seniors, the Primetimers program has seen an increase in membership to approximately 20 participants per week. This weekly drop-in group provides participants with a chance to enjoy conversation and coffee. Our private piano lessons are operating at full capacity, with a wait list.

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.

Facility Attendance during this quarterly report: Winter programs – 78 participants/ /Tween Night – 35-50 kids per weekly session/Piano – 62 students/Busy Bees Parent & Tot drop-in – 15 families per weekly session/Primetimers Social – 16-20 participants per weekly session

Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

The support through the the City of Chilliwack Community Development Initiative funding program has assisted in making it possible for CCECSS's 2nd Day “no fee” After School Program to continue to thrive. The program runs five days a week, ten months of the year, is open to grades 3 to 6 with over 55 students participating daily, and is dedicated to removing barriers so vulnerable inner core children can participate in formal arts, sport and recreation activities.

The 2nd Day Program has developed some exciting new partnerships this year: Twelve grade 6 boys were picked to participate in a program hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fraser Valley called Game On. Another twelve grade 6 girls will be starting the Go Girls program in April.

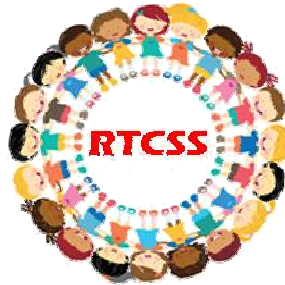
CCECSS has been given use of a 4 x 8 garden plot through Ruth and Naomi's Community Garden and will start to utilizing the space this spring. This opportunity instruct participants on healthy eating, growing their own food and how to prepare food from the harvested produce. An added benefit is it will also help in reducing costs of the snacks provided daily to 2nd Day program participants.

In the first quarter of 2015 30 youth had an opportunity to participate in a 9 week Super Science program put on in partnership with Science World, SD#33 and UFV.



Rosedale Traditional Community School

The first quarter has proved to once more a busy season. The facilities hosted 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 the society hosted a 3 day Pickleball Tournament with visitors coming all the way from the Island. The Bahia Society returned for the 3rd year for their New Years Celebration



Greendale Elementary Community School

The Seniors programming is established and off to a steady start at GECSS. Having the Silver Surfers attend weekly has provided a great focus. There will be a themed month in May to promote attendance and encourage other seniors to attend; each week a local resident with "expert" skills will share their skills and talents with the Seniors, such as photography and crafts.

The ASSAI programming has continued, with music and sports programming remaining our current focus. There will be ukulele and sports for the younger children from Spring Break until the end of term.

The Kids in the Kitchen program is booming. Ten children joined the last set of classes and there will be a parent and children class starting soon for families to prepare and cook together nutritious food for dinner. Art class as always attracted a good number of children.

There was a record turnout for the Babysitting Course held at the end of February so a further one is planned for May.

There will also be the first Garden Swap held by GECSS in May. Residents with spare garden tools, plants, seeds, trays etc will be able to swap for other items on May 16.

120+ children aged preschool and above, attending regular weekly programs. This includes karate, Acting Outright, Ruthless Recorders, Spartan Sports, Little Kickers, Art class, yoga and skipping.

80+ adults attending regular weekly programs; including Seniors Pop-In, karate, fitness programs, yoga and square dancing.

50+ attended special programs and events including Home Alone and Babysitting courses for children and Indian cooking classes.





The first quarter was a busy one at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre. January was typical with many citizens resolving to improve their fitness for the new year. The trend continued into the following months.

The learn-to swim program was also busy with 229 swimming lesson participants.

The Chilliwack School District Spring Vacation started in the first quarter on Monday, March 23rd through to the second quarter on Thursday, April 2nd. Daily special event activities were held for school-aged children. These included games in and around the pool with a “Games Patrol” leader.

The first quarter reports 553 Leisure Access Program passes approved and distributed to citizens showing an interest and a need. This equals a membership value of \$224,087. Daily Average: 1187 participants.



The first quarter showed increased attendance at the Cheam Leisure Centre for all three months compared to the same months in 2014. Total attendance in the first quarter of 2015 was higher than in 2014 with 30,385 members served.

The learn-to swim program was also busy with 303 swimming lesson participants. This showed an increase of families with children using the facilities, likely attributed to overall neighbourhood growth.

The Chilliwack School District Spring Vacation started in the first quarter on Monday, March 23rd through to the second quarter on Thursday, April 2nd. Spring Break Day Camps were held featuring daytime care with gymnasium and pool activities.

The first quarter reports 214 Leisure Access Program passes approved and distributed to citizens showing an interest and a need. This equals a membership value of \$81,611. Daily Average: 1208 participants served



Chilliwack Cultural Centre

2015 started off with the ever-hilarious Comic Strippers, and two shows from the Arts Club Theatre on Tour, The Odd Couple and The Foreigner, had audiences roaring with laughter. The Cheesecake Burlesque Revue returned, sharing Valentine's Day weekend with the Dal Richards Orchestra. Loon and 6 Guitars took to the stage in the Fringe series, and kids and families enjoyed Hamelin: a New Family Musical. The Amazing Kreskin astounded, as did the Irish Rovers. Sarah Hagen and Tawnya Popoff offered a morning of classical music, and International Woman's Day was celebrated with the fifth annual I Am Woman! Hear Me Laff!

Working with partners

Two new partners joined the Chilliwack Cultural Centre Project in January: Chilliwack School of Performing Arts and The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association presented work from its members with "Newest and Best," and featured artist Robert Harms with "In Harms Way."

Our renters



Chilliwack School of Performing Arts presented the new musical adaptation of The Addams Family, and Chilliwack Lion's Club Music & Dance Festival filled the facility in February.

Hungry for Life presented a combination concert and lecture twice, and variety shows from dance groups Creative Outlet, Project Dance, and Dance in Motion took place. F. G. Leary, put on their annual performance in the HUB International Theatre with Alice in Wonderland. Rock It. Boy entertainment brought Chilliwack to the stage, as well as Brent Butt. Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea also performed in a popular solo concert and Mike the Knight was a hit with the kids. The Chilliwack Metropolitan

Orchestra performed with a Spanish themed concert. Family Residency Program's Mini Med School offered courses over several weeks in March.

Classes and more

Classes and workshops being offered provided a variety of instruction for all ages and skill levels. The classes included Glass Beads, Making Jewellery, Glass Dots, Chainmail, Continuing Flamework, and Advanced Wirework, as well as Watercolour Explorations, Drawing Faces, Introduction to Drawing, and Art Safari. Easy as 1-2-3: Ceramics, Clay Creators: Handbuilding and Clay Creators: Wheel, and Magic Mud were offered for pottery students. Photography workshops, including Beginner's Photography and Photographing Children & Family were introduced. Kids classes included Acting and Acting for Film and TV, and the Spring Break Art Camps were popular once again.



Chilliwack Museum & Archives

Personnel Changes

Matthew Francis arrived as new Executive Director February 2nd, and has been enjoying working with the staff, the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society Board, and the broader Chilliwack community.

After 30 years as the Educational Programmer, Brenda Paterson will be retiring from her position in April. During her tenure Brenda estimates that over 75,000 school aged children received curriculum based programming from the Museum and Archives. A competition for a new Education and Engagement Coordinator will be initiated in the near future.

Young Canada Works funding was approved for a Summer Student Placement for a Curatorial Assistant, who will assist Curator, Jane Lemke to complete an inventory of the Museum's Textile Collection, as well as related conservation work.



S'itel: Coast Salish Baskets Exhibit, Opened February 21st



Mr. Jim Harris from the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society partnered with the Museum to deliver a program on Chilliwack's Great War to Sardis Secondary Social Studies 11 Students.

Exhibits

The public opening for *S'itel: Coast Salish Baskets* Chambers Gallery on February 21, with over 100 people in attendance, including Mayor Gaetz, both local MLAs, and representatives of the Sto:lo Nation. Staff collaborated with the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre on the exhibit. Research is underway for the Museum's next exhibition, *Game On: The History of Sports in Chilliwack*, which is scheduled to open in September 2015.

Publications

Several of the Museum's most popular publications, such as *The Chilliwack Story*, are out of print and highly sought-after. To meet the demand, the Chilliwack Museum and Archives is piloting an E-book strategy which will soon release several titles for multiple E-book formats including Kindle, Kobo, iBook, and other platforms.

Public and School Programming

While many of the Museum's popular Education programs are targeted toward Elementary School Age Students, new opportunities are emerging to engage Middle and Secondary School audiences. On March 11th, in partnership with the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society, a special Museum program was delivered to a Social Studies 11 Class from Sardis Secondary on *Chilliwack's Great War*.

Chilliwack Heritage Park

2015 once again kicked off at Chilliwack Heritage Park with the Pacific All-Star Competition. This was quickly followed up by the best in home and leisure with the annual Chilliwack Home & Leisure Show while the Yorkshire Terrier Club made their first debut at the Park by hosting a clinic. February saw another first time event in the William Fox Pit Eventing Clinic, followed up by the Mt. Cheam Dog Show and the Fraser Valley Women's Show. In March, we welcomed the Gun and Antique Show, one of the largest shows of its kind in all of Canada that attracts thousands from all over the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island as well as Western Canada. We also saw the BC Living Outdoor Show and the return of the RV Show & Sale. Attendance for the first quarter of 2015 was approximately 40,500 patrons.



Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve

The Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Society organized several free community events this quarter. Our annual New Year's Day Walk, World Wetlands Day, Heron Homecoming and Family Nature Festival were all very popular. Over 600 people attended the two day Family Nature Festival. Families explored and learned together while exploring the site and taking part in activity designed for children. The Society's AGM was held in March and attendee's were treated to an excellent talk on the endangered Western Painted Turtle found at the Heron Reserve. Over 75 volunteers now work at the GBHNR welcoming visitors, conducting bird surveys, gardening and supporting the administration of the Society's programs and services.

Due to grants, community support and the partnership with the City of Chilliwack, two major projects were completed this quarter. The Rotary Interpretative Centre's renovation to expand the programming and administration spaces. The Discover Trail is open and a pond Education Platform was constructed next to the Discovery Annex.





Read. Learn. Play. | www.fvrl.bc.ca



Elvis at Chilliwack Library



Chilliwack Library

The Chilliwack Library has been conducting an Absolute Beginners computer training series on a monthly basis (4 sessions over 2 weeks). Some might be surprised to learn that there are many people in the modern world who don't know how to turn a computer on or use a computer mouse, but the classes fill up months in advance. Most of the participants are seniors who need help to get started in the digital age they live in.

There is a serious 'digital divide' with our elders and this is a challenge for everyone who serves seniors. Lack of basic computer knowledge hinders access to information about health, government services, current events and news, and communication with loved ones.

There are few things that feel as good to library staff as an Absolute Beginners Computer Training 'graduate' bragging that they now email their grandchildren every day, that they found a website with helpful gardening hints, or that they filled out a form online.

The Chilliwack Library staff are committed to guiding our community's seniors to become as digitally literate as they want to be, expanding their participation in society and enhancing the quality of their lives. The one-on-one sessions give the seniors the time needed for their specific learning styles with a librarian who has the experience to guide them through the process from beginning to end.

Yarrow Library

With the new year came a few changes to our important community hub. The Yarrow library officially changed their hours of operation for Thursdays as of January 8, 2015 from 1:30-8:00 pm due to staff upgrades. Thanks to a donation from the Chilliwack Friends of the Libraries, a wonderful wall decal of the Cat in the Hat was added to the facility to the delight of many patrons.

Children's author Gina McMurchy-Barber visited the Yarrow Library and presented to 76 students from School District #33 who are participating in this year's Chilliwack Reading Link Challenge (RLC) in April. She focused on her book, *Reading the Bone*, which is one of the titles selected in this year's RLC reading material. Her presentation included pictographs, a mock archeological dig site, and many photos of actual archeological sites located in British Columbia.

Denis LeClerc shared his love of storytelling and playing the fiddle with students from Yarrow Community School. This program is a valuable contribution to the curriculum for Grade 3, 4, 5 as it touches on the French cultural history of Canada and the Fur Trade with the Voyageurs. Students were invited to re-enact a scene with Denis LeClerc and actually feel and understand what a grueling task it was to be a Voyageur.

To celebrate multicultural month in March, Yarrow Library hosted a Ceilidh Dance program. Duncan MacKenzie shared his expertise of Scottish Country Dancing with over 80 students from Barrowtown Elementary and Yarrow Community School. The students learned fairly quick and had enjoyed Duncan's cheery teaching instruction. A great time was had by all!



Lego scavenger hunt

Sardis Library

Sardis Library has been buzzing with customers since opening its doors in the Spring of 2013. These customers have happily been accessing Fraser Valley Regional Library's (FVRL's) floating collection of over one million items. The floating collection is shared between all of FVRL's libraries, but only a portion of these items are housed at Sardis Library at any one time. Since opening, shelf space has been at a premium with the number of floating items called into Sardis exceeding the available shelf space.

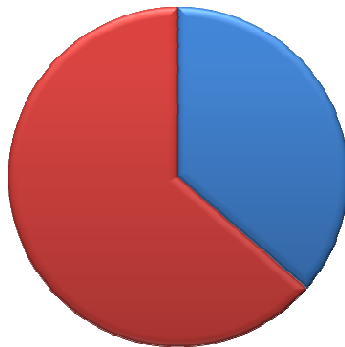
To the delight of customers and staff, in January Sardis Library had additional shelving installed. The library's shelving capacity increased by 40%. The additional shelving means Sardis Library is able to retain many of the items that are returned to the location, increasing the number of browseable items for customers to enjoy.

Programs at Sardis Library continue to be extremely popular. The number of programs held and the attendance at the programs has increased dramatically from 2014 to 2015, proving once again the library is a valued space in this growing community.



New static shelving at Sardis Library

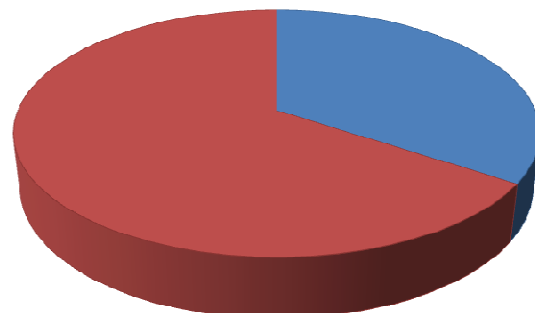
Sardis Library Total Program Attendance February 2014 vs February 2015



■ February 2014: 297
■ February 2015: 519



Sardis Library Reference Questions Answered January 2014 vs January 2015



■ January 2014: 737
■ January 2015: 1410