

Recreation and Culture



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

Second Quarter Report, 2017



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Recreation and Culture

Move For Health

The City of Chilliwack hosted a variety of events to celebrate Move For Health. The event kicked off with the annual partnership between the Division of Family Practice and the City of Chilliwack hosting a Walk with Your Doc/ Walk with Your Mayor event at Townsend Park. Councillor Popove represented the Mayor at this event. Just as in previous years, the participants enjoyed great weather and healthy snacks. Other activities planned through the Move For Health week were a hike through the Community Forest, a softball game, and two lunchtime walks.



Neighbourhood Grant Program – Celebration and Activities

During the second quarter, the Neighbourhood Grant program was fast out of the gate with the City of Chilliwack providing support to five events through the Celebration and Activity Grant for a total of \$1,800 in grant funding being distributed. In total, approximately 1,100 people attended the events which took place in five different neighbourhoods throughout the community.

Highlights of the program through the second quarter included:

- ♦ The community BBQ at the Community Garden in the heart of Downtown Chilliwack saw 250 guests learn more about their downtown community. Guest learned how to sign up for a garden plot and how to address homeless issues through Griffin Security. Children received gift bags containing gardening supplies donated by Minter Gardens. The face painting and free hot dogs were very well-received judging by the line ups for both.
- ♦ The Yarrow BBQ Block Party, hosted by the Yarrow Community School PAC, was a resounding success, due in part, to great community support through donations and attendance. Participants were kept busy with a variety of activities and entertainment.



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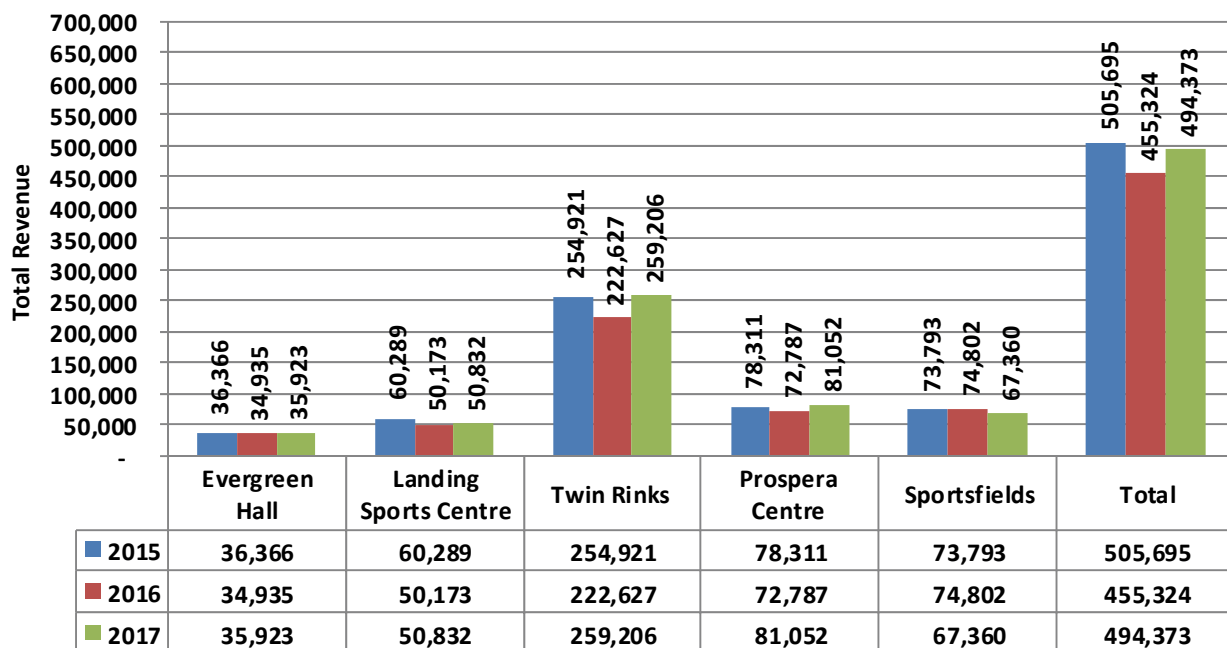
Community Sport Hero Awards

On May 3, the 13th annual Chilliwack Community Sport Hero Award Ceremony was held at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn in front of a crowd of approximately 130 friends, family, past winners and sponsors. There were five highly deserving community sport heroes honoured that evening, bring the total to 110 recipients over the past 13 years. The event was sponsored by Star FM, Chilliwack Progress, the Best Western, City of Chilliwack, and Recreation Excellence. Tom Watson, owner of Recreation Excellence, delivered an impactful keynote speech outlining how recreational sports and one particular coach helped mold him into the successful husband, father and business man he is today.



Recreation and Culture Facility Revenue Report

Recreation & Culture Department 2017 Year to Date Facility Revenue





Chilliwack Heritage Park

The month of April was largely dedicated to loveable furry companions!

Thousands flocked to Heritage Park throughout April to check out both the competition and the latest dog breeds.

The month rounded out with remote control cars and the ever-in-demand Vintage Barn Market. May saw the return of the ever popular Food Truck Festival followed quickly by the American Bike Association's BMX competition. After the bikes left, the horses took over the arenas and remained at Heritage Park through to the end of June – from barrel racing to mini horses to reining and equestrian vaulting.



Rosedale Traditional Community School



The facility hosted several exciting events this past season, including the Bahai Society, 4H, guitar and a piano recital. The society welcomes community members to the facility for their special events and celebrations.

The society continues to partner with DASH BC, providing free afterschool programs. This session saw participants from ages 6-12 years of age attending rhythmic gymnastics, choir, and ukulele. It's always a pleasure to be able to provide programs to families who may not have an opportunity otherwise.

Country Kids Childcare Centre is very busy. The infant and toddler and preschool age groups are near capacity, and the afterschool program grows each month. Celebrate Summer staff have been hired and are anticipating a very busy summer!



Yarrow Community School Society



Spring and soccer go together at Yarrow Community school! 20 players worked through eight weeks of a developmental soccer program sponsored by the ASSAI Provincial Government grant.

For the creative young people a very popular beginner's painting class was fully subscribed and over the program's six weeks the participants dabbled in pastels, water colour and acrylics producing some high quality work to take home.

Yarrow Community school hosted a community neighbourhood party. The sun came out and the crowd enjoyed



a great afternoon of games, food, local entertainment and fun.

The school garden is in full bloom and the students have been enjoying the first crops grown in the brand new greenhouse. In early June the community celebrated their 47th annual Yarrow Days and the community school played a supporting role, assisting with the Family Fun Run, parade and games at the park.

Registration is ongoing for the upcoming summer programs and the 8th season of fall tykes soccer league. The community school was busy every night of the week with popular and ongoing pickleball, pilates, boot camps and men's floor hockey and women's volleyball. The facility continues to be well used by a variety of groups taking advantage of the affordable rental rates made possible by the City of Chilliwack's funding support.



Promontory Heights Elementary Community School

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association enjoyed a busy, fun, winter session of afterschool programs. Spring programs offered included: Bike Mechanics, Pilates, yoga, video game design, baking buddies and dance classes.

The drop-in program "Tween Night" held on Friday evenings for youth in grades 5 – 7 continued to be well attended during the second quarter. Parents continued to be 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 was also often at full capacity. Numbers are capped at 15 families each week due to limited space. Busy Bees offered a variety of themed crafts and story times, plus lots of free play time, all while providing participants with a chance to connect with others in the community.

The Primetimers program saw an increase in membership to approximately 20 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, with a wait list.

PHECSA recently held a community festival that was very well attended. Every one enjoyed the bouncy castles, music performances and carnival games.





Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society



*Facility attendance during this Quarter for the Aboriginal Gathering was 275 participants.
2nd Day program: 125 children
Tween Club: 450 children
Central Sockeye After School care: 50-60 children per week*

The support of the City of Chilliwack enables CCECSS to continue to offer ongoing programs, community recreation and special events throughout the year including, but not limited to, the 2nd Day After School Program, which serviced 125 children; Tween Club that serviced 450 children; and Central Sockeye Community After School Care that serviced 50-60 children per week this year.

The highlight of this quarter was the year-end Aboriginal Family Wellness Gathering on June 13 in honour of National Aboriginal Day. CCECSS, in partnership with Central Elementary, hosted the event. The event had several health and community service providers with information booths and interactive displays set up, as well as a cultural component focusing on wellness including being active, healthy eating, nurturing spirit and respecting tobacco. Drumming and dancing was ongoing throughout the evening and cultural food was served. As the weather cooperated the event was able to be held outside on the school field making the evening even more enjoyable. In all approximately 275 people participated.



Greendale Elementary Community School

There were many great programs run through GECSS over the past 3 months. It tends to get more difficult to get registrants once the weather starts to warm up, but the programs were well received and have been asked for again in the new school year.

Science/computer programs are still a big hit at Greendale - LEGO Robotics and Video Game Design – for various age groups & levels. Art & Jewelry Making classes were full again with very creative participants.

The Community Event that was held at Greendale was a Paint Nite. Thirty five attendees, of all different artistic levels, enjoyed the step-by-step painting experience. It was exciting to bring something totally different into Greendale.



85+ children aged preschool up to adult attended the Winter/Spring Programs

There were 35 rentals to private or non-profit organizations

Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve

The GBHNRS school education programs were very busy for April and fully booked for May and June. In April, seven schools booked 24 programs; in May, 19 schools booked 63 programs; and in June, 21 schools booked 75 programs. In addition, five community groups booked programs and six schools brought multiple classes on their own self-guided tours. Through the second quarter the Heron Reserve had several community groups volunteer their time to do environmental projects on site, such as removing blackberries by hand. The volunteer team also monitored the heron colony and reported 95 active nests and those observations indicate that the colony remains stable. A great diversity of birds and mammals were reported to be living on site.

Free public events this quarter included guided walks to see the herons nesting and hosting events on site for the Vedder River Cleanup Society and the Rotary Club of Chilliwack. Earth Day events on April 22 were well attended, with around 200 community members taking part in this environmentally educational day. Over 6,000 people came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR this quarter.



Chilliwack Museum and Archives

The 60th Anniversary of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society was celebrated on Saturday, May 13, 2017, with the celebration being held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Following the meeting, Director Emeritus Ron Denman, and Marie Weeden, lifetime member and daughter of the Museum's founder, Oliver Wells, cut the ribbon on two new Museum and Archives signs on the Museum grounds.

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives hosted historians and heritage sector leaders from across BC for their annual conference May 25 to 28. A rich slate of speakers and field trips was presented, including keynote speaker, Dr. Gwen Point, Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley. Her Honour, Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC also attended, presenting prizes to the authors of award-winning 2017 books on BC's history.



The Museum's new exhibit, Gold Mountain Dream!, presented in partnership with the Royal BC Museum, opened at the end of June. This exhibit tells the story of Chinese participation in the 1858 Gold Rush, which dramatically changed British Columbia. Gold Mountain Dream is juxtaposed with our own locally developed content about Chilliwack's historic Chinatown.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Society

The Society's **2017 Presentations** continued with a spectacular contemporary dance performance **Glory**. Lucas Myers returned with two shows –a Fringe show **Campground** and a kid's show **Captain Future Saves the World**, a thought provoking theatre production **Freud's Last Session**, the eighth installment of the magical **Cabaret of Wonders** and the very popular **Munsch Upon A Time**.

The Society hosted an **All Candidates Meeting** providing a platform for members of the community to present questions, hosted by the Progress's Jennifer Feinberg.

Classes

Adult Arts classes were offered in **Pottery, Wirework, Jewellery Making, Flamework, Photography, Painting**, as well as open studios for **Clay, Life Drawing** and **Glass** work.

Kids Classes were offered in **Magic** and **Anime**.

Rental Organizations

Partners: The Chilliwack Players Guild presented their production of **Jitters**, as well as shows from the first **Rick Rack in the Wack** Theatre Festival. Chilliwack School of Performing Arts had their **Spring Theatre Festival** at The Centre in May.

Renters: Live Nation presented **An Evening of City and Colour**. Shantero Productions presented **Ron James** and **Lunch at Allen's**. Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra's concert **Night in Vienna**. Creative Centre Society for Mental Wellness presented **Tell Us Another Story**. Heritage Christian Online School's **Beauty and the Beast**. Rock.It.Boy Entertainment presented **Completely Creedence**. Ghostfinger Productions presented **A Night of Bowie**. Just 4 U-Kes presented **Manitoba Hal Brolund**. **Spiderlodge Music Festival** featured students of all ages. And dance took over the Centre in June with end of year performances from **Creative Outlet, Synergy Dance, Project Dance**, and **Evolutionz Dance Studio**.



Chilliwack and District Seniors' Resources Society

In the second quarter of 2017, Chilliwack and District Seniors' Resources Society experienced a 15% increase in visits to the facility over the same reporting period in 2016. In this quarter, program, resource and office support increased; however, activity participation decreased due to the loss of pickleball players to the newly formed all ages Chilliwack Pickleball Group. Seniors Pickleball for fun and fitness has continued and this group is very happy with the change in focus from competitive sport. In May, attendance was down with the long weekend and heat wave; however, June attendance was higher than April for many activities, indicating continued growth.

The Seniors' Resources Society's 2017 Community Volunteer Income Tax Program started on March 1 at Evergreen Hall. During the month of April, 336 visits were made to Evergreen Hall for this program.

Two Community Education sessions were offered in this quarter with 45 participants hearing about "Your Health and You" and "Options for Staying in Your Own Home". This is in response to Fraser Health's philosophy of "Home is Best" and to support the increasing senior demographic's housing needs. This session featured City of Chilliwack employee Jennifer Kooistra, Manager of Accounting Services, who discussed Home Owner Grants and Property Tax Deferral, as well as payment options.

Feedback from activity participants: "After three months of attending yoga twice per week, one participant was able to rise out of the bathtub without her husband's support for the first time!". The organization saw an increase in referrals from GPs to the Chair Yoga class, especially for rehab and for those with Parkinson's. The Chilliwack and District Seniors Resource Centre also received more requests for fitness activities for adults with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Some participants attend with a worker, some attend independently.



Facility Attendance During This Quarterly Period

4,968 telephone, walk-in and email enquiries and Income tax program inquiries at Evergreen Hall.

1,967 visits to City of Chilliwack facilities to attend activities for a total of 6,935 participants.



Cheam Leisure Centre and Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre



Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation had a very exciting second quarter for 2017 at the Cheam and Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre and the start-up of the Rotary Outdoor Pool! There's been a steady increase of participants in programs and services over the past 6-months and still increasing at a steady pace. The facilities offered a Membership Sale for the month of June and as a result, saw several new members, some who moved over due to the YMCA closure.

Tom Watson, the owner of Recreation Excellence, was selected as a speaker at the TedX Talk in Chilliwack where he spoke at the preliminaries, advanced as the 'people's choice' at the event and moved onto the overall series, which took place in May.

Cheam Leisure Centre



These past few months, the Cheam Leisure Centre has been focusing on the growth and development of their swim lesson program and youth programs. Over the past six months they have focused on adding more swimming lessons. As a result, their lesson program has flourished, which has resulted in very happy swimmers and parents! The youth programs have also been doing very well, including youth camps and our Friday Night Xtreme Youth Swim where they averaged 100+ youths 6-12 years of age.

Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre

With the increase in members moving over from the recently closed YMCA, the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre's has seen an increase in the number of participants in youth and adult programs and services, including fitness classes, swim lessons and child minding services. It's been challenging trying to balance the needs of the community and the needs of user groups but they anticipate that over the next year there will be many successes in these areas.



Over the past year, Recreation Excellence has been working closely with the City and Contract Services to improve the quality of the mechanical systems in the facility. Due to the age of the facility (16+ years) several systems are showing their age, but with the proper repairs and a preventative maintenance program in place, the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre made some significant gains in air quality during the second quarter.



Rotary Outdoor Pool

The Rotary Outdoor Pool opened up in the second quarter and continues to be well used by community members for public swims, swim lessons and the Stingrays Swim Club. The lesson program continues to be very popular with families who have been using the facility for many years.



Chilliwack Library



In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, Terrarium-making proved to be a very popular program at the Chilliwack Library. Florist Elke Almhjell from Florabunda Flowers worked with patrons of all ages to make their own unique tiny gardens contained behind glass. All FVRL locations also gave away free tomato plant seedlings to delighted customers throughout the day.

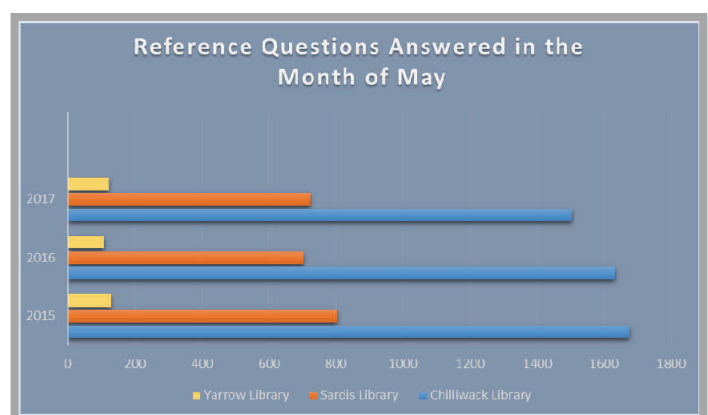
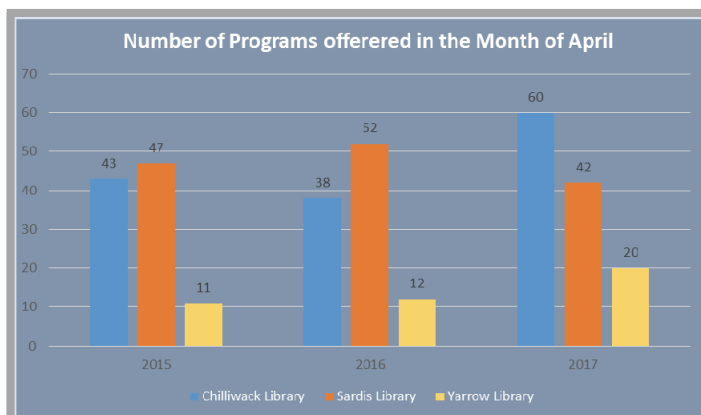
To recognize Mental Health Awareness week, Chilliwack Mental Health spent an entire day in the library lobby on May 2. An elaborate display combined with knowledgeable staff made for an excellent exchange of information with library patrons. Following this informational display, Chilliwack Mental Health Clinician Lenore Smith hosted a well-received presentation titled: "Depression: Beyond Just Feeling Sad".



Bike to Work week also took place in May and the Chilliwack Library invited staff from PedalSport to do some hands on teaching of basic bicycle maintenance.

In honor of National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Chilliwack Library hosted two special guests. The Chilliwack Metis Society spent an afternoon in the lobby providing information and a beautiful display to encourage education and participation.

Facilitator Gracie Kelly from Temexw Teachings shared traditional Stó:lō teachings surrounding the cedar tree, the second greatest resource of the "People of the River". Patrons viewed a digital story, listened to ancient stories and admired a collection of cedar items. After a demonstration of the art of weaving, they were able to create their own cedar rose, crafted from bark strips.





Sardis Library

The Genealogy Group that meets monthly at the Sardis Library now has 110 people in the email group receiving interesting tidbits about genealogy research with 15 of these being new as of April. The group hosted a guest speaker from the Agassiz Museum and Archives and 25 people were in attendance.

The Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society Volunteer group held an annual Puzzle Sale, with this year being the first year it was held at the Sardis Library. Unfortunately, the extreme weather made it difficult for some to get to the library, resulting in a larger than usual amount of leftover puzzles. In the spirit of recycling for Earth Day, the group decided to combine another used puzzle sale with its April book sale. This idea proved to be a great success, with many happy customers walking away with great deals.



Yarrow Library

Svetlana from Sparkling Ideas helped many make a mother's day gift at her Wire Bracelet Workshop. Also in May, the Yarrow Library ran its ever-popular Babytime program. The program invited new parents and their babies to participate in songs, stories, rhymes and socialize with others. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with parents describing the opportunity to connect with others who have babies within the area "invaluable." Aside from the obvious social benefits, Babytime is a fantastic early literacy initiative that prepares children to learn language, expressions and prepare young brains to read.



In its ongoing efforts to build and maintain lasting relationships within the community, the Yarrow Library proudly contributed to the new pavilion at the Yarrow Pioneer Park. The Yarrow Volunteer Society took on a big project in constructing this 20 by 40 foot structure that now provides shade to several added picnic tables. A paver stone pathway was also added, consisting of approximately 2,000 bricks, including a very special one engraved with Yarrow Library and its "Read, Learn, Play" motto.

