

# Recreation and Culture



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

Third Quarter Report, 2017



CITY OF  
**CHILLIWACK**

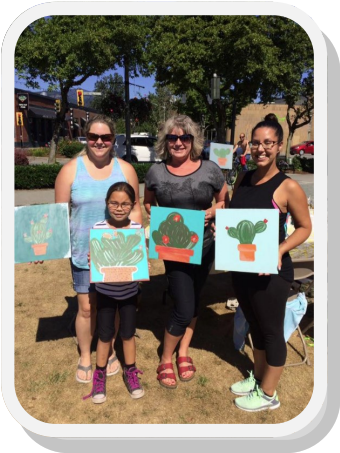
## Recreation and Culture

### Neighbourhood Grant Program—Celebration and Activity Stream

Through the months of July, August and September, the Celebration and Activity Grant program supported 21 events with a total of \$5,670 of grant funding distributed. Approximately 5,500 people attended these events which took place in different Chilliwack neighbourhoods.

Highlights include...

- Three Canada Day celebration block parties in three separate neighbourhoods which totaled approximately 400 guests.
- The Chilliwack Opportunity Society's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Fun Day at Gwynne Vaughan Park in Fairfield was attended by approximately 350 guests and featured a variety of family friendly and inclusive activities for all to enjoy.
- The first time Pop-Up In The Park event (hosted by the BIA) saw over 1,000 people pass through the events. The event created some positive energy for the downtown area and the hope is to do something similar in upcoming years. Another first time event, Dance Under the Stars, was hosted by the residents of Fairfield Island and got off to good start despite the short planning to execution turnaround time. The residents who attended had a great time and there is hope to expand on the event in future years to fashion the scope to something similar to Yarrow Days and the Rosedale Harvest Festival.
- Garrison Village Festival was a big success yet again with over 2,000 guests enjoying local food, vendors, and a variety of activities.



Pop Up In The Park



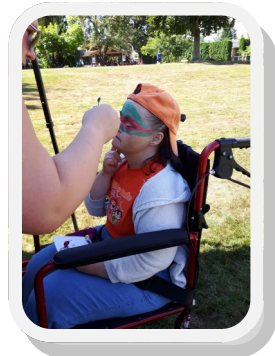
The Wittenberg Block Party



Imperial Street Canada Day Block Party



Fairfield Island Dance Under the Stars



Summer Fun Days

## Recreation and Culture

### Canada Day

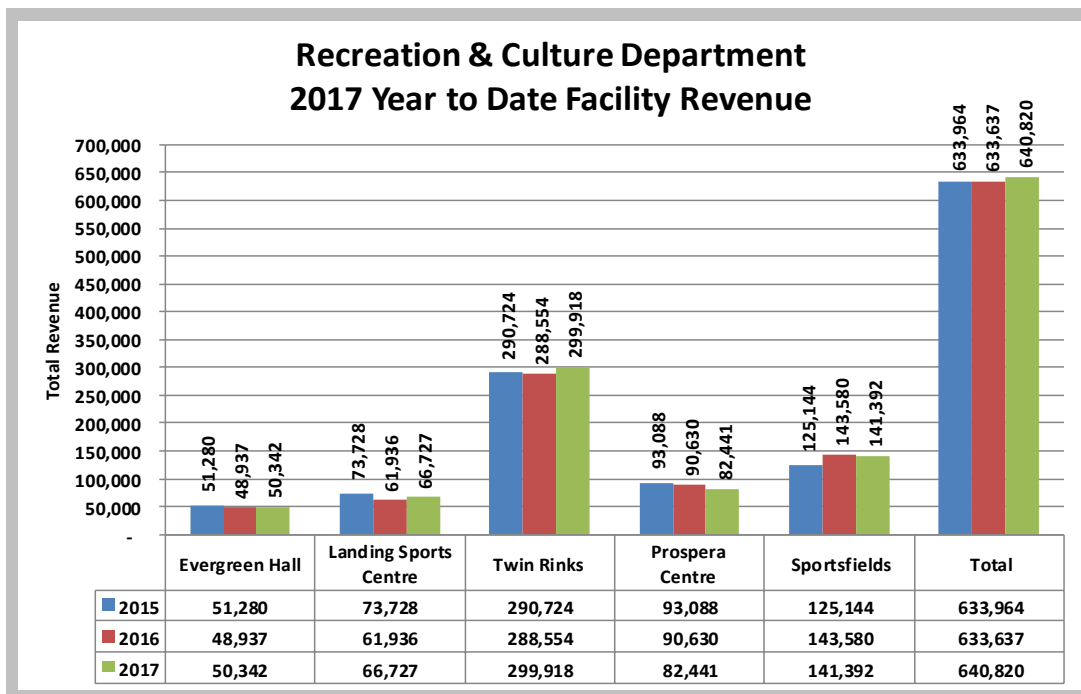
The 2017 Canada Day celebration was an exciting one because it recognized the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. For the first time, the daytime events were hosted at Townsend Park. A vendors' market, food trucks and a children's stage provided plenty of activity for the over 3,000 people who attended throughout the day.

The evening stage offered a diverse number of performers ensuring everyone's musical tastes were met. Over 8,000 people pitched blankets, set up their camping chairs or took advantage of the turf facility at Townsend to not only watch the entertainment but also to witness the spectacular, awe inspiring fireworks finale.

There were two highlights of the Canada Day 150 Celebrations; one was the unveiling of Chilliwack's Canada 150 Mosaic Mural. The mural is comprised of 600 tiles painted by residents of Chilliwack which were then compiled to form a unique rendering of Chilliwack's identity. The mural is now displayed on the southwest exterior wall of the Landing Sports Centre. The grand opening of the upgraded Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre Spray Park was another highlight. The project was funded through a partnership between the municipal and federal governments and Mayor Gaetz and MP Mark Strahl said a few words to those in attendance.



### Recreation and Culture Facility Revenue Report





## Recreation and Culture

### Curling Rink Ground Breaking

On July 18th the City of Chilliwack participated in the official ground breaking ceremony for the new curling rink. The rink is being constructed beside the existing curling rink and is due, in part, to the collaboration and partnership of the City of Chilliwack and the Chilliwack Curling Club.

For the ceremony Mayor Gaetz, Councillors Kloot, Popove, and Stam were joined by members of the Chilliwack Curling Club as well as representatives from Preview Builders, the successful proponent for the construction of the facility.

The rink, when completed, will house eight sheets of ice and will also contain some community rental space and several small meeting rooms, making it not only a curling facility but a community gathering space as well.



### Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve

The GBHNRS was busy with summer camps and community programs in July and August. In July and August the Reserve had two week long wildlife art camps, one week long nature and art combination camp, one nature camp, and eight community programs. The GBHNRS has also had tables at several events in the last three months, including the July 1st events at Townsend Park, the Abbotsford Berry Festival, Children's Day at the Harrison Arts Festival, the Children's Arts Festival in Chilliwack. The GBHNRS has also presented programs at both the Sardis and Chilliwack Libraries during the third quarter of 2017.

Free public events this quarter included guided walks to see the herons nesting and a Twilight Nature Walk. Over 6,000 people came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR this quarter.

Two students worked with the Executive Director this summer and helped in planning summer events and camps as well as working on administration tasks to support the programs and services offered by the GBHNRS.

The fall homeschool started on September 20th and is fully booked. Additional homeschool programs have been booked, as well, including an art-only homeschool program and a nature-only homeschool program.



## Chilliwack Heritage Park

The summer months were intensive at Chilliwack Heritage Park. July was horse show month and for the first time in Chilliwack, the American Circus stopped by to dazzle their audience for three days. The Chilliwack Fair kicked things off in August and then, for the rest of August and all of September, it was horses, cattle and dogs. All in all, a busy and successful summer. Approximate attendance this quarter was 55,350.



## Rosedale Traditional Community School

RTCSS had an exciting summer welcoming kids from ages 3-12 years old to take part in the many programs planned. The society hosted seven weeks of 'Celebrate Summer'. Participants ages 6-11 years old were welcomed Monday-Friday 7am-6pm to join in the fun! Camp leaders worked hard to provide a high quality program showcasing weekly themes. Activities included crafts, games, physical exertion and field trips to exciting destinations such as Science World, the Vancouver Zoo, Cultus Lake Adventure Park, Bridal Falls Waterslides, and the Vancouver Aquarium. Campers were transported in school busses with experienced school district drivers behind the wheel. Celebrate Summer continues to grow with record attendance of an average of 36 campers per day! RTCSS employed five full time camp leaders. For kids who were looking for limited activity, RTCSS staff led two-hour daily activity camps each week. Children participated in preschool camps, science camps, gymnastics camps, and cooking camps. RTCSS staff and board are always thrilled to see the facility well utilized, opening the doors for all community members, not solely for Rosedale residents. There were approximately 6,200 people attending different events.







## Greendale Elementary Community School



Five weeks of programming were scheduled at GECSS during the third quarter. Due to low registrations, two programs were cancelled. The remaining three weeks were well attended and everyone enjoyed the activities!

Planning for the new school year was a priority this summer in order to make sure all programming would work with the new school configurations.

A great tennis program now happens afterschool, along with an art class and an acting outright drama class. Every afternoon or evening of the week there is a program of some sort, whether long-term or short-term and there are 3-5 private rentals per weekend (mostly birthday party rentals).



Summer Programming Attendance (July-August) : 50 children – Rhythmic Gymnastics & Crafts, Week of Science, Acting Drama Camp.

20 adults and 30 children attending year-long programs such as yoga, fitness classes, Little Kickers soccer. 17 rentals to private or non-profit organizations.

## Yarrow Community School Society

The program leaders took full advantage of the amazing weather and enjoyed the days with local walks and trips to the river. Gone Fishing Fridays were dedicated to developing our fishing skills at the Vedder River, right in our own backyard, with a volunteer expert helping with baiting and casting techniques. Many days were spent trying to keep cool.

September meant getting right back into the soccer season, with 35 tyke players working on their skills. The Living in the Now afterschool program is helping 18 students develop some mindful techniques to enhance creativity, reduce anxiety and help with self-regulation. A new partnership with a local music teacher has turned into the Fraser Valley Children's Choir with over 20 young people ages 5 -13 making music together. A TennisXL instructor is introducing tennis to all of our students grades 3-6 during their regular gym class with the hope that, come spring time, our school court will be put to good use and it will be followed up with further instruction as part of our afterschool programming in the spring. The Growing Strong Girls workshop was well attended, one session was for the pre-teen girls followed by a parents' session. The five week Parenting Course has 12 couples signed up, eager to learn more from each other and the experts.





## Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

CCECSS ran half-day activity programs throughout the summer including, but not limited to: karate, kids in the kitchen, babysitter training, art exploration, stage star drama, yoga and home alone.

This summer CCECSS amalgamated the "Summer Fun" all day camp with the Central Sockeye Daycare and reconfigured it into a licensed program so families were able to receive subsidy. This change increased attendance to the summer program by almost fifty percent from the previous four years. The staff kept the children engaged throughout the week all summer long with games, sports, crafts, nature walks, community garden maintenance, water fun and field trips. All activities revolved around a new theme each week of the summer, including the wild west, amazing race, somewhere in space, Lego mania, garden galore, superhero academy, wilderness awareness, animal adventure, and game on.

The children attended local Chilliwack attractions on foot and via the city bus to various field trips. Several of the children had not been to these local attractions in their own town before. This program mainly focused on children with recognized special needs and those who would not necessarily fit into other all day programs.



Summer Fun All Day camp - 157 participants

Half day activity programs - 52 participants



## Promontory Heights Elementary Community School

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association enjoyed a wonderful summer of programs and activities. The popular day camp program, Sun 'n Fun, was nearly at full capacity for the entire seven weeks of summer programming.

PHECSA's drop-in program "Tween Night" was held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for youth in grades 5 – 7 over the summer. Parents are very supportive of this great program that offers kids the chance to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment.

The Sun 'n Fun day camps offered an exciting variety of themed weeks including a special field trip once per week. Kids enjoyed visiting Fort Langley, Bridal Falls Water Park, Ecodairy, Mill Lake, Science World, Eagle Acres Dairy Farm and Cultus Lake Adventure Park and Teapot Hill. Sun 'n Fun themes sought to include learning and fun in each daily agenda. Kids learned about the secret life of sharks, what it would be like to live on the moon and interesting wildlife conservation facts. Week five was especially fun with a theme called "Canada Eh! 150", where kids had the opportunity to celebrate Canada's big birthday, learn about Canada's past and explore Fort Langley National Historic Site.

To start the school year PHECSA hosted a Community BBQ to welcome back the teachers for a new school year.



## Canadian Recreation Excellence

Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation (Rec Ex) had a very exciting third quarter at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Cheam Leisure Centre and the Rotary Outdoor Pool! There was more growth and development in aquatics, youth services and fitness over the past few months. Rec Ex has embraced this opportunity to try new things and strengthen relationships and rapport with new and existing participants. Rec Ex greatly appreciates the community's support and patience as they continue to improve community facilities. A successful working relationship with City staff has aided in the continued improvement of both the facilities and programming.

With the YMCA closure at the start of the summer, memberships and drop ins increased and September saw the largest increase in membership and program registration. Rec Ex increased the number of swimming lessons available by over three times what was scheduled in past seasons. This past summer had over 1,500 kids participate in swimming lessons at the three facilities! A demand to increase the number of fitness classes available at each facility was met by adding 35 classes to each facility for both Group Fitness and AquaFit. The fitness staff at the facilities continued to work hard at providing new challenges to the participants that attended the classes.

## Cheam Leisure Centre

In Spring 2017 Canadian Recreation Excellence was unsuccessful with securing a Rick Hansen Barrier Buster Grant, this submission being in partnership with Chilliwack Society for Community Living. The grant was submitted for the purpose of building a new vertical lift at the Cheam Leisure Centre. However, after the completion of a facility accessibility audit by the grant selection committee, Rec Ex and CSCL were thrilled to know that the decision had been reversed and the \$20,000 grant for the vertical lift was awarded. This amenity will be a great benefit to the patrons that use the facility who are unable to get up and down the stairs to go to the gym, including the wheelchair basketball players.

With the completion of the second annual Recreation Excellence Youth Camps, a lot of happy and outgoing kids (ages 6-15) took part in camps offered in partnership with Mt. Waddington's, PacificSport/XploreSport, SportBall and Recreation Excellence's own youth services team.





### Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre (CLLC)

Summer at CLLC was very busy with programs and services. This was the first summer that youth camps were programmed at CLLC. Although registration wasn't nearly as high as Cheam, it was a great opportunity to bring a new program to the facility and area for the youth. Next summer it is anticipated to be a much greater success.

Many repairs and updates were made to the building and its mechanical systems.

### Rotary Outdoor Pool

A very successful summer at the Rotary Outdoor Pool. The pool was busy every sunny day and the swim lesson program was a big success. We received many comments from community members that did not know that there is an outdoor pool in Chilliwack. Plans to improve our marketing and advertising are underway.



Facility attendance during this quarter at CLLC: July 23,998; August 24,511; September 22,978 for a total of 71,487. Attendance for Cheam: July 26,856; August 25,469, September 24,555 for a total of 76,880.

## Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Chilliwack Cultural Society's 2017-18 presentation series of 45 shows was announced in July. The fifth Fraser Valley Beer Festival fundraiser took place on September 23. Cultural Collaboration saw over 200 people visit the Centre on September 30 to learn about the various ways to get involved in the arts. The first show in the Society's presentation season was the BC World Music Collective which was also held on September 30.

### Classes

Adult art classes were offered in wirework, jewellery making, flamework, and magic, as well as open studios for clay and flamework work over the summer months. The Society's Summer Art Camps for Kids offered 120 week-long sessions from July 10 to August 18, 2017.

### Partners

The Chilliwack Players Guild presented British Nights Cool Britannia from July 6 to 16.



The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association theme show, which exhibits in the O'Connor Group Art Gallery, was held from June 29 to August 5, Fragment's from August 10 to September 9 and Interaction from September 14 to October 21.

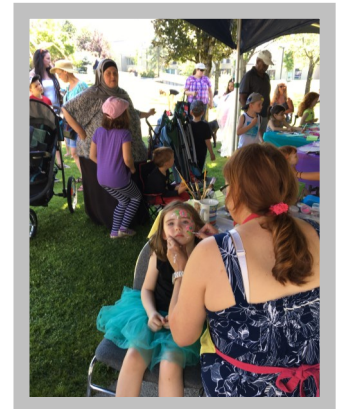
### Renters

Rock.It.Boy Entertainment presented Led Zepagain on August 17 and The Lonely on September 29. Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce presented An Evening with Arlene Dickinson on September 16.



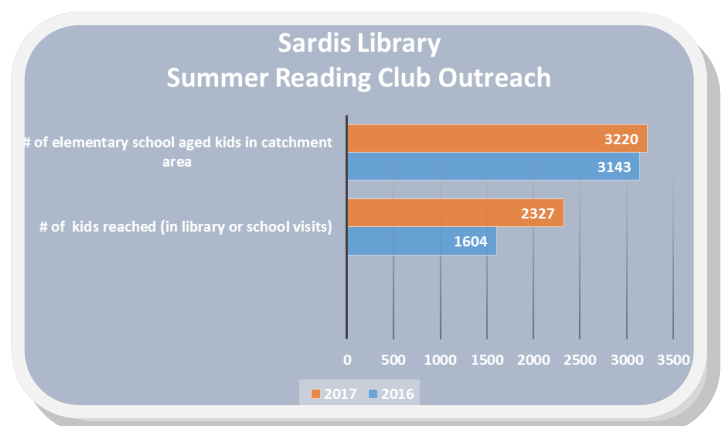
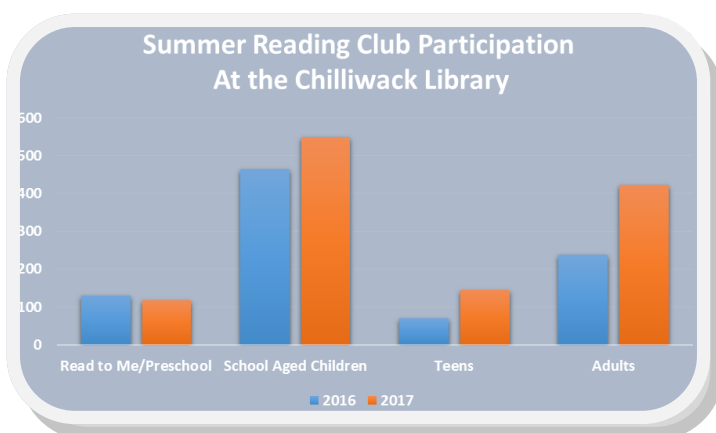
## Chilliwack Library

The Chilliwack Library started Summer Reading Club with a highly successful Kickoff Party featuring a bouncy castle, face painters, balloon twisters, free refreshments and more. This partnership program with the City of Chilliwack was the first of many throughout the summer in a series advertised as “Summertime in Salish”. This ongoing program allowed staff to take advantage of the fantastic weather and beautiful backdrop of Salish Park, offering children’s programs every Wednesday morning following a storytime in the park. Every weekly program was well attended by an enthusiastic crowd.



While Summer Reading Club, for all ages, began winding down at the end of August, there was an increase in participation amongst almost every age group. The biggest increases noted were in the teen and adult categories, which historically have been a demographic less eager to take part.

This September, the Chilliwack Library staff continued to strive to offer inclusive programs to appeal to our wide demographic. Reading Buddies, a program that partners children in grades 1 to 4 who need extra help with volunteer teens and adults, expanded to include French immersion students in September. For working parents, a weekly Saturday Storytime is currently being offered. Activities for school-aged elementary students, including September’s ‘T-shirt Art Crafternoon’, have also been planned for school district-wide Professional Days. The Chilliwack Library continues to change and adapt to the needs of its diverse community.





## Sardis Library

In July the Sardis Library offered several art programs, taught by local artist John LeFlock, for teens and adults. While summer programs are often perceived as only for children, staff work hard to ensure the library is able to offer something for every demographic. The manga, comic book art and street art workshops were all very well received.

Back by popular demand, the Sardis Library hosted another Summer Reading Club Medal Ceremony at the end of August. Following an inspiring message, Mayor Sharon Gaetz and Councillor Chuck Stam presented medals to successful participants of the Summer Reading Program.

The staff were pleased to receive a letter of thanks from Irene Geng, recently retired Donor Relations Coordinator for FVRL. Included in the excerpt: "Thanks very much to you and your staff for making the effort to host the SRC medal ceremonies for the kids and their "fan clubs" (a.k.a. families, grandparents). Great memories to include in my grandchildren's photo memory books! I see it as an important culmination of the program. There is something special about having an event to recognize children for reading regularly and to reinforce the importance of doing so. Our sincerest thanks for making this meaningful event possible for Sardis Library's young customers".



## Yarrow Library

The Yarrow Library is very fortunate to have the use of several large rooms within the community centre, which is especially helpful during Summer Reading Club season. Andrew the Magician and the Urban Safari Rescue Society were big draws in July for the little branch, bringing in audiences of 165 and 156 respectively. Many families who are new to the area have been delightfully surprised at the many library resources and programs available in the Yarrow community.

Yarrow Library's popular annual event, Storytime in the Park, was held in August this year. This partnership program with Envision Financial and the Chilliwack Learning Society takes the library outside to nearby Pioneer Park. FVRL's master puppeteer and storyteller Elspeth Bowers incorporated the Summer Reading Club theme "Walk on the Wild Side" with stories, songs and a puppet show. Book draws and refreshments added to the festive atmosphere, where children and parents alike enjoyed the beautiful outdoor setting.

