

Recreation and Culture



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

Fourth Quarter Report, 2017



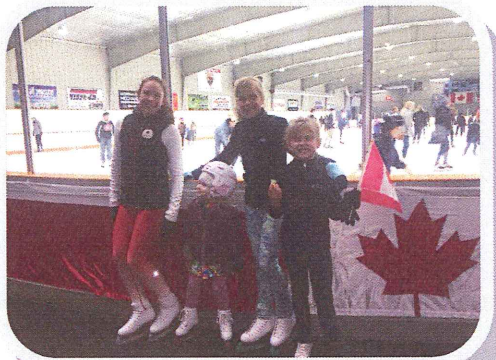
CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Recreation and Culture

Celebration and Activity Grant Program

In spite of the cooler and wetter weather the Celebration and Activity Program was still very active during the fourth quarter of 2017. A total of \$940 in grant money was distributed and over 500 people participated in a variety of events. The highlights included the Wild Salmon Caravan, the second annual Ameera Place Christmas Social and the annual Christmas Light Extravaganza at the Palaniuk home located on Diamond Street. This particular event also served as an opportunity to collect funds for the Firefighter's Chilliwack Charitable Society.

The free Canada 150 Skating Party had over 300 participants. During the skate everyone was treated to free hot chocolate and free hot dogs, all made possible by funding through the Celebration and Activity Grant program.



Special Skates

The staff at Twin Rinks were exceptionally busy through October, November and December not only assisting user groups with their activities and hosting seven different themed public skates. The kick-off was the Turkey Skate, followed by the Halloween Skate, Country & Western Skate and the Super Hero Skate. The Santa Skate proved to be especially popular, thanks to the guest of honour. The skate season ended with the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Skates. All in all, it is estimated that over 1,400 people participated.



Recreation and Culture

Rosedale Harvest Brigade

The third annual Rosedale Harvest Brigade took place on October 14, 2017. Rosedale held its first Harvest Brigade in 2015 and was the very first event to occur after the implementation of the Neighbourhood Grant Program, serving as a perfect example of what a few energetic volunteers can bring to life. The 2017 event saw approximately 1,500 people attend and partake in a pancake breakfast, a kids' zone, a parade and the many offerings of all the food vendors.



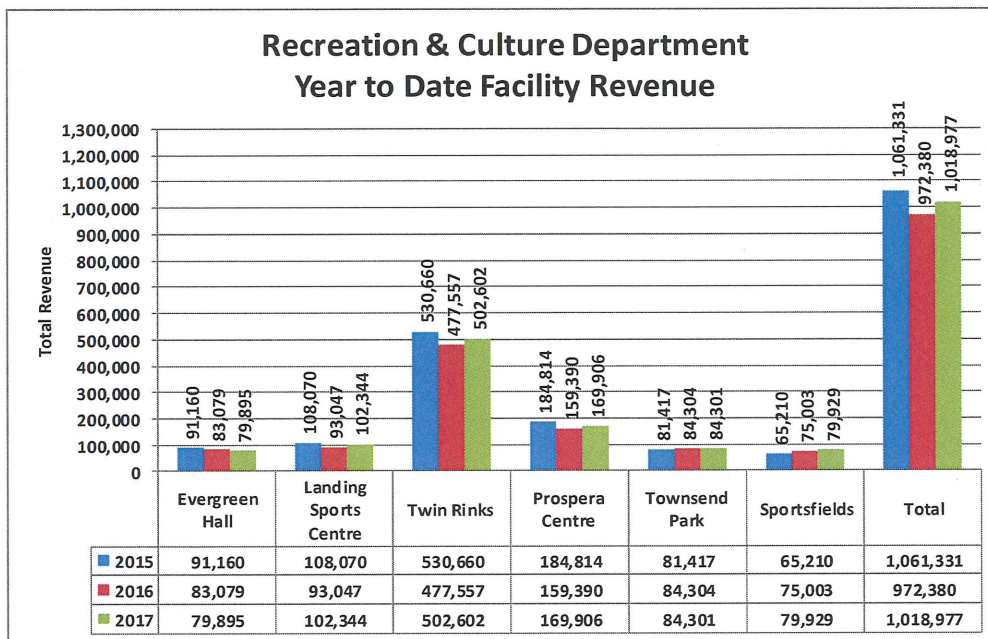
The Rotary Christmas Parade in Partnership with the City of Chilliwack

The Rotary Christmas Parade took place on December 2, 2017. This event is a partnership between the City of Chilliwack and all three of our local Rotary Clubs (Mount Cheam, the Rotary Club of Chilliwack and the Chilliwack Fraser Rotary Club). The 2017 parade introduced a different route than in previous years, adding more residential areas to allow more people to view the parade from the comfort of their own homes.

Those who sat alongside the route braved a steady sprinkling of rain but were rewarded by a firsthand view of more than 65 spectacular floats and other entries.



Recreation and Culture Facility Revenue Report



Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

CCECSS had some new programs start up this fall, which included Pilot a Drone, Robotics, Highland Dance, and Basketball in addition to the regular classes offered. The programs this quarter collectively had 72 participants involved.

The Society hosted its Annual Santa Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 2, where canned food and donations were accepted for the Food Bank. There was a steady stream of more than 300 people in attendance at the breakfast and five large boxes of canned food items were collected for the Salvation Army Food Bank. All the food supplies and decorations to host the breakfast were provided thanks to the financial support of the City of Chilliwack. The Dogwood Monarch Lions supported the event by making and helping serve all the pancakes. A free picture taken with Santa was provided with the support of the Chilliwack Senior Secondary photography department. Each child received a free Christmas book thanks to the partnership and support of the Chilliwack Learning Society. Families received Christmas oranges as they left the breakfast. Six homemade blankets were donated to the event and were then raffled off. The Christmas tree and poinsettias were donated by Minter Gardens and were later given to the volunteers to recognize them for their hard work.





Greendale Elementary Community School Society

Fall programming continued on for GECSS. TennisXL finished strong with 17 students each receiving a t-shirt, racquet and a little trophy for completing the seven weeks of classes. TennisXL will come back in the summer for a week-long program.

Acting Outright Drama Class led by Linda McRae was offered this fall and proved to be very popular. Being able to watch students come back for each session through the past four years speaks to the strength of the program.

For those children who prefer the arts over sports, the fourth quarter offered an art class with John LeFlock . For the months of October, November and December, there were 34 birthday/family rentals which occurred on the weekends.

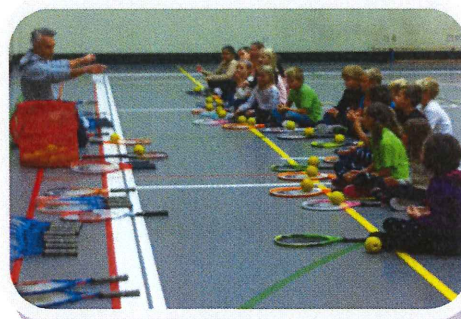


Yarrow Community School Society

The Tyke's fall soccer season finished just in time to beat out the early winter weather at the beginning of November and, with good planning, the action moved indoors with Beginner Tennis in the gym. 200 students received introductory tennis instruction with the hope that it will inspire more family interest and use of the school tennis court come spring. Based on the success introducing tennis through the school curriculum gym classes, yoga is next on the agenda. The goal is to develop a strong yoga program by offering classes suited to all ages.

Family movie night held during the fourth quarter was well attended with 150 people participating. For adult gym night, a small but enthusiastic group came out regularly to enjoy floor curling and pickleball. The Community Children's Choir had two public performances with rave reviews (even if it was mostly parents and grandparents in the audience).

The ongoing and popular programs/rentals are still keeping our facility busy seven days a week with very positive feedback about the school and the affordability of the programs.



Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve

The GBHNRS had the busiest fall it has ever had, with seven days booked for school programs and three days booked with community programs in October, 15 days booked with school programs in November, and one day booked with school programs in December. The fall homeschool program ran for 10 weeks, from September 20 to November 22. There were also two independent homeschool groups that booked programs throughout October, November and December.

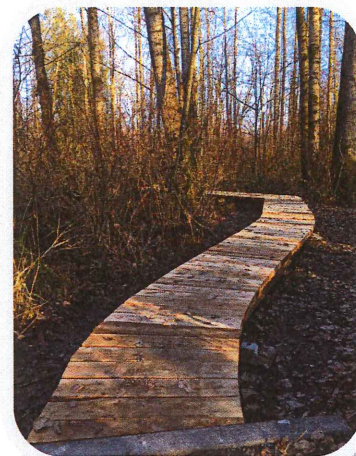
A free public event, entitled “Feeding Winter Birds”, was well attended on November 4, and over 4,000 people came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR this quarter.

Renovations of the annex classroom continued and, when completed, will house not only a new classroom but two additional bathrooms as well. A \$10,000 grant from the Chilliwack Foundation was utilized to extend the Tower Trail boardwalk and to build a salmon viewing platform along the Salwein Creek (as noted in the attached photos).

Many new volunteers were recruited in the last quarter to aid in keeping the Rotary Interpretive Centre open and welcoming to the community and to support the programs and services offered.



Salmon viewing platform

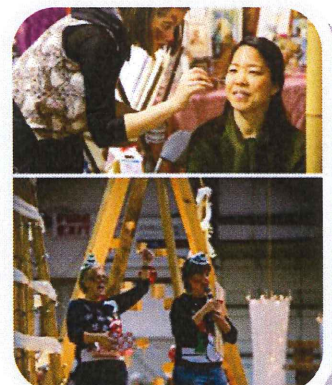
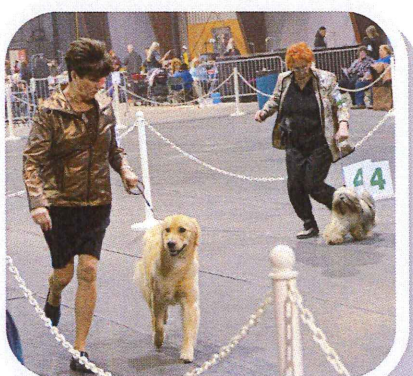
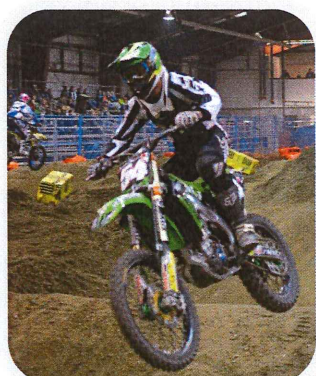


Tower Trail Boardwalk Extension



Chilliwack Heritage Park

October is traditionally exceptionally busy at Chilliwack Heritage Park. The ever-popular Mane Event Horse Expo, the Train and Hobby Show and the ABA BMX competition finals, amongst others, attracted thousands of visitors to the community. November was extremely busy, as well, and included a Vintage Barn Market, dog show, Craft Market and Arenacross. In December, Heritage Park hosted the All About Christmas Expo and the month concluded with the excitement of the Arenacross action.



Chilliwack and District Seniors Resources Society



In the fourth quarter of 2017, Chilliwack & District Seniors' Resources Society (CDSRS) saw an 20% increase in attendance and visits to facilities over the previous quarter. After a brief hiatus there was a re-establishment of the pickleball program and attendance tripled from when it was first introduced to the Society.

Gentle yoga, previously offered at the Loft at the Landing Sports Centre, moved to the Slesse Room, thereby providing a quieter environment and resulting in higher enrollment.

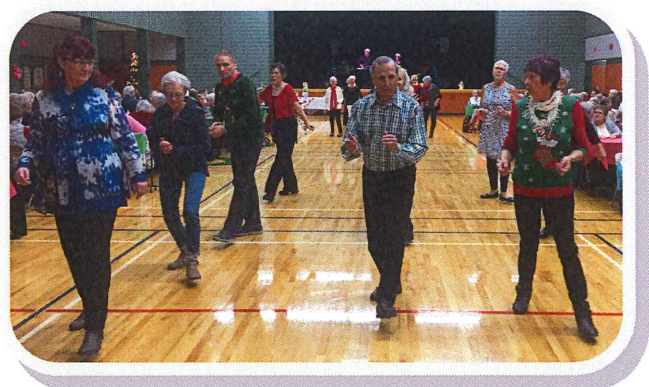
The Tuesday social and games program was moved from Mount Cheam Lions Club to the Minto Room at Evergreen Hall and that move also had a very positive impact on the group and attendance.

Eighteen participants attended a community education session on Emergency Preparedness facilitated by the Chilliwack Fire Department. There were 214 seniors who attended the annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon held at Evergreen

Hall, an increase of 26% from 2016. CDSRS received 51 requests for information on transportation in the Chilliwack area in this quarter and are working with the City of Chilliwack finding ways to better address the requests.

The Snow Angel Program was more challenging in December 2017 than at previous times due to ice and travel advisories. Nevertheless three volunteers provided snow removal to nine seniors. If you are interested in volunteering for the Snow Angel Program please contact the Chilliwack & District Seniors Resource Society at 604-793-9979.

Thank you to the staff at Evergreen Hall for the beautification project in the lobby. We have received many positive comments and feedback on the atmosphere in the lobby.





Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre

&

the Cheam Leisure Centre



Both the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre and Cheam Leisure Centre have seen many new faces this year and have received much feedback on the improvements made to the programs and services.

The Cheam Leisure Centre continues to be a busy place for swimming lessons, fitness classes (Group Fitness and AquaFit) and youth camps being offered during Pro D Days and holidays. The facility has seen tremendous growth in patronage this quarter and we are anticipating that it will continue to grow in 2018.



Cheam has also seen the biggest growth in Programs and Services this year and plans are in place to offer more in 2018 for all ages.

The Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre has been maintaining work projects in many areas.

Staff conducted a survey with fitness patrons at both facilities and made instructor and scheduling changes to improve fitness programming. Recreation Excellence has received positive feedback from patrons since these changes were implemented.

Currently, the City of Chilliwack and Recreation Excellence are working on a fitness equipment replacement plan which started with an evaluation of existing pieces.



During the month of November, Recreation Excellence implemented a change to the lifeguard-to-patron ratio standard. This standard is what sets safety levels in regards to efficient coverage of swimmers accessing the pools.

Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre Statistics

October – 40,763. November – 40,550. December – 33,445. Total – 114,758

Cheam Leisure Centre Statistics

October – 31,523. November – 35,179. December – 30,546. Total – 97,248

Approved leisure access passes for both centres – 497

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society's 2017 fall presentation series included the return of pianists *The Bergmann Duo* with two performances in the Classical Music Series morning concerts, *PianOpera* in October and *Classical, Cuban, Creative, Clarinet* in November. Ballet Victoria performed a captivating mix of classical and contemporary dance in *Dracula* as part of the Society's Dance Series. *Urban Deception* kicked off the Magic Series with UK magician Matt Johnson and his captivating mix of urban-style street magic and comedy. Tears of Joy Theatre brought *The Toad Prince* for the first show in the Society's Kids Series, and *CircusWest* dazzled patrons with *Neverland* at the second Kids show in November, a gritty play about Judy Garland, by ACE Productions and The Arts Club Theatre's *Mom's the Word 3* started off the Theatre Series in October. The Fringe series saw Anne Marie Scheffler tackle the hysterical challenges of midlife dating in *MILF Life Crisis* in October and *A Peter N' Christmas Carol* by Peter Carlone and Chris Wilson put a new spin on a classic tale as masters of parody and theatrical comedy in December. *Monster Theatre* took audiences on a historical joy-ride through 20,000 years of Canadian History with *The Canada Show*. *Leave It To Cleavage* was a riotous improv comedy ride full of 1950s housewife "common sense". The first *Clockwork Comedy* saw the Society partner with Fraser Valley Comedy to bring some of the provinces' very best stand-up comedy acts to the Centre as part of the Comedy Series. Zachary Stevenson delivered an incredible evening of 50s rock n roll with *Smashed Hits*, and the holiday season saw performances by the *Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir*, *Winter Harp*, and *Red Robinson's Christmas on the Air*, completing the Fall Music Series. The Centre Rocks IX & X provided young local artists with the opportunity to perform a paid gig in a professional venue in October and November. Warren Miller Entertainment's latest film, *Line of Descent* took audiences on an adventure across the globe by land, air, and sea. December wrapped up with the very popular *Sing Along with Frozen*, part of the Film Series – a fun family evening with plenty of costumes, captivating songs, and even appearances by princesses Anna and Elsa.

The *Antiques in the Attic* fundraiser saw the return of Peter Blundell and Marian Blundell from Guardian Estates Appraisals in October.

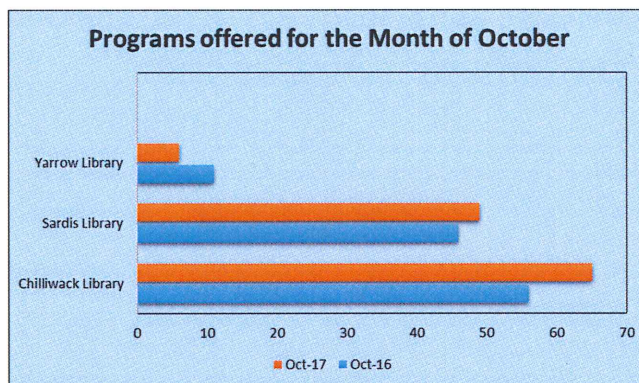
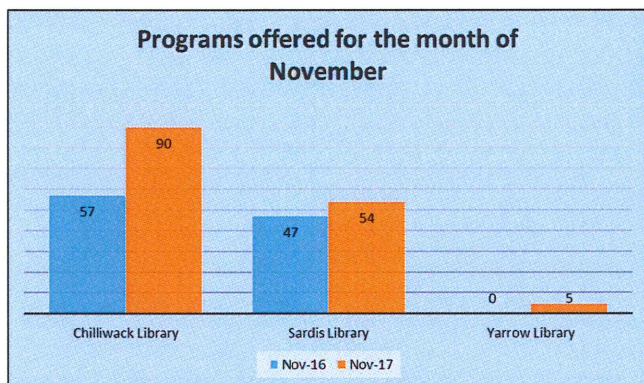


Art Classes

A new lineup of fabulous art classes designed to inspire creative minds were offered in the Fall of 2017. Adult Arts classes included pottery, wirework, jewellery making, Framework, soap making, photography, performance, dance, drawing, painting, as well as open studios for clay, life drawing and glass work. Kids classes included pottery, comic Book illustration, acting, magic, dance and anime.



Chilliwack Library



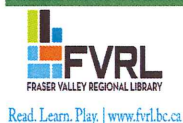
After-hours fun took place at the Chilliwack Library during the 14th Annual Quiz Night on October 13. This sold out event for trivia aficionados was put on by the Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society volunteer group. Many local businesses generously donated prizes for raffle baskets and sales from the baskets and admission tickets went towards supporting the libraries. The friendly competition went right through to a tiebreaker round, with the winners acquiring the coveted “Smarty Pants” award and bragging rights.

The Chilliwack Library’s Christmas “Crafternoon” program was a huge success. Customers of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of crafting while sipping hot apple cider and listening to local harpist Heather Murray play some well-known carols. Busy library staff helped over 100 patrons create book-themed Christmas ornaments both to decorate the in-library tree and for people to take home. Afterwards, several attendees took to the FVRL – Chilliwack Library Facebook page to pass along their positive feedback. Some of the comments included:

“We had a great time!! Kids loved seeing the harpist (which sounded amazing too), and the book crafts were awesome and look beautiful on the tree! (And your staff were super helpful!) Thanks for the festive afternoon!!!”

“The kids had so much fun, what a great variety of ornaments to do! The staff here never fails to impress me.”





Sardis Library

Sardis Library held a Customer Appreciation Day open to any and everyone on October 11. The Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society Volunteer group was on hand serving refreshments, local harpist Heather Murray provided ambiance with her music, and children were delighted to strike funny poses in front of the newly acquired green screen. Face painter Serena Gray proved so popular even the adults could not resist lining up to take part in the fun.



Sardis Library teamed up with the University of the Fraser Valley, Early Years Committee, and the Chilliwack School District to present a unique musical program, "Let's Play and Make Music". The students in the Early Childhood Education program at UFV created unique musical instruments from recycled materials for children to play with as part of their program. Approximately 55 participants experimented with sound in the great outdoors at Watson Glen Park.

The Chilliwack Libraries appreciate the hard work of the Friends of the Libraries Society volunteer group. These volunteers assist with large library events, fundraising and developing community relationships. To show appreciation, the staff from the Chilliwack, Yarrow and Sardis Libraries put on an annual Christmas Tea. This year refreshments were served, entertainment was provided and fun was had by all in attendance. Many of the volunteers made sure to contact staff afterwards to rave that "this year's party was the best one yet!"



Yarrow Library

November was a month for the youngest Yarrow residents to take part in the beloved Babytime program at the Yarrow Library. Feedback from this program throughout the years emphasizes its importance as the parents attending form important support networks while their children develop early literacy skills. This program offers a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to the community to meet other new moms that are often facing issues with isolation, particularly during the winter months. This favourite program will be back by popular demand in the spring with new rhymes, new songs, and of course – new babies.

