

Recreation and Culture



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

First Quarter Report, 2019



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Recreation and Culture

This season saw an overall increase in special skate attendance from previous years. The most popular skates continue to be the New Year’s Day Winter Wonderland Toonie Skate (495 attendees), the Fairy Tale Skate (242 attendees) and the Family Day Skate (574 skaters).

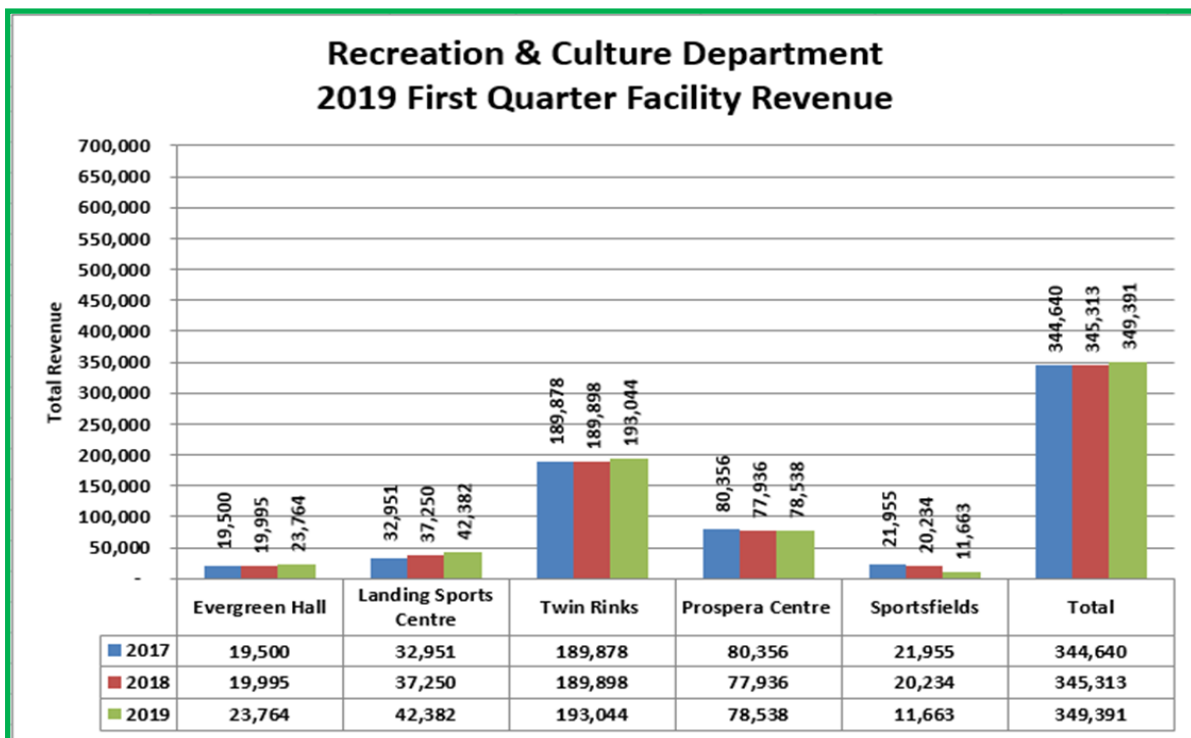
The Family Day Skate was once again supported by the Province of BC through their Family Day Grant which helped to open the second rink and supply free hot chocolate to those in attendance. The event saw 574 skaters with more guests coming with their families but not skating. Overall attendance is estimated to be closer to 650.

In total, an estimated 1,650 guests attended 2019 special skates at Twin Rinks and Prospera Centre this quarter.

Special Skates:

From January to March, the City hosted eight special skates at Twin Rinks and Prospera Centre:

- New Year’s Day Winter Wonderland Toonie Skate
- Teddy Bear Picnic Parent & Tots Skate
- Fairy Tales Come True Toonie Skate
- Valentine’s Day Loonie Skate
- Hawaiian Tropic Toonie Skate
- Family Day Skate
- Thank You Free Skate
- St. Patrick’s Day Gold Loonie Skate





Promontory Heights Community School Society

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association (PHECSA) has enjoyed a busy winter session of afterschool programs. Winter programs offered included: Delicious Desserts, Baking Buddies, pickleball, Discover Dance, Lego Robotics, video game design, karate and soccer. This year, PHECSA also offered BCSPCA “What Do Pets Need to be Happy and Healthy” programming.

PHECSA’s drop-in program “Tween Night” continues on Friday evenings for youth in grades 4 – 6, offering children the chance to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment. The Busy Bees caregiver/parent and tot program is also often at full capacity, at 15 families each week. This program offers a variety of themed crafts, story time and 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 roughly 18 participants per week. This weekly drop-in group provides seniors with a chance to enjoy conversation and coffee. Private piano lessons are operating at full capacity, with a wait list. Attendance for this quarter was 1,350 people participating in programs.



Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

CCECSS introduced the new Music & Movement program for preschoolers into the winter session. In addition, CCECSS offered their ongoing soccer, karate, video game design, Home Alone, Red Cross Babysitting, art exploration, gymnastics, piano, drop-in adult soccer and yoga programs to participants of ages ranging from preschool to adult.

The drop-in Tween Club program that runs weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30 pm and is open to all students from surrounding schools in grades 3 to 5 has seen an increase in participation. CCECSS approached the School District Work Experience program for volunteer helpers. CCECSS had so many volunteers sign up to assist with Tween Club that a limit on the number of student volunteers per semester had to be established. Tween Club provides weekly theme-based activities which include sports in the gym, games, movies and crafts. The winter session of Tween Club included such weekly themes such as Go Wild Jungle Gym, Movie Night, St. Patrick’s Day Bash, Karaoke Night, Valentine’s Party, Bring a Friend Night and Spring Crafts Galore. There was 62 participants in the community recreation programs and 136 participants in the Tween Club.





Greendale Elementary Community School Society



After-school programs offered included Minecraft: Basic Mods with ilearning, Art Class with John LeFlock, as well as the Acting Outright program with Linda McRae.

Weekly karate, taekwondo, square dancing, yoga, Little Kickers, and fitness classes such as HITT (High Intensity Interval Training), core and strength training were also offered.



GECCS held the Annual Family Games Night in February. Families bring board games to share around the tables. Approximately 70 people attended and the community has requested similar evening activities in the future.

The local Chilliwack 4H Lamb Club have been holding their demonstrations and speech meetings at Greendale. There were 250+ people attending weekly programs and 50+ attending one-time programs or events this quarter.

Yarrow Community School Society

Due to demand, the ball hockey league expanded from eight weeks to 12 weeks, and 34 children ages 6-10 played on Saturday mornings. Just before the snow in February, the Cycling Without Age trishaw arrived. First quarter 2019 included pilot training and planning. The three Sew Fun classes continue to be very popular, a retired teacher is teaching children basic skills on the sewing machine. The after school basketball youth (20 players) are building their skills once a week. This free eight week program is part of the Province’s after school sports initiative. One Friday a month the gym opened for youth ages 12-16, and 30-35 youth attended for basketball games and more. The Youth Art Night was revisited, with eight interested teens joining our local, talented graffiti artist for the evening. The ten days over spring break were filled with outdoor activities in the child care programs. Rentals and



bookings keep the building busy seven days a week. Upcoming programs include gymnastics, t-ball, sewing classes, seniors clay classes, ringette and the official launch for the Cycling Without Age program.



Rosedale Traditional Community School Society

The facility has scheduled activity every day of the week between programming and user groups. New adult winter programs offered included a Women’s Survival Course, Pound Fitness, and Drop-in Line Dance. On Thursday mornings a group of seniors continues to meet regularly for paint club, where novice artists work on projects and enjoy each other’s company. The Society is actively working on encouraging more seniors to use the facility; on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, the Society has started Bingo nights. Approximately 6,800 attended programs this quarter.



Chilliwack and District Seniors’ Resources Society (CDSRS)



In the first quarter of 2019, CDSRS saw an increase in membership over 2018, which increased activity attendance by 478 people. Requests for information on community resources accounted for 939 of the 5,123 requests, including 40 new to town, 62 for



housing and 75 for City of Chilliwack information.

CDSRS continues to expand programs and activities to meet Chilliwack’s diverse senior population. In March, a new “Stay Fit” class was added to the schedule at Evergreen Hall. This brought in 16 new participants for 128 visits.

The 2019 Income Tax program started in February and, as of the end of March, 342 returns were prepared at Evergreen Hall by volunteers for a total of 604 visits, as each return requires both a drop off and pick up visit.

The CDSRS AGM was hosted on March 6, 2019 with 41 people in attendance. The meeting was attended by Mayor Ken Popove and Isobel Mackenzie from the office of the Seniors Advocate. In the first quarter of 2019, 298 bus trip participants stopped in at Evergreen Hall for pick up and drop off. In March, the Community Education – Demystifying Government Programs and Services brought 56 attendants to Evergreen Hall.

5,123 telephone, walk-in and email enquiries

Total of 347 participants that participated in 3,226 activities to City of Chilliwack facilities

Total of 604 visits for the Income Tax Program at the Evergreen Hall

Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve (GBHNR)



The New Year’s Day Walk was attended by 150 people and led by four guides. The GBHNR winter homeschool program was fully booked (with a waiting list) and ran from the beginning of February to the middle of March. There were multiple school and community groups booked in January, February and March, and a fully booked Caregiver and Tot program ran the last two weeks of February and first two weeks of March. The Family Nature Festival took place on March 22 and 23 with almost 1,000 community members enjoying the free programs, crafts and displays. A Spring Break Camp ran the week of March 25-29 and was also fully booked.

The herons began returning to their nests the second week of March, and the first guided heron walk of the season will be held on the first Saturday in April. A group of volunteers is monitoring the heron colony using survey protocols from the Heron Working Group, and a group of volunteers is conducting bird surveys and providing data for the continental FeederWatch program. Students from UFV will be conducting multiple heron based research projects at the GBHNR this spring.

Over 6,000 visitors came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR in the last quarter.



Chilliwack Heritage Park



Chilliwack Heritage Park kicked off the new year with the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce’s Business Excellence Awards which transforms the facility into one that has the capacity to host large-scale, elegant affairs. This was quickly followed up by the annual Chilliwack Home & Leisure Show. Heritage Park was then transformed into an indoor track to host Arenacross, indoor motorcycle racing. This was followed up by the Kids’ Expo and the Mt. Cheam Dog Show, to round out the month of February. March started off with the annual Fraser Valley Women’s Show. On its heels was the return of the All About Fishing Expo and the

ever-popular Gun and Antique Show, one of the largest shows of its kind in Canada. The month ended with a new event to Heritage Park – the BC Spring Holstein Show.





**Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre
&
Cheam Leisure Centre**



This quarter, both the Cheam Leisure Centre and Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre saw the delivery of new strength equipment, including benches, dumbbells and Lebert equalizer bars. Recreation Excellence staff provided presentations to local school district students about the career paths they can take within the recreation industry and how their local community centres can be a good place to start.

Cheam Leisure Centre

This winter season, the Cheam Leisure Centre saw Annual Ladies Volleyball, Chilliwack Elementary School Volleyball, Co-Ed Volleyball and the 4th Annual Squash Tournaments return. This year was also the third year the Cheam Leisure Centre hosted the BC Wildfire Service Fire Fitness testing, seeing several members test their skills. The participants are subject to continued and increasing physical exertion over the course of the WFX-FIT test circuit.

Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre

The first quarter of 2019 at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre was busy with programs and services. The Learn to Swim program had a 103% registration capacity, up from 91% last quarter. The Centre saw 22 people become Standard First Aid certified, 22 Lifeguards complete their National Lifeguard Pool option Certification and three new Water Safety Instructors trained within the facility.



CLLC	Cheam
January – 36,879	January – 32,385
February – 30,403	February – 25,678
March – 35,335	March – 25,335
Total – 102,617	Total – 83,398





Chilliwack Museum

Administration

Shawna Maurice has assumed the role of Executive Director as of January 14, 2019. The Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society Board and staff held a Planning & Development Workshop on February 21 to begin developing a strategic plan for the Museum & Archives.

The Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Chambers Gallery at the Museum.

Projects

Chilliwack's Chinatown, sponsored by the Canadian Museum of History and the Chilliwack Museum & Archives, is now available on virtualmuseum.ca.

Funding

The Museum has received a grant of \$22,600 from the British Columbia Arts Council for 2019 operations. In addition, the Museum has submitted an application to Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage for a Research and Digitations intern for the Archives. If successful, this will be a 10 month term contract. The Museum is currently working on a Canada Cultural Spaces Grant to increase accessibility at the museum building through the installation of an accessible front door and accessible public washroom.



Members of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society and staff of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives complete a team building activity at the Planning & Development Workshop held in February.

Education Program

A full time Education & Engagement Coordinator was hired in January 2019. There has been an increase in education programs booked in comparison to previous years. From January 1 to March 31, 2019, the Education & Engagement Coordinator has led programs at local schools and at the museum.

There has also been an increase in Education Kit bookings, with 11 confirmed this quarter. Free Archives tours continue on the last Friday of each month at 3:00pm.

Statistics for January 1 to March 31, 2019:

	January	February	March	Total
Visitors	32	26	36	94
Research phone calls	28	20	25	73
Research emails	14	9	18	41



Sarah (Education & Engagement Coordinator) engages in an active learning component at the Museum of Vancouver.

47

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Society's 2018-19 presentation season continued in January with the next Arts Club on Tour production: Blind Date. The History of Romance took place in Rotary Hall Studio Theatre on February 8-9 and Valentine's Day saw the return of Ballet Jorgen with Coppelia – A Comedy of Love. Shawn Farquhar's Cabaret of Wonders XIII started the first of four magic cabarets in Rotary Hall on February 15, and The Centre Rocks XV sold out on February 16. Thank You For Being a Friend on February 17 brought the Golden Girls to life in puppet form, as part of the Theatre Series. The Zaniac wowed families on February 18. Music lovers were treated to a classical music morning concert, Songs of the Earth with the Bergmann Duo, and in the evening An Intimate Evening with Stephen Fearing on February 22. The month ended with the first of two performances of Fifty Shades of Vinyl: A Canadian Parody on February 23 and March 2. Society shows continued into March with I Am Woman! Hear Me Laff! on March 8 and Arts Club on Tour's Circle Game on March 14. Shawn Farquhar's Cabaret of Wonders XIV took place on March 15, and the final Centre Rocks XVI took place on March 16. Five Alarm Funk rocked the HUB Theatre on March 21 and the very popular Best of the Fest Tour - VIMFF took place on March 23. The Kids Series wrapped up this season on March 24 with a wonderful historical joy-ride through the history of science with Monster Theatre's fun family show We Now Know: The Complete History of Science!



Chilliwack School of Performing Arts presented their show Once Upon a Mattress from January 16 to 27, and the Chilliwack Players Guild presented An Affair of Honour on January 19. Creative Outlet had their Dance Team 2019 Debut on February 1. The Chilliwack Academy of Music had their annual fundraiser the Fraser Valley Distillery Festival on February 2. VaughnCo Entertainment presented Hotel California – The Original Eagles Tribute on February 8. F.G. Leary Fine Arts School had their performances of the Wizard of Oz from February 26-28. Project Dance had their 2019 Company Review on March 7, and Evolutionz Dance's Turning Point took place on March 9. The Lions Club Music and Dance Festival had their Dance Honours Performance in HUB Theatre on March 10. The end of March saw two country tribute shows; Country Gold – a tribute to Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash and Linda Ronstadt on March 25, and Country Icons – a tribute to Alan Jackson, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard on March 27. The Maybelles wrapped up the month with a fresh new take on 60s hits on March 29 and 30.

The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association exhibits in the O'Connor Group Art Gallery included: Whole—artist Sylvie Roussel-Janssens presented textile sculptures from January 23 to March 2. People and Places, an exhibit by artists Graham Dowden and Jeff Wilson, runs from March 6 to April 13.

Arts classes for adults were offered in pottery, painting, drawing, photography, performance, soap making, wirework, framework, jewellery making and glass fusion. Open studios for clay, glass work and life drawing were active. Art classes for kids were offered in performance, knitting, drawing, anime and clay. Spring Break Art Camps ran from March 18-22 and March 25-29.



Chilliwack Library

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

During the first quarter of 2019, the Chilliwack Library continued to offer diverse programming, promote support within the community and offer free educational opportunities to patrons looking to expand their skillset. Staff of the Chilliwack Library were particularly proud to have recorded 2,110 donated items for FVRL’s annual Food For Fines program. This program, which ran from December until January 20, encouraged patrons to bring food bank items to the library in exchange for a break on their library fines. The amount collected at this location was equivalent to a \$4,000.00 donation that was given to the Community Cupboard food and clothing bank through Chilliwack Middle School.

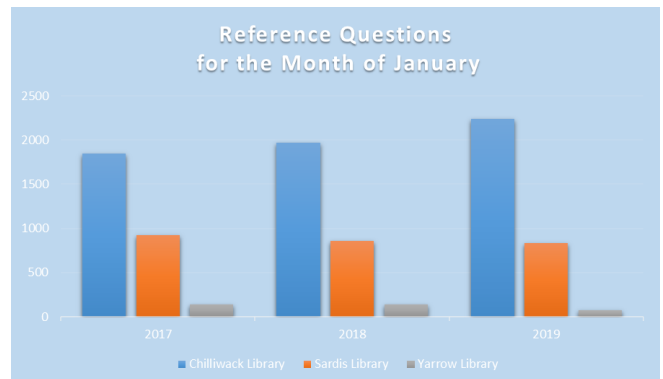
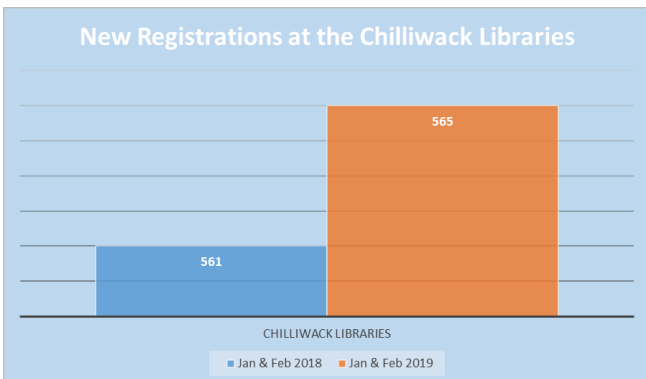


January also continued the well-attended BeTWEEN book club, a group geared towards 9-12 year olds to read and share input on monthly selections. While no meeting was initially planned for March due to spring break, this eager group insisted on planning one during the February meeting. As this age demographic can be challenging to appeal to, it is very encouraging to see such enthusiasm expressed towards a library program.

In February, library staff enjoyed having the chance to participate in Pink Shirt Day by wearing t-shirts designed by local First Nations artist Chantelle Trainor-Matties.



For spring break this March, staff managed to process almost 400 “muggles”, teenagers and parents of muggles coming through for the extremely popular Harry Potter event, which included spinning wheels, sorting hats, scavenger hunts and more.



Sardis Library

The Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society supports the library through advocacy, fundraising and assistance with various projects and programs. By far the most popular fundraising event is the annual puzzle sale that takes place on the first weekend of February. In January, prior to the sale, the public are asked to donate complete, used puzzles and in turn are given a 50% off coupon for one puzzle at the sale. By adding up the returned coupons, it is estimated that more than 2,100 puzzles came through the Sardis Library doors. This year was the most profitable yet, with \$8,223.90 in sales. This is the first time the sale has surpassed the \$6,000 mark in its eighteen-year history. Proceeds from this popular event go towards supporting the Chilliwack, Sardis and Yarrow Libraries. This can range from new library furniture, shelving, workshops or collections to the Summer Reading Program.



The Sardis Library hosted another well attended children’s program, a “Baby Playdate.” This hands-on event was developed to help teach parents and caregivers new ways to play with their baby or toddler and encourage early literacy at the same time. Over 50 participants came to play and take away ideas to try at home. This event was geared towards babies and toddlers 2 years and younger.

Spring break was bustling with additional programming geared towards children and teens. From magic shows to instructional art programs, something for everyone was offered and registration lists filled up quickly.

Yarrow Library

January marked the beginning of several popular ongoing programs at the Yarrow Library. Registration for Parent-Child Mother Goose, held at the library by an Infant Development Consultant from the Child Development Centre, quickly filled. This interactive program for babies and caregivers teaches ways to encourage language skills as well as social and emotional development. This weekly program ran from Jan. 24 – Mar. 14.



In February, the Yarrow Library hosted a two-part astronomy series featuring Terry McComas with Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Terry shared his expertise of stargazing techniques, telescope best practices and astronomy essentials.

March brought about a mixture of STEAM programming, featuring FVRL’s playground items for customers to try out. Virtual Reality, Keva Planks and Ozobot programs were all a big hit with customers and staff alike, and the perfect addition to spring break programming at the library.