



**To:** Planning Committee **Date:** December 20, 2007  
**From:** Joe Erceg, MCIP **File:**  
 General Manager, Planning and  
 Development  
**Re:** **2007 Annual Report and 2008 Work Program Richmond Seniors Advisory  
 Committee (RSAC)**

**Staff Recommendation**

That, as per the General Manager, Planning and Development report dated December 20, 2007, entitled: "2007 Annual Report and 2008 Work Program", Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee", the proposed 2008 Work Program (**Attachment 1**) of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, be approved.

*Joe Erceg* <sup>7ER:</sup>

Joe Erceg, MCIP  
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att. 1

JE:ls

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
<i>Joe Erceg</i>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>7/11/07</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee (RSAC) was formed in 1991 to address the concerns of seniors and to plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community. The Committee meets on a monthly basis to consider and evaluate issues referred to it by City Council, City staff and members of the community. It also initiates studies on matters deemed to be of concern to seniors and submits information, options and recommendations to City Council.

This report presents the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee (RSAC):

- 2007 Annual Report and
- proposed 2008 Work Program.

### Findings Of Fact

1. **2007 RSAC Activities:** - See Attachment 1.
2. **Proposed 2008 RSAC Work Program:** - See Attachment 1.

### Analysis

The RSAC continues to address the concerns of Richmond seniors, advise Council regarding these concerns, and plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community.

The RSAC has formed partnerships with community service agencies, has participated on other City committees, and has consulted with the community in striving to improve the quality of life for Richmond seniors. Continued collaborations are planned for 2008.

### Financial Impact

The RSAC receives an annual operating grant of \$2,000 as part of the 2008 base budget.

### Conclusion

Staff recommend support for the RSAC's proposed 2008 Work Program.

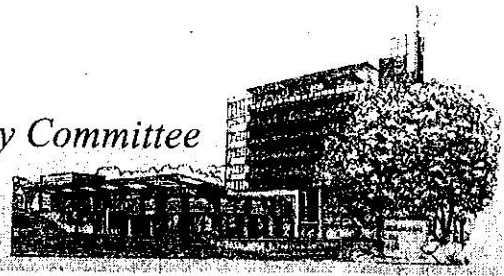


Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner  
(4220)

LS:cas



*Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee*  
 Serving Richmond since 1991



## **Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2007 Annual Report to City Council**

### **Membership**

Membership for 2007 was at the full complement of 15, plus our Council and Staff Liaisons, with most members chairing or participating in at least one of the following sub-committees:

Housing, Health, Intercultural/Multicultural Issues, Transportation, Publicity, Safety, Isolated Seniors, Intergenerational Activities, and Law/Legislation.

Individual reports on the sub-committees are attached.

In October we welcomed a representative from the Maple/Bamboo Initiative, who will be attending future meetings as an observer. This is a pilot project sponsored by Multicultural Helping House, to train newcomers in civic engagement.

### **Meetings**

We meet regularly every month, with the exception of July and August. Apart from guest speakers, we benefit from the regular attendance, and the information they provide, of guests, Eva Busich-Veloso, Coordinator, Seniors Services, Recreation and Cultural Services and Susan Match, Older Adult Counsellor, Richmond Addiction Services.

We particularly wish to acknowledge with thanks the assistance and timely advice of Councillor Derek Dang and Staff Liaison, Lesley Sherlock.

### **Guest speakers**

In a continuing endeavour to educate ourselves regarding current issues of concern, not just to seniors but to the community at large, most of our meetings included a guest speaker, and throughout the year, we heard from Robert Kates, Manager of Real Estate Services; Randall St. Godard, Disability Resource Centre re: The Better Community for Youth Project; Penny Bain, BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors. re: Elder Abuse Prevention; Deborah Procter, Manager, Emergency Programs, re: Emergency Preparedness; Jocelyn Wong, Volunteer Richmond, re: Richmond Seniors Directory, Fall 2007; Lilian Whitmore, Vancouver Coastal Health, re: Seniors' Link Program.

### **Activities**

The Seniors Advisory Committee is represented on the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Falls Prevention Committee, RCMP Multicultural Advisory Committee, Richmond Integrated Comprehensive Addiction System and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee.

Our members attended the following forums, workshops, etc., during 2007:

- RCMP Forum on Seniors Abuse
- Richmond Addiction Service information session on addictions in seniors
- RCMP Workshop on pedestrian safety
- BC Government Conversations on Health
- “Train the Trainers” Workshop for falls prevention
- RCSAC MLA Dialogues
- Affordable Housing Strategy Information sessions
- Vancouver Coastal Health focus group on seniors housing
- Transit Workshops
- Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee Presentation: *The Imam and the Pastor*

In October the RSAC approved the purchase of two digital blood pressure monitors to be donated to the Minoru Seniors Centre Society for use at the Seniors Wellness Clinics at the Vedic Centre and other wellness outreach programs.

### **Website and brochure**

The RSAC Website: <http://www.richmondseniorsadvisory.ca/> was inaugurated in November 2006 and since then has received an average of 485 page hits per month.

The RSAC brochure has been updated, with information added on our role and responsibilities.

### **Forums**

A successful Intergenerational Forum was held at McMath Secondary School in February. The Forum was funded by a grant to RYSA from the National Crime Prevention Strategy, with a small contribution from the RSAC to cover the refreshments. The event was very well organized by students from the Leadership class at McMath Secondary, with an advisory committee which included representatives from Richmond Youth Service Agency and from the Seniors Advisory Committee. In spite of inclement weather, most of the RSAC members were able to attend. The seniors who participated agreed that, as well as being an enjoyable occasion, the forum provided an excellent opportunity for close interaction with local youth. The students from McMath Secondary are to be commended for their enthusiasm, organizational abilities and attention to all the details that contributed to a stimulating and motivating event.

In October, the RSAC collaborated with Richmond Health Services to sponsor a forum on addictions: *Pills, Poker and Potions*. This was the third in a series and the second co-sponsored by the Seniors Advisory Committee. We are indebted to Belinda Boyd of Richmond Health Services for arranging an impressive panel of speakers, which comprised: Dr. Geoff Appleton, President, BC Medical Association; Dr. Lawrence Hoeschen, Medical Leader, Addictions, Richmond Health Services; Mr. Damen Man, Pharmacist, Richmond Health Services; Ms. Susan Match, Addictions Specialist, Older Adults; and Ms. Heather Dickson, Addictions Counsellor, Problem Gambling; in addition to the sharing of a personal story of an addiction to medication.

In co-sponsoring the forum, we hope to raise awareness of addictions, and to educate seniors on the effects of substances on our bodies as we age.

During the year, various concerns were discussed, and letters were sent to:

- Premier Campbell, in support of the Premier’s Council on Aging and Seniors’ Issues Report: *Aging Well in British Columbia*, and expressing support for proposed human rights code revisions
- Mayor and Councillors re: Self-service Gas Stations
- Richmond MLAs re: Universal Housing Guidelines

- Mr. Dave Semple, Director of Public Works re: Outdoor Hazards Safety Program
- Dr. Jeff Coleman re: Seniors' Link Program
- Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues re: Age-Friendly Cities

**Our work plan for 2008**

- Continue to gather information on issues affecting seniors in order to provide knowledgeable and relevant advice to Council whenever requested and whenever appropriate, as these issues arise;
- Continue the work of the sub-committees;
- Continue to support the annual Seniors Week and Wellness Fair, and to work with the Minoru Seniors Centre on common issues; and
- Maintain our liaison/representation with the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Falls Prevention Committee, RCMP Multi-cultural Advisory Committee, Richmond Integrated Comprehensive Addiction System and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee, and to extend our involvement with community groups as appropriate.

**Proposed Budget**

We propose the following budget for 2008, for your approval:

Meeting Expenses	\$1,000.00
Expected Events during 2007	
Seniors Week	
Wellness Fair	
Workshops & forums	
Intergenerational Projects	
Conferences concerning Seniors issues	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	\$2,000.00

Respectfully submitted

Angela Gauld, Chair.

## Sub-Committee Reports

### **Annual Report (2007) on Intergenerational Activities**

This is my third year as a volunteer to the "Friday Night Dinner Club" program run by the Richmond Youth Service Agency (RYSA). This weekly or bi-weekly program is intended for kids between the ages of 11 and 17. During the gathering, they, apart from communicating with each other and with volunteers, prepare dinner under the supervision of adults.

As reported earlier to this Committee, I was quite discouraged by the poor management of RYSA and had considered to drop out from this program.

However, since a couple of months ago, the activities of RYSA are managed by Henry Yao (Child & Youth Activities Worker). He is a very enthusiastic and hard working young man, and very devoted to his work. From what I have observed during my several occasions there during the "Friday Night Dinner Club" and recruiting (new volunteers) activities, he seemed to be very versed in his work, and is well liked by the kids.

At present, there are three major programs under Henry's administration, namely:

Friday Night Dinner Club: This has been an on-going program, but bi-weekly cooking lesson hosted by cooks or chefs has been introduced. There are more kids attending than before.

U-Connect Crew: Focus on interconnection between youth and Richmond communities. This is a new program now recruiting volunteers.

Generations Homework Club: A volunteer program designed for high school students to participate to teach elementary school youth on their learning and homework. This is also a new program which has just started.

There is improvement there. Though slow, I wish it keeps on.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen Ngan, Liaison to RYSA Dinner Club

### **Monthly Intergenerational group activities at Steveston Community Centre**

Three members of the Seniors Advisory Committee have been attending this new group, led jointly by the Seniors Coordinator and the Youth Coordinator at Steveston Community Centre. It started as a discussion group, emerging from the Intergenerational forum held at McMath Secondary School in February. Other activities are planned, to offer further opportunities for interaction between the generations.

Respectfully submitted by Angela Gauld, Member

### **Health Subcommittee**

Between the two members on the committee, we cover many issues on Health through the C.H.A.C. We have submitted various reports on issues of interest to the seniors population. This committee in conjunction with Vancouver Coastal Health and R.S.A.C., sponsored a forum called "Pills, Potions and Poker" was held on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2007. Well known speakers spoke on issues of various addictions. I would like to thank staff for their organization in contacting the speakers.

Austin Harris Residence was opened in September 2007 offering assisted living units for lower income seniors and is open to all residents of Richmond. More targeted health services are being organized for Richmond and extra money is being spent in upgrading units at the hospital.

Respectfully submitted by Corisande Percival Smith, Chair, Health Sub-committee

### **Isolated Seniors Sub-committee's Report**

for attachment to Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee's 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

'Isolated Seniors' has been a sub-committee of the RSAC for some time but access to the isolated has been a great draw-back. Many avenues have been explored over the years with little success. The committee felt it would be advantageous to have doctors on board as they seemed a source of pertinent information the committee could use in contacting those isolated people who may possibly require outside assistance. Of course we then met with the issue of 'Confidentiality.' Other groups we contacted were also unsuccessful.

Two staff people from Vancouver Coastal Health have joined our committee as resource people. They are involved in a project called "The Blundell Integrated Neighbourhood Network" It is possible information from this project could be useful to the committee. Also another meeting has been arranged with the crisis line director at 'CHIMO CRISIS CENTRE' to discuss their 'Outreach Program' which could prove informative.

Respectfully submitted by M. Olive Bassett, Chair, Isolated Seniors Sub-committee

### **Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee Liaison**

Over the past year, I have represented the Seniors' Advisory Committee at meetings of the RCSAC. Our plan for 2008 is to continue to represent the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee on the RCSAC and to report back to the RSAC any pertinent information forthcoming from the RCSAC. To act not only as liaison, but also to support the RCSAC's work, particularly when it includes initiatives or services to Seniors.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Thompson, designated representative to RCSAC

### **Safety Sub-Committee**

During the past year, I have remained busy working on various committees, as per the following:

- Member of the RSAC
- Chair of the RSAC **Safety** sub-committee
- Member of the RSAC **Housing** sub-committee
- Member of the RSAC **Isolated Seniors** sub-committee
- Member of the **Richmond Addiction Services** Task Force
- Representative for Richmond to the **Regional Falls Prevention** Task Force
- Member of the **Richmond Falls Prevention Network**

### **Safety:**

There are two main issues that we have concentrated on during the year. Both the Network and Regional Committees have been working on developing an "Outdoor Hazards" program, which could be introduced and adapted by other cities within the Region. With regard to the program that is presently in operation in Richmond, the emphasis has been on amending the present procedures and policies with regard to making the reporting method more user friendly. To this



end, we met with Mr. D. Semple and Mr. D. Mooney who received our concerns in a very positive manner and are now working on a reporting procedure that, we think, will be of improved benefit to our community.

Attended a seminar put on by the Better Business Bureau that covered the various scams that are directed toward the elderly and ways in which they could be recognized and steered away from. The RCMP discussed 'Home Security Checks' and how the public could contact them to perform such checks on their property. Other topics covered were how to recognize Counterfeit Cheques - Fraud - Appropriate Investments, etc.

Another interesting workshop that I attended, which was put on by the RCMP, was on "Pedestrian Safety for Seniors". The workshop was well attended by many seniors and we received some excellent advice and information from the officers who made the presentation.

**Housing:** Continue to work closely with this committee chaired by Aileen Cormack  
**Isolated Seniors:** Continue to work closely with this committee chaired by Olive Bassett

Respectfully submitted by Carol D. Smith, Chair, Safety sub-committee

## **Intercultural / Multicultural Issues**

### **RCMP INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

for attachment to Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee's 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

This has been an interesting and informative committee.

The main purpose of the Richmond RCMP's Multi-Cultural Committee is to advance and promote positive relations between Richmond's diverse multi-cultural community. Reaching out to youth has been very successful, using their 'Bias-Free' policing technique and their 'Positive Ticketing' of youth.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Ward Clapham, the Richmond detachment has had outstanding success in the 'Positive Ticketing' program. Police officers observing positive behaviour in youth give them a ticket which entitles them to free entry to a number of recreational outlets throughout Richmond. Before this type of policing, the cost of detaining a young offender was as high as \$2200,00, the new way has brought the cost down 90% to \$220.00! Juvenile crime has gone down a whopping 41% in the past three years.

Our detachment has been working for some time on improved communications with the community where their bias-free policing is working as well. They are making themselves much more visible in the community and the officers are attending many community groups and asking what are we missing and what are doing right?

With the adverse publicity in the media regarding the very top ranking RCMP officers I felt I wanted to speak out about our good fortune in having the kind of detachment we enjoy in Richmond.

Respectfully submitted by M. Olive Bassett

### **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)**

RSAC was represented at the RIAC monthly meetings, sub-committee work and related activities as appropriate, including responsibilities as a rotating chair. Amongst other activities, a



successful public forum “Bridges to Community” was held in the Council Chambers during the summer.

### **Cross-cultural Roundtable on Security**

The Committee held dialogue sessions on wide ranging issues- one each with the Federal Ministers of Public Security and Justice at the two meetings held in Ottawa this year.

As a part of the outreach to the diverse cultural communities we have been busy planning a conference: “Balance between Security, Human Rights and Accountability”. This conference is being held at the Justice Institute, New Westminster on November 30th, December 1st and 2nd, 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Mohinder Grewal