



CITY OF RICHMOND
REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Services Committee

DATE: February 11, 2000

FROM: Jane Fernyhough
Manager Cultural Services

FILE: 3425-01

RE: **City Strategy for Youth Services - 1999 Update Report No. 6**

(00-003)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the update on youth activities in Richmond for 1999 be received for information; and
2. That staff be directed to examine current allocation of city funding for youth workers in consultation with community association representatives and report back to Council through the Community Services Committee.

Jane Fernyhough
Manager Cultural Services

Att. 2

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The City Strategy for Youth Services was endorsed by City Council on June 26, 1995. This staff report is a synopsis of the city's youth projects and related issues from 1999. It is the fourth annual progress report on implementation of the strategy.

ANALYSIS

The City Strategy for Youth Services provides a framework for youth serving agencies in the delivery of programs and services to youth. The guiding principles emphasize the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for youth input and involvement. Furthermore, youth should be recognized as a valuable resource in our communities. As we have embraced these principles, youth have been increasingly involved in all aspects of program planning and implementation leading to our many success stories. A made in Richmond youth culture has become trademark to many special events prompting some youth to refer to them as a *tradition*.¹ The culture has been patterned through collaborative and creative approaches between youth, government, non-government and local businesses.

Within the first two years of employing full-time youth co-ordinators in the community centres, they have established program benchmarks for youth recreation services. One of these benchmarks is the high level of youth input which is the backbone of many programs. The experience and knowledge gained by youth is being re-invested back into the planning process. In doing so they provide a valuable mentoring role with the younger and newer youth. The benefits of involving youth makes our facilities more familiar to them, therefore more appealing. They tend to feel less discriminated against in community centres compared to shopping malls, the media and restaurants.²

Collaboration with the Ministry of Attorney General-Community Programs Division, ICBC, RCMP Community Policing, Richmond School District, Vancouver-Richmond Health Board has been beneficial in pooling resources to serve youth. The Richmond community associations provide support to their respective youth programs not only financially, but are committed to having a youth program and willing to take the risks associated with it.

Programs and Projects in 1999

Collaborative Programs

ICBC generously provided funding for all of the major youth events in the city as well as staffing these events to promote the Road Sense initiative. The BC Youth Options program offered tuition credits to organizers of the 2nd Annual Blister in the Sun music festival. The city played a key role with the Provincial Student Leadership conference through co-ordinating community service projects for over 500 students. The youth co-ordinators also presented workshop sessions for the school district at the Richmond Student Leadership Conference at Steveston Secondary. ICBC was also a key partner in the success of Youth Week 99. Their financial contribution for transit shelter ads and for our major event at the Richmond arenas helped to entertain the 1300 youth that attended.

In January 1999, the city secured a \$20,000 annual grant from the Ministry of Attorney General for the purpose of developing late night activities to provide safe and positive places for youth to go. Richmond's project called *Night Shift*, operates from 10:00 pm to 1:00 am each Friday at Thompson

¹ Appendix A – 1999 At the Community Centres

² Mcreary Centre Society Open Door Report Card 1997.

while Cambie and West Richmond community centres alternate Fridays. Night Shift complements existing programming and has steadily drawn some youth who are not regular or traditional users of recreation services. Input from youth help staff with promotions, determine scheduling and develop programming. Night Shift activities include live musicians, dj's, basketball, henna hand painting, poetry reading, graffiti art, alternative movies and break dancing. Law enforcement agencies from Oregon, Washington and Hawaii have expressed an interest in the Night Shift program.

Staff participate in the Community Action Team, a network of youth service providers from Ministry of Children and Families, RCMP, Richmond Youth Services, Richmond School District, Vancouver-Richmond Health Board and VISAC (Victims of Incest and Sexual Abuse). With the assistance of a representative from the Ministry of Attorney General's Provincial Prostitution Unit, the group meets regularly to address issues surrounding the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

Designated Spaces for Youth

The park closure bylaw of 1999 drew media attention from the local and regional media. Some arguments focused attention on what the city was doing for youth, given that the public would not be permitted in parks or school grounds as indicated in the bylaw. The publicity in general did spark interest as to what programs are in place. Since then, youth have been more critical siting the continued conflict with police in parks, including the skatepark late at night. This issue also prompted many youth to ask for a space designated only for youth. Comments through Youth Advisory Council focus groups in October 1999 said the space was necessary because it would provide an atmosphere that would be more suited to reflect a youth culture which they felt is compromised with current multi-use facilities. Realizing the importance of community centres, they also recommended that they re-design areas of the centres so that they have more youth appeal. In 1999 West Richmond and Cambie community centres began the process of re-designing their youth spaces.

The office space in the Minoru Sports Pavilion, where the City Centre Community Association youth co-ordinator works, closely resembles a designated youth space in that no other age groups share use of the office space. This "youth only" setting makes it easy for them to feel a greater sense of ownership and connection to a positive peer group. Youth from very different backgrounds across the city freely drop in creating an atmosphere of spontaneity and acceptance of others who may not be at all like them.

The Richmond Skatepark has been fully functional for the past year. Success has followed as the park hosted the 4th Annual Spun Bearing skate competition run by the Richmond Skateboard Association. The park is well used by skaters and roller bladers of all ages. Skateboarders have a place to skate where they won't be harassed or fined, as well as providing a social gathering place for youth. The park has been reviewed by national and international skateboard magazines and is considered one of the top parks in the Lower Mainland.

Media and Youth Recognition

The Source, a youth newspaper produced through Steveston's youth co-ordinator, promotes all youth programs offered in Richmond. Both issues in 1999 were distributed through all the secondary schools. Response from the youth has been favourable as indicated by an increase in participation and interest. Students enjoyed the paper and think it's a good idea. Two other youth produced 'zines have been in the works and should be published by March 2000. Richmond's youth programs and the people behind them continue to garner positive press from the media, both print and television. Rogers 4 profiled the Night Shift project on their *Plugged In* program, while the Vancouver Sun, Richmond News and Richmond Review followed Richmond's young newsmakers throughout the year.³

³ Appendix B

A number of posters promoting youth events were not approved for distribution through the school district this year which resulted in lower than expected turnouts. The school district exercised its right not to distribute materials based on concerns that certain portrayal of youth culture in our events would impact negatively upon the school district. Relationships with some of the schools is positive and mutually beneficial, while other areas could improve through a better understanding of what the city's roles are in providing recreation services. Staff is working with school district administration to resolve this issue.

Recognizing youth for their contributions plays an important part in our service delivery. The 2nd Annual U-ROC (Richmond Outstanding Community) Youth Awards were presented to 34 youth at the Gateway Theatre during Youth Week 99. The awards acknowledge the silent leaders and achievers in community service. The U-ROC programme has now been adopted as the **Regional Outstanding Community** Youth awards for the official Lower Mainland Youth Week kick off each year.

See Appendix A for a listing of updates at each Community Centre.

Youth Funding

The 3 year grant (\$30,000 annual) for youth co-ordinator wages at four community centres from the Vancouver Foundation ended in February 1999. Proposals through the National Crime Prevention Centre in Ottawa and the city's corporate sponsorship package were unable to secure future funding for youth co-ordinator wages. The four community associations (Steveston, West Richmond, East Richmond, Thompson) receiving funding have each covered the Vancouver Foundation portion. These community associations have requested that discussions begin to examine a re-distribution of the city funds amongst the current recipients so that funding for youth programs for Sea Island and Hamilton Community Associations could be developed. An additional three year grant from the Vancouver Foundation for a youth coordinator at South Arm ends in August, 2000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City currently allocates \$85,700 to the 6 community associations to supplement the wages of the youth co-ordinator position. This is included in the annual operating budget.

CONCLUSION

A high level of recreation and cultural services are being provided for and with youth. Managing the growing number of new projects and volunteers will challenge staff. Addressing the perceptions that determine whether or not youth use our services also presents programming challenges for the city. A common vision, as in the youth strategy, combined with skilled staff, has put us in a position to successfully work with and adapt to the complexities of our youth culture.

Wayne Yee
Coordinator Youth Services

WY:wy

-Appendix A- 1999 at the Community Centres

East Richmond Community Association

Ben Wong-Moon, Youth Co-ordinator

1999 was another outstanding year for youth in the East Richmond area. Last year's report ended with the direction "In 1999 we plan to impact more youth than ever before," and since then we have indeed involved more youth in various forms than in any year prior.

With Ben Wong-Moon at the helm as youth coordinator for his second year, ERCA's youth vision and direction has certainly solidified. This is due to two significant factors: the involvement of Youth-Taking-Charge (YTC) and their role as youth advocates and the incredible amount of support and dedication that the East Richmond Community Association Board of Directors and Program Committee has for youth services.

1999 Successes at-a-glance

Can/Am Jamboree	annual Canadian/American basketball tournament
Richmond Youth Basketball League	Hoops for Heart Tournament
Sleepless with YTC	Sleepover
1st Cambie Youth Badminton Tourney	
Spring Fling	1st preteen dance
SPRUNG	youth dance
Garage sale concession	
Sunny D	preteen dance
SPF:Sumtin'	
Pretty Fly	
Hotspot	YTC appreciation bbq & dance
Skool Daze	Youth Dance
Garage sale concession	
YTC Whistler Getaway	
Year2Groove	dance
Youth Dance	736 youth attended!!!

Some other programs include weekly badminton, basketball and golf driving-range drop-ins, Blackcomb Ski Trips, Tobogganing at Seymour, The Seattle Can/Am basketball trip, Big Red's Lunch Express, Cultus Lake Camping trip, and many more.

What's New?

Pre-teen Program: Cheryl Butters was hired as our first coordinator (and has far surpassed anybody's goals for that program--in short: she rocks.)

Games Room renovations: new seating area, foosball table, youth mural & pictures.

What's up for 2000?

1999's focus was for more youth involvement, 2000's will be to keep as many youth involved and to create opportunities for more meaningful interactions. The YTC has officially adopted this slogan to portray its vision:

"To celebrate and inspire proactive youth involvement in the East Richmond Community."

Steveston Community Centre

Suzanne Vardy, Youth Co-ordinator

Richmond Youth Basketball League

Girls Basketball League

This year we expanded RYBL to include a girls only league. We did this because the co-ed league was not attracting as many girls as we hoped. The 10 to 13 year old league in the fall did very well with 4 teams forming. The feedback from parents and players has been very positive.

Grade 8 Committee

The Preteen Committee from last year did not feel ready to join the older Youth Council. Instead they continued on as the Grade 8 Committee. Currently we have over 20 Grade 8's on the committee with more wanting to join every week. Their passion is still dances. Meetings are bi-weekly and are mostly a social event, a rehashing of the past week at school, with a little planning at the end. They are a very energetic and fun group.

Youth Council/Rockfest

Youth Council concentrated on two major events this year. In the spring they planned a coffee house in conjunction with Night Shift and in the fall they organized Rockfest. Rockfest was taken to a new level this year with youth taking on all aspects of the six hour festival including ordering, setting up and running the sound and lighting equipment. It was really exciting to see them take this on and do such a great job.

School Relations

We have begun to program courses at both elementary and high schools in the Steveston area. The Babysitting Training course is offered now at three elementary schools; Lord Byng, Westwind and T. Homma with Manoah Steves possibly being added soon. We are also adding more programs to what is being offered at Westwind and Homma – cooking and a recreational sports program. With Steveston Secondary we ran the RoadSensibility course developed by ICBC and at London we have offered a first aid course. Joint programming with the schools offers opportunity for creative and innovative programming.

Issues in the centre or geographical area

The most significant issue in Steveston is the lack of youth at the community centre on a daily basis. This has always been the case at Steveston and I don't see it changing in the near future. Changing the atmosphere in games rooms around Richmond has been something that other youth co-ordinators and youth have been talking a lot about lately. However at Steveston, the games room is used by youth, families and seniors alike. I'm not convinced that changing the games room to be more youth-friendly would be the best thing for Steveston. In order to reach the youth, the Youth Co-ordinator here must contact schools and make good use of the youth who do come here.

Continuing to build on the relationships with schools, forming a solid Youth Council (one that is interested in more than just Rockfest) and starting a Preteen Committee are the biggest challenges that I see at Steveston. Also continuing to inform the Steveston Community Society beyond just the Program Committee of what the benefits of having a Youth Co-ordinator are is another challenge.

South Arm Community Centre

Jeff Campbell, Youth Co-ordinator

Programs and Projects in 1999
Student Leadership Conference

Presented "Rocks, Paper, Scissors" time management workshop
Assisted in accessing sponsorship.

Coffee House
Grade 8 Dances
Youth Week 99 – Sector 9
EX-travaganza

Youth Involvement showcases local talent, setting up sponsorship/community partnerships through ICBC. All aspects of the planning process: promotions, set up take down, proposal writing, interacting with Association Board Members during events

S.P.Y. Super Powered Youth.

Youth work on upcoming projects, outtrips, and make to a difference in their community. Give their time towards community groups.

Friday Night Live
Richmond Youth Basketball League
Youth Co-ordinator resource manual
Super fly pizza Thursdays
In the Paint
Night Shift

Friday night alternative programming

Drop in basketball

Thompson Community Centre

Leeann Mordecai, Youth Co-ordinator

Thompson has seen an active relationship with neighboring Burnett Secondary in which new joint programs have been developed.

Caring About Kids Youth Mentoring program in which students and adults from the community interact through homework and recreation activities. Conversations end up being the focus of the interactions allowing relationships to evolve. During National Crime Prevention week students, teachers and community centre staff with the assistance of ICBC did walkarounds in the shared parking lots to help motorists assess levels of safety related to autotheft.

A successful pre-teen committee has developed with the surrounding elementary schools. The group meets Friday nights to plan upcoming fundraising activities and social events. They have raised over \$900 from dances, craft fair sales and lunch hour sales.

The Richmond Youth Basketball League ran it's third season in 1998-99, and it was administered through Thompson. Registration was up from 252 in 1997/98 to 321 players in the 1999/00 season. The league is a youth-driven league with a mission statement that focuses on the development of basketball skills, team sportsmanship, and community spirit. RYBL runs from October to April and is broken up into 3 divisions: Rookies (10-11yrs), Juniors (12-14yrs) and Seniors (15-17yrs). Parents and youth from the community volunteer their team each week

to coach and officiate the games. Volunteer numbers for the league include 76 volunteer coaches and officials, and over 1500 volunteer hours total by those parents and youth. The Cyberwave is the internet access zone for youth, although it is used by adults as well. The concept was developed and fundraised by 8 Burnett students. The computers are also configured for homework and study applications.

Some future challenges for 2000 are to look at ways to enhance Thompson's physical space to allow more meetings and social gathering by youth outside of school hours. This would include comfortable seating in the lounge and games rooms areas as well as creating dedicated space allotted for student art work and postings.

City Centre Community Association

Liz Hardwick, Youth Co-ordinator

Projects and Programs

The Wooley SOKS

The Wooley SOKS outdoors club membership has grown to over 50. In the past year they have organized and participated in the Tetrahedron Plateau back-country ski trip, three ski clinics, a canoe trip on the Fraser River, a Clayoquot Sound sea kayaking expedition, whitewater kayaking on the Chilliwack River, backpacking on the Olympic Peninsula, indoor rock climbing and winter camping in Seymour Provincial Park

The "Youth Affects" video

A group of 6 young people completed the "Youth affects" video, a five minute piece showcasing the importance of youth programs in Richmond. The video was shown at a public screening, to association boards, and to City staff, helping spread a positive message about youth in this community. Young people were involved in all aspects of the creation of this video, and gained new technical skills as well as developing a strong connection with each other through the process.

Coffee Houses

Working with a group of youth volunteers we have hosted a number of Coffee Houses at the Minoru Pavilion. Coffee Houses feature youth bands and offer a social place to hang out on a Friday night. Between 60 and 100 youth show up and listen to the music. These events are entirely youth organized and help promote a youth live music scene in Richmond.

Richmond Skatepark

In May we hosted Spun Bearing 4, the fourth annual skate competition of the Richmond Skateboard Association, and the first special event at the park. Over 400 people attended the event and the competition winner received \$1000 prize donated by the local skate companies. The RSA officially thanked in person the sponsors that helped in the construction of the park.

MSG (Music Skate Graff) was an event to invite local graffiti writers to demonstrate their skills and paint the skatepark as a laid back late night event. Over 30 young people came and painted pieces in the park and about 100 youth showed up to listen to DJs. The park has since become a destination for local graffiti artists who enjoy having a legal place to paint.

30 hour Famine

A few youth decided they wanted to do a city wide 30 hour famine for World vision rather than as a school event. Over 70 youth participated in the event, raising over \$3000. The famine was held in Thompson Community Centre and the organizers provided all kinds of activities throughout night.

Girl Skate Gang

The Girl Skate Gang was an informal group of girls who skated or wanted to learn to skate and wanted a safe and supportive environment. The group got together once a week and skated at the park, or in the Minoru Parking lot. Girls shared their boards with each other, so people who didn't have skateboards could try it out. This was a great way to encourage girls to take up skateboarding as the atmosphere and culture around it can be very intimidating. The group also helped equalize participation at the park, as it is predominantly boys who skate at the park, and most of the girls did not feel comfortable going on their own.

Break Dancing

Break dancers learned skills from a professional break dancer and had a place to practice and learn from their peers. The class drew in a different crowd from the youth who came to the coffee houses, and overall helped promote a breaking scene in Richmond.

The Unloading Zone

The Unloading Zone is an anger management, life skills training program for youth. It runs for 12 weeks focusing on making better choices in their lives and recognizing some of their own anger issues. The program helped me connect with young people in the community who are in conflict with the law, and those young people have learned new skills in dealing with conflict and anger in their lives. The program is a really effective tool for helping young people find positive choices in their lives.

Mural Painting

Over the fall a group of young people have taken on repainting the mural in the Minoru parkade stairwell. These young people are graffiti artists who do not normally have the opportunity to be part of community art projects. Graffiti art was used in the stairwell under the premise that it will help prevent vandalism as the people who "tag" are not likely to tag over other graffiti artists' work.

CRASH (the Citizens Rebelling Against Sitting at Home)

Crash is a group of young people who live in or hang around the city centre area who have come together because they want to organize things for other youth. The group is energetic, outspoken and is working to try to further the youth culture in Richmond. The group has organized coffee houses, jam nights, karaoke nights and break dance competitions. They are also developing a magazine about youth issues, art and creative writing to try and open up a dialogue among youth in the community. One issue they are currently focusing on is the need for a dedicated youth space in the city centre area where young people can get involved in creative projects, put on performances, hang out, have workshops and record music. They are currently involved in creating an art project about this issue that will be on display at the Richmond Museum in May.

CHALLENGES

Working in a non-traditional centre means that I don't have all the resources available to me that I would at a regular centre, such as full time front desk staff. I have to be present all the time for any program that is running when there is no other staff working at the pavilion. Because of this I have found it difficult to run traditional weekly registration or drop-in type programs out of this space. I have also not been able to have an afternoon or evening time slot during the week when there is other staff at the pavilion. For the most part this means I haven't been running weekly style programs.

-Appendix B-

Youth In the Media

Richmond News

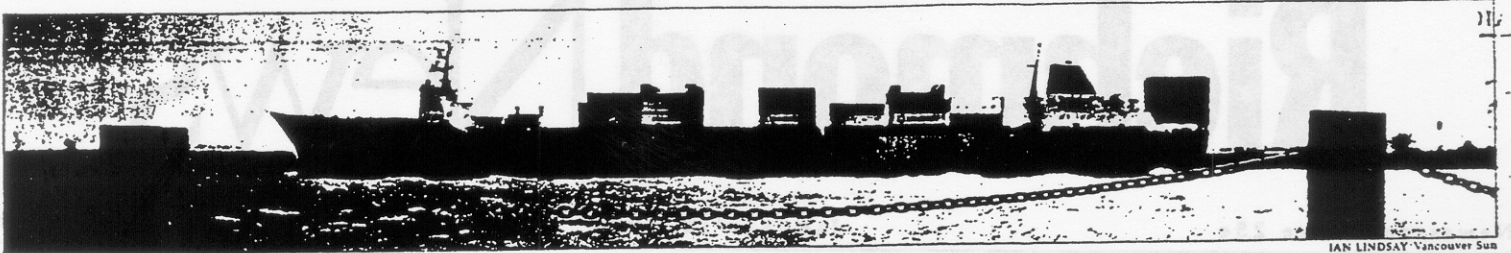
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28 Pages



Girl power ... Steveston Community Centre youth co-ordinator Suzanne Vardy is flanked by Heather Keegan, left, and Kristin Knapp, both 12 years old. The centre is starting a program called Girls Only Sport to get more young females involved in sports. For more on this story, see Page 5.



IAN LINDSAY/Vancouver Sun

CLEAR SAILING: Seemingly perched upon the chain that runs along the dike trail, the container ship Manulani churns upriver in the Richmond sunshine.

SECTION
B

RICHMOND

LADNER • TSAWWASSEN

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445 E-mail jdrabble@pacificpress.southam.ca

THE VANCOUVER SUN

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1999

DIGEST

Skateboarders get new park

The fourth annual Spun Bearing will be held

Richmond skaters are gearing up to jump, sole grind, and jaff, in the first competition at their new skateboard park.

The fourth-annual event, known as Spun Bearing, will be held at the city's recently completed facility at the corner of Lynus Lane and River Road. In previous years, the skateboard competition has been staged on a temporary course at the Minoru Pavilion in the city centre.

Event organizer Chris Cameron said the competition this Saturday is expected to draw more than 300 skaters from as far away as the Okanagan and Sunshine Coast. The event will raise about \$4,000 towards completion of the park, he said.

A skate-fanatic himself, the 19-year-old Cameron co-designed, fundraised for and helped build the \$270,000 park, completed on city-donated land last November. The city of Richmond contributed

\$200,000 to the project.

Cameron's group, the Richmond Skate Association, is trying to raise another \$30,000 to install washrooms, a drinking fountain and street lights.

The idea for a local park was sparked three years ago when a group of avid skaters got together with a local youth worker to create a local competition. The idea soon developed into building a place where the group could practise, away from the eyes of local shopkeepers who didn't want them skating in front of their stores.

Cameron said the popular park is already attracting skaters from across the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

"It's packed every day," said Cameron, who spends up to five hours every day pushing his board over the asphalt surface and concrete obstacles.

"I've never heard one negative thing said about the park. It's quite popular."



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24

Youths fear clashes with cops over park curfew

City provides alternatives, but funding is limited

David DaSilva
staff reporter

See you at the 7-Eleven. Now that local youths are being booted out of parks and school yards afterhours, their rave parties are on council's hit list, and other activities cost a week's worth of their minimum wages, there's not a heck of a lot to do in this sleepy 'burb.

"Their biggest gripe is that it's boring, there's nothing going on," said Liz Hardwick, the city centre community association's youth coordinator. Especially free activities.

There's nowhere to hang out. Seniors have their own building, youths don't. That leaves convenient store parking lots. Or Garry Point Park, which will soon be a no-no.

"There are different stories (circulating) about how the cops are going to come down on kids in the parks, particularly Garry Point (Park) and I think there will be all kinds of issues around cop/kid interaction," Hardwick predicted. "It's unfortunate but this bylaw is intended to deal with vandalism, yet I think what it will be used for is to fine kids who are in the parks after hours, whether or not they are committing vandalism."

City hall wants to offer youths more to do. In the past couple years, city staff have increased their youth programs and activities. Community centres and

schools have long organized sports, athletic and recreational events. Community centres now host movie nights, games and rock concerts.

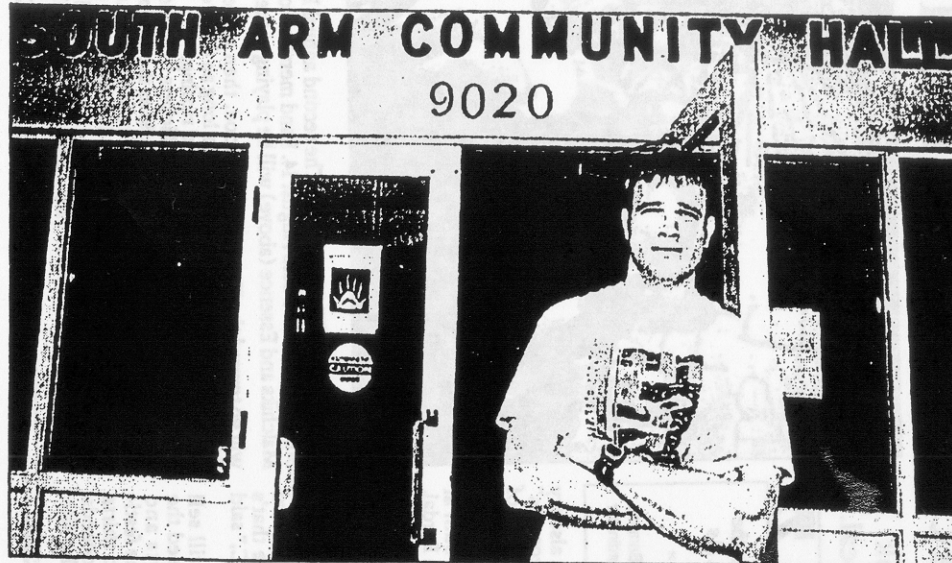
They're free too. But youth coordinators grudgingly agree that, for the most part, the types of youths they attract to their events would be of the clean-cut mould. Think Jan Brady.

"I don't want people to think that it's all the goody-goodies that come out," said Wayne Yee, the city's main youth coordinator. "We get some of the goody-goodies, if you want to call them that... But very few of those kids are coming out to 'nightshift'; it's a very different crowd."

Reaching out to others who normally wouldn't want to be spotted in a fluorescent-lit, white-walled public institution is a challenge. In May, the city kick-started the "nightshift" program that rotates Friday-night concerts between four community centres. It's funded by the Attorney General's Ministry. Those gigs have successfully attracted a different clique of teens, who fill a room of 50 to 100 or 150 strong.

And, this will please council, there's no complaints about noise.

But those events are sporadic (the nightshift concerts occur once a month at four community centres) and funding for other events is limited.



NOT QUITE AN ENTERTAINER but Jeff Campbell, the youth coordinator at South Arm community centre, is doing his bit to get youths out of parks and indoors. (photo by Mark Patrick)

The \$20,000 government grant pays for one part-time employee. (The city hopes to increase that to two employees this fall.)

Jeff Campbell, the youth coordinator at South Arm community centre, said he tries everything from offering free pizza and snacks to organizing a video game tournament, to get youths to stop loitering.

Campbell stressed that authorities can only do so much to keep youths from being rowdy. Ultimately, the youths themselves must decide what direction their lives will take.

Parents too must take on more responsibility in knowing what their kids are up to at night, he said.

But while other cities have bitten the financial bullet and set up a free-standing youth centre,

that's won't happen in Richmond. The city briefly considered that three years ago but found the experience in other cities was that only those youths who live in a mile-and-a-half radius hang out there, said Mike Kirk, the city's director of recreation and cultural services.

Better then to use the dispersed community centres, he said.

"We want to provide alternative to the kids," he said Wednesday. "(But) There are always going to be youth who choose to be on the street."

Added Yee, "One of the problems you have with a youth centre is that you can have one group of youths who go there all the time, and everybody says 'well those guys are hanging out and I'm not going there, those guys are

FAST FACTS:

- The city spends \$175,000 a year on its youth services, which pays for special events, a full-time youth coordinator (Wayne Yee), plus cost-sharing for five community centre youth coordinators. (Community associations cough up about \$85,000 for its share.)
- In contrast, the city spends \$350,000 on its seniors. That money pays for four full-time and about six part-time employees, plus maintenance and operating costs for the seniors' centre.
- Most community centres can only afford to stay open until 9 or 10 p.m. unless it hosts a music event in which it will stay open until 1 a.m.

geeks."

Other youth programs include:

- On the night of July 29 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. youths will spray paint whatever they like at Richmond Skateboard Park.
- Blister in the Sun: the second annual out-door music fest at Woodward's Landing in Steveston.

• Nightshift: a program started in May that keeps community centres open until 1 a.m., and features local bands. It rotates between four community centres.

• Youth week: a large music concert during International Youth Week that saw between 1,000 and 1,300 youths at the Richmond Arenas.

FESTIVAL from B1

Event puts focus on music, food, friends

Organizers say other youth-oriented projects may overlook some factions, but Blister in the Sun should have wide appeal.

Last year, more than 700 young people attended the first festival to hear numerous bands play at the site on Woodward's Landing near the Steveston Highway. There were no incidents of any violence. Organizers say they are expecting a similar turnout this year.

Wayne Yee, coordinator of youth services for the city of Richmond, said that some youth-oriented projects in the past have overlooked a certain population. While sporting activities and special events are suitable for some youths, many are more interested in playing and listening to music than anything else, he said.

"We started to learn a few years ago that if we want to reach out and provide things for all youth, we can't just be sticking to basketball and badminton and athletics," Yee said. "Youth have interests in a lot of different areas and we need to be programming around that as well."

Yee said the prime interests of young people are food, music and friends, and this event hopes to capitalize on all three.

Tameem Barakat, an event coordinator for the city of Richmond, is heavily involved in the festival this year. Barakat has experience in providing alternative options for youth and believes that Blister in the Sun will offer a positive outlet for young people. The event is named after a hit song by the Violent Femmes about teenage angst.

The groups at this year's festival will play everything from rock to ska to punk, along with various DJ acts. Bigger bands such as Dog Eat Dogma and JP5 will play alongside smaller acts like The Salteens and Crowned King.

The chance to play in front of a live crowd should benefit the performers, said Barakat.

"There's a lot of focus and emphasis on youth issues right now, like what are they going to do with their time," he said. "So we figured this is a perfect platform for them and a good learning experience."

ICBC is providing a \$2,500 community grant toward the event and presenting Road Sense demonstrations on the

Festival karma **77**
"If peace and love is the mood, then so be it. As long as they're not looting and rioting."
Tameem Barakat,
City of Richmond event coordinator

site. Young people can also try out the "fatal-vision goggles" to learn about the hazards of driving while impaired. ICBC's focus will be to promote safe driving to youth at the festival, said Jobina Bardai, who works at ICBC as part of the youth employment initiative.

"It's such a major event in the city of Richmond for youth that it was an excellent opportunity to get on board and target an audience that's very important to ICBC," said Bardai.

A local Pizza Hut will sell food on the site and feed the volunteers. Local arts and crafts will be sold at the festival, along with tie-dyed shirts and hemp jewelry. Proceeds from a barbecue on the site



READY FOR RICHMOND: The second annual Blister in the Sun festival will be held August 14. Band members of groups Malchiks and Essence (above) will be playing at the event.

will go toward the Kosovar relief effort.

Barakat said the comparisons to Woodstock are appropriate, but the festival tends to generate its own atmosphere of youth celebration.

"If peace and love is the

mood, then so be it," he said. "As long as they're not looting and rioting."

Tickets to Blister in the Sun are \$5 at the gate and the festival runs from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday. For more information or to volunteer call 640-0653 or 276-4107.

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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Prepare to jam ... Mike Hooton, left, Darren Robinson and Alex Roque are three of the five members of Gladys Patches. The local band is playing at the Blister in the Sun concert on Aug. 14 at Woodward's Landing. Free shuttle buses will take concert-goers to the festival site.

ODLINWOOD Social housing project approved

By DENISE TOM
Special to the News

Richmond will see its fourth social housing project built within the next year, B.C. Housing announced Thursday.

The \$8.5-million project will build 48 units in the Odlinwood subdivision off of Alderbridge Way. It will be a mixed-family housing project, catering to low-income families, says Rozy Jivraj, administrator of the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation.

There are two other social housing units in Richmond — one in Terra Nova and the other on General Currie and Garden City roads. A third one in Steveston is not yet done, says David McLellan, the city's general manager of urban development.

Construction on the Odlinwood project is expected to begin in November. It should be completed by late next year, says McLellan, who thinks there is "definitely" a need for more social housing projects like this in Richmond.

City Coun. Bill McNulty agrees.

"I'm very pleased about the announcement," he says. "Any time you can have another social housing project, it's a good thing. It's a very positive step."

He says Odlinwood was chosen because the city owns a piece of land there, and it's a new subdivision that is really starting to blossom. McNulty is not concerned that there could be potential problems in the area, where a few months ago residents regularly

see *Housing* page 2

Get ready for a blistering good time

Blister in the Sun, an all-ages outdoor concert, is back for the second year

By DENISE TOM
Special to the News

Start with several Richmond youth who love music and are willing to take on a huge project.

Find a large park. Get together about 10 bands. Find a bunch of sponsors for the show. Charge next-to-nothing for admission.

The result?

Richmond's own version of Woodstock, entitled Blister in the Sun.

The second annual event takes place Aug. 14 from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Woodward's Landing, bringing together rock, punk, ska and DJ acts.

The concert will showcase larger, more well-established bands, like punk groups Dog Eat Dogma, and

JPS and local ska favourites, The Malchiks.

Playing with these big bands will be smaller local acts ranging from the pop-rock of Electrolyte, to the heavy metal of Spread.

Also present will be the alternative metal band Essence, the ska-flavoured Crowned King, heavy hip hop metal from Gladys Patches, and Koark, which

one of the festival's organizers, Tameem Barakat, describes as "heavy, heavy, heavy, heavy."

Koark actually played at last month's Vans Warped Tour after winning a battle of the bands competition.

On top of the music, there will also be a number of other activities. In between the sets, DJs will spin some tunes.

As well, people can participate in hemp jewelry making, henna hand painting, T-shirt tie-dyeing, art trading cards, painting picket fences for Richmond's community garden or taking in the demonstrations from the ICBC booth.

All activities are included in the cost of admission.

"Five bucks gets you see *Blister* page 2

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News

Blister: Concert organizers expect big crowd

Continued from page 1 everything except for the food," says Barakat.

There will be a barbecue and Pizza Hut will sell food. All proceeds from the barbecue will go towards the Kosovar Refugees Relief Fund.

"We get funding from the city youth program to make it happen," says Liz Hardwick. City Centre youth

co-ordinator, also one of the festival's organizers. "The most important thing is for young people to get to it," she says, saying that by charging such a small fee, it is still affordable for youth, unlike many of the other large mainstream festivals which charge at least \$30 per ticket.

Last year, about 700 youth checked out the festi-

val. This year, organizers are hoping for even more.

"(Last year) was totally successful," says Hardwick. "This year, we're really riding on the success of last year. All the people that didn't make it out to last year's show definitely heard about it."

She is hoping that word-of-mouth about how well the show went last year will help

draw an even bigger crowd this year.

"It was a lot of fun," says Mike Hooton, guitarist for Gladys Patches, who also performed at last year's show. "It worked out really well for the band."

Another Richmond band, Essence, is hoping that next year they can say the same thing for their band. Singer and guitarist Grant

McKenzie says he is looking forward to the show.

"It should be fun," he says.

Hardwick says one of the big reasons for the show is to promote Richmond's live music scene, which is blossoming right now. Of the nine bands currently confirmed for the show, six are local.

A free shuttle bus service

going to and from the festival will be running from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. Pick-up will be at Steveston Community Centre every hour on the hour, at South Arm Community Centre 15 minutes later, and also at Ironwood Plaza 20 minutes past every hour. Tickets are \$5 and available at the gate. The show will go rain or shine.

The Sun Gods

Pray for good weather because local youths are gearing up for their own summer concert. (p.s. If you're over 30, stay away.)

Philip Raphael
contributor

Call it a mini Woodstock or a semi-Lollipalooza.

But whatever appellation you end up hanging on the Blister in the Sun live music event at Woodward's Landing Park on Aug. 14, local youth can call it their own.

It is the only outdoor music show focused principally at Richmond teens. And it's about time, according to youths and their city guardians, who are gearing up for the second annual outdoor concert.

"A lot of youths we work with said there is nothing for them to do in the city," said Wayne Yee, the city's coordinator of youth services. "That's their perception and ultimately their reality, so we organized an outdoor event that was focused specifically on them."

"We do a number of music gigs for youth at the community centres during the year, but this is the only outdoor music event we have."



Traditionally, Richmond holds a youth festival in May, making an outdoor-based event difficult to organize because of unpredictable weather at that time of year.

Last year it drew approximately a crowd 700 strong. A total of 10 bands are scheduled to perform next Saturday, starting at 1 p.m. The last band should take to the stage at around 11 p.m.

Headliners at the event include Malchiks, J.P. S, Dog Eat Dogma and Gladys Patches. They will be supplemented by another six bands including local alternative metal band "Essence".

"This will probably be the biggest show we've played so far, so we've been practicing a little more to get ready for it," said Essence bass player Grant McKenzie who also believes an event like this benefits both the music-lovers and bands.

"The whole thing is a great idea. It gives kids someplace to hear a lot of different bands and it gives the bands a chance to play in front of a pretty big crowd. It also helps us build a fan base, and hopefully some "big wigs" in the music industry will hear us."

In addition to the music fest, a number of side attractions will be featured as "Blistergoers" can tie dye t-shirts, get their hands painted with henna or make their own art trading cards.

BIG CROWDS AWAIT

Grant McKenzie, in foreground, and Giles Panton, base player and drummer of the metal group Essence at this year's Blister in the Sun outdoor rock concert. Ten bands are on the bill at the second annual music festival at Woodward's Landing on Aug. 14. (photo by Mark Patrick)

Getting to the event - located at Woodward's Landing on Dyke Road near the foot of No. 4 Road - should be pretty easy, Yee said. Shuttle buses will be available from the Steveston, South Arm and Ironwood Plaza. Those preferring to take their own transportation can park at the London Drugs warehouse located at 12831 Horseshoe Way. From there, the event site is a short walk along a city trail.

The gates open at 12 p.m. and tickets are \$5. Proceeds from an on-site barbecue will be donated to the Kosovar refugees fund.

More information is available by calling 276-4110 or 718-1367.

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MUSIC

Festival goes on despite soggy weather

BY DENISE TOM
Special to the News

The weather was the only downer Saturday for close to 600 people who took in Blister in the Sun, an outdoor music festival organized by Richmond youth.

The overcast skies held off the rain for the majority of the day, but it got a bit patchy when the bigger bands were scheduled to play, says Tameem Barakat, one of the festival's organizers.

In fact, for a little while toward the end of the show, Barakat was afraid they would have to shut down the show early because of the rain.

Luckily, the rain subsided and the show finished, with all 10 bands completing their sets. Most of the bands were local, except for two of the headliners, JP5 and Dog Eat Dogma. Ten Days Late, a seasoned local female punk group, entered the line-up after another group, The Salteens, dropped out due to touring scheduling conflicts.

"We rocked until about 11," says Barakat. By then, the crowds were tired from a long day, as were organizers. They left the clean-up for Sunday, when they really got hit with the rain.

But even then, the volunteers were very helpful. Barakat says several people called him and offered to

For the most part, the show went off without a hitch.

"It was really smooth," says Barakat. "Nobody confiscated anything at the gate." In fact, aside from the poor weather and the few beer bottles scattered on the grounds, the only real incident to report had to do with one of the attractions, Candyman.

Candyman was dressed up in an outfit with candy stuck to it. He ran out periodically into the crowd

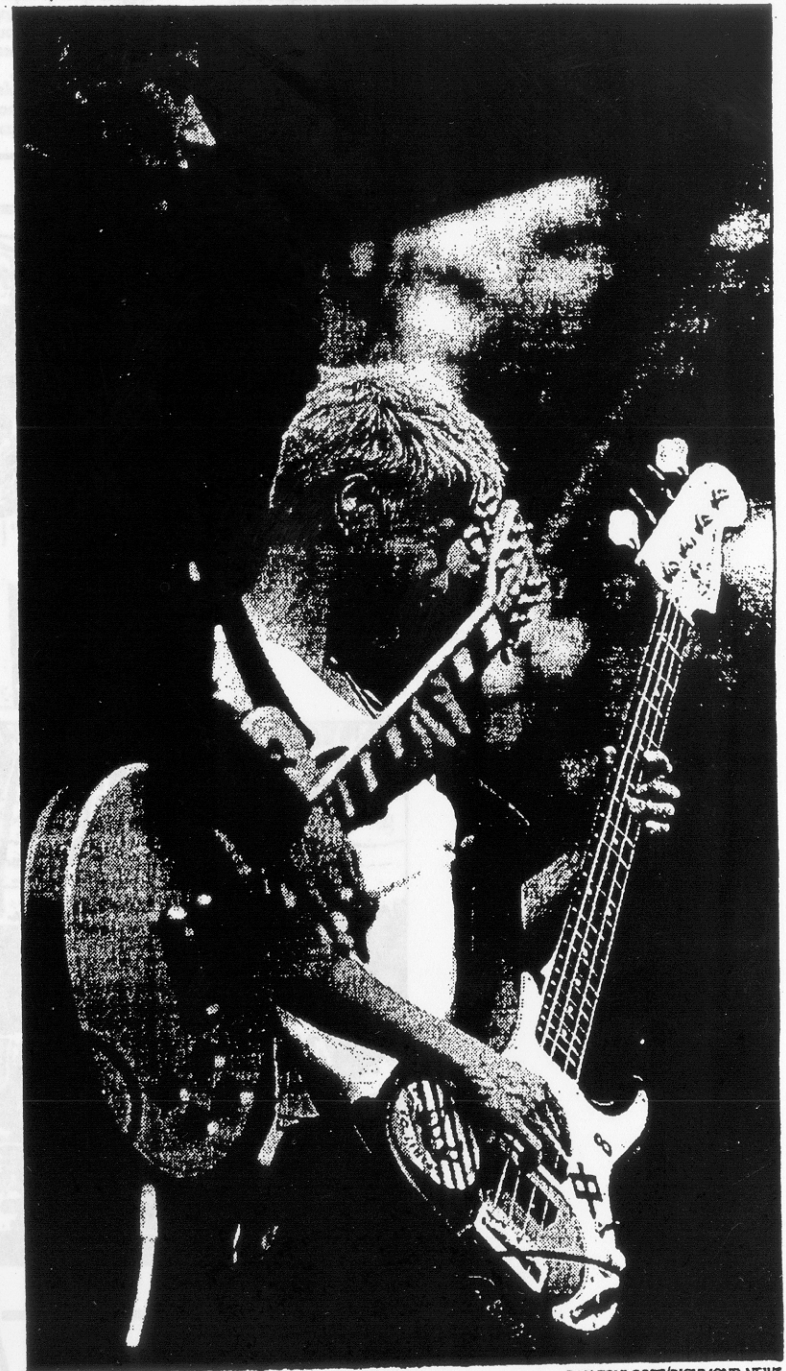
"Candyman got kneed to the head and still made it out there for another round."

— Tameem Barakat

which then attacked him for candy. As dangerous as it sounds, it wasn't too barbaric. Except for the one time when an over-zealous concert-goer kneed Candyman and left him with a scar to tell a very interesting story. But even that didn't make him hang up the suit.

"Candyman got kneed to the head and still made it out there for another round," says Barakat.

Through pain and rain, the second annual Blister in the Sun made it



DAN TOULGOET/RICHMOND NEWS

Blistering performance ... The Ten Days Late bass player was really into it Saturday at the second annual Blister in the Sun music festival.

WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT

Youth flocking to Friday evening drop-in

*"First they ignore you.
Then they laugh at you.
Then they fight you.
Then you win."
-Gandhi*

Don Fennell
staff reporter

Tameem Barakat is concerned about Richmond's future. But rather than sit back and wait to see how it unfolds, he's taking an active role in helping to shape it.

As a program coordinator for the city's newest youth initiative, Night Shift, Barakat hopes to not only inspire tomorrow's adults but also learn more about their challenges today.

It's a major undertaking, but Barakat and colleague Shana Springman are convinced the program can blossom in the right environment.

"We're trying to offer as many different things as we can to widen the scope of kids we attract," he says.

Night Shift is a variation of Nights Alive, a program that got its start in the mid-1980s as an inner-city initiative in Washington state. It was intended as an alternative for gang members.

"A lot of times kids are looking for role models but they may not even necessarily know it," Barakat suggests. "Or they may not tell you outwardly but you see it in their mannerisms."

Barakat lost a good friend earlier this year who was involved in gang activity. He says his friend wasn't a bad person, but simply chose the wrong path.

"He was a university drop out," says Barakat, who believes if youth are given positive direction in their lives they will eventually find their way.

One of the objectives of Night Shift is to help youth set their own definitions of who they are. And that, he says, is reinforced by those around them.

Now 23, Barakat can easily relate. It was through playing at local community centres that he decided to become a musician. And

now in his capacity as a program coordinator he's extending the same opportunities to today's youth.

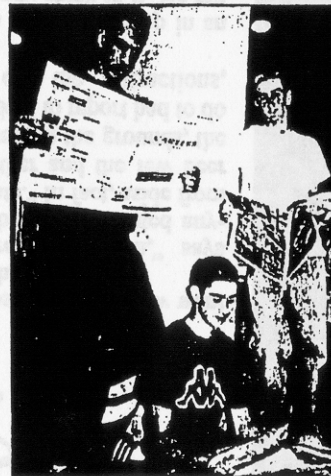
Listening to a live band while hanging out is also popular with the other kids, he says.

"You can't have a band and invite 40 people over to your house, so this is a great alternative." Speaking of alternative, he says it's equally important

to help promote a range of musical tastes as well as popular culture. He even suggests having a graffiti art exhibit.

Night Shift supervisor Wayne Yee is largely responsible for the program's launch last May. Coordinator of youth services for the city of Richmond, he pulled together representatives from a variety of community

See NIGHT Page 13



BANDING TOGETHER:

Richmond's up and coming young bands are finding a place to play at the city's Night Shift youth drop-in program. Drawing a bead are Swerve (above), including members Michael Nagy, Dan Newman, Isaac Dumont, Mark Nagy and David Komadowski. Scanning the headlines are Local Media Types, including Faizal Karim, Kenny Hall and Tim Arnold. (photos by Mark Patrick)



NIGHT SHIFT coordinators Tameem Barakat and Shana Springman are helping provide an alternative hangout for local youth. (photo by Mark Patrick)

NIGHT

From Page 11

service agency who understood the issues facing young people and who could provide input and direction.

They met several times last winter to consider how to improve opportunities for youth and determined that a program was needed after 10 or 11 when the movies let out and they had

no where to go.

"Albeit while it's only one night (Friday) right now, Night Shift is better than nothing," says Yee.

An annual \$20,000 grant from the Ministry of the Attorney General's community programs division and permission from the city to use the community centres after hours allows the program to operate.

For a \$2 drop-in fee, or purchasing a \$5 member-

ship, kids are invited to hang out from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. every other Friday at Thompson, Steveston, and Cambie Community Centres and every third weekend at West Richmond and South Arm.

"We look at this program as another way of reaching out to youth who are not traditional users of our services," Yee explains. "Not all youth are interested in sports which does a

good job of providing opportunities. We're also hoping this serves as a vehicle to help them gain self-confidence. Once an individual has an opportunity to develop self-confidence and esteem it strengthens their resolve and how society looks at them."

The level of funding for seniors is three times greater than for youth. But particular youth's time may be for a shorter

period, there will always be youth to reach out to, Yee says.

"Sometimes we have to reach these kids early for them to realize the special skills they have. Even gang leaders show incredible leadership skills, that's why they thrive in that environment. We want to channel those energies and skills in a more positive way."

Yee says he also hopes programs like Night Shift

will help alter public perception of today's youth — allowing them to realize that the colour of their hair or wearing a nose ring is just a reflection of a changing culture.

"As a society we need to watch less TV and not believe what we see in movies. If people talked to these kids they'd learn they have the same dreams and aspirations and laugh and cry just like everybody else."

KIDS WANNA ROCK



ROCK ON: The fifth annual Rockfest was held Saturday at Steveston community centre, with local and regional bands providing the entertainment. At left, Derek Rathy, singer-guitarist with the Nanaimo band Side Show performs while a small audience of youth looks on (below). Above, drummer Gavin Dew from the band Blunt Trauma lays down a beat. (photos by Mark Patrick)



Teens Can Make a Difference

By Abby Swansburg, Earl Marriott, Surrey - Gr. 9

As a peer leader at Earl Marriott, I arranged to have a guest speaker visit my class. When I arranged Jade Bell's presentation, I wasn't really sure what had happened to him or what his presentation was all about. Was I ever in for a shock!

Jade started drinking when he was 11. He started using drugs when he was 15 after his brother, his mentor, died. By the time he was 16, he had already been to prison twice, and was heavily into drugs. The first time he overdosed, he was 21. That happened twice in the same year, but he still did not learn his lesson. When he was 23, he had a lethal injection of cocaine mixed with heroin, as well as consuming 3 Caesars, 7 White Russians, 2 Crantinis and 15 beer. This caused him to collapse from a very serious overdose. He was deprived of oxygen for 15 minutes before the Narcan kicked in. Jade fell into a coma. His physical and cognitive

abilities do not function as well as they did before. The messages that are sent to his brain do not reach there because the "bridge" was

many lives that we decided we wanted to help. We wanted to let him know how thankful we were that he is willing and able to talk to so many kids in hopes that they will learn from his mistakes.

Our peer leadership class decided we would like to help Jade. He mentioned that a complicated operation could improve his condition. Unfortunately, the operation is only performed in

German and is a whopping \$80,000. That is a fair amount of money for one person to save. That is where I would like you to come in. As a student of Earl Marriott and a person who was touched by Jade's words, I am asking for your help to raise money for Jade Bell's operation.

At Earl Marriott, we have already held a pizza day and all of the proceeds went towards Jade. All I can say is, if you took the time to read this article, then please take the time to write us an email. Just give us your name and what school you are from and we will send you some information on how to get Jade into your school, or how to give donations. Please contact us at:

hunoumi@hotmail.com



Jade Bell

Abby Swansburg

damaged. Jade cannot speak and uses a computer to communicate, which is accessed through tapping out Morse code on his head switches. Instead of sitting around and grieving the loss of his sight and movement, he decided to do something about the growing heroin problem. As he said in his speech, "I am only here to preach, no, no, no, I am only here to teach."

When Jade came and presented at our school, he opened so many eyes and his words changed so

Environmental Youth Corps Wins Award

Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt of Richmond has awarded the Environmental Youth Corps with a general achievement award. In 1999 the EYC worked with the city of Richmond to create the city's first Community Garden. This has been so successful that there are more than 70 people waiting for plots. Congratulations to the members of the Environmental Youth Corps!

For more information about the Richmond Community Garden please phone 244-1208.

THE NIGHTSHIFT EXPERIENCE

by Athena Davis and Brandy Landry, Cambie, Richmond

Youth need a place where they can be themselves and have fun at the same time. Night Shift gives us the place and the chance to be unique. Youth can show off the talents they know they have, and also discover new and exciting ones. What better way to do this than to have a program run for youth, by youth.

In our experience, Night Shift has given us the chance to meet new and interesting people, hang with friends and express our individuality, without being judged. It is a place where you won't be discriminated against for things that you may not do so well. The cliques that you would normally see in a school

environment are virtually non-existent here. The atmosphere is comfortable and safe. We, ourselves, have made a number of new friends that we probably wouldn't talk to in a different environment.

Night Shift takes place in community centers around Richmond. We are involved in the Cambie Night Shift program and there are other programs in other community centers as well. We have found Night Shift to be an intriguing experience for all sorts of people and so we salute it in saying: "Here's to kids who are different ...it's their difference that makes them unique." (Digby Wolfe, *Kids Who are Different*)

...a program run for youth, by youth.

Did you know...?

28% of youth (15-24 years) volunteer in British Columbia. For more information about volunteering contact your career centre or visit this website:

<http://www.vd.gov.bc.ca> provided by the Ministry of

Plumish Juncus

Nights Alive



hosting games in the City of Richmond.



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