



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: Access to Sports, Cultural and Recreational Activities
Date: April 28, 2005
File:

Staff Recommendation

That the following be received for information.

K Sparrow

Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
(4129)

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER					
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REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
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Staff Report

Origin

At the March 14, 2005 meeting of Council, staff was asked to supply information on how federal, provincial and municipal governments support access to sports, cultural and other recreational activities for those children whose families cannot afford fees.

Analysis

Federal/National

There is no ongoing Federal funding provided to the City that is designated specifically for recreation activities.

At a national level, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) is involved in several initiatives regarding access to activities for low income families. The City of Richmond is involved with several CPRA initiatives including two research projects – Youth in Poverty and Women on Low Income and **Everybody gets to play™**. The **Everybody gets to play™** initiative is a multi-year national initiative to enhance the quality of life of Canadian children in low-income families through increased access to and participation in recreation opportunities. Through this initiative, CPRA is creating awareness of the issue and providing tools to help mobilize communities to provide recreation without barriers for children and youth without means. As a result of this work, CPRA has built a strong relationship with the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families. Meetings with Canadian Tire have been scheduled in mid-May to discuss funding opportunities that will benefit Richmond residents.

At the CPRA annual general meeting in Fall 2004, Richmond staff were successful in proposing a resolution for CPRA aimed at lobbying the federal government to eliminate the sales tax on “active lifestyle” merchandise for those aged 18 and under. Also, the resolution was passed by provincial chapters for those organizations to lobby provincial governments for the same tax incentive.

Provincial

There is no ongoing direct Provincial funding provided to the City that is designated specifically for recreation activities.

Ministry of Human Resources clients who receive income assistance funding from the provincial government are eligible for a “Camp Fee Subsidy”. This is an annual subsidy of a maximum \$200 toward one program used during the summer.

A proposal was being prepared for the provincial government to provide tax incentives to parents who put their children into community sports programs. Christy Clark, MLA for Port Moody–Westwood, was championing SportBreak BC, a proposal calling for the Premier and Government of British Columbia to enact a British Columbia Participation Income Tax Credit for parents of young British Columbians involved in organized athletics or recreational activities. This private members bill was not addressed in the legislature before the house broke so the plan is to reintroduce it in the fall of 2005.

In February 2005, Council supported this proposal by resolution of recommendation that the City send a letter to the three local MLA's, the Premier of the Province and the Minister of Sport for Canada, advising of Richmond's support for an initiative that would create a tax credit for parents who make expenditures on registration and equipment fees for children participating in minor sports, art, music, dance and drama programs. (Attachment 1)

The provincial government has committed \$1.2 million to Action Schools! BC, an initiative designed to help children become more physically active. This initiative joins other programs across Canada developed in direct response to awareness that children's health outcomes are directly related to their level of physical activity. Our role is bridging the gap between activity in the schools and activity at home or in the community. Over the past two years, Richmond has been actively partnering with Action Schools! BC to pilot this initiative. Recreation information binders have been developed and then distributed to local schools. 'Get Richmond Moving' has commenced. This initiative integrates 5 minutes of physical activity into all parks, recreation and cultural programs. Training for programmers and instructors has been developed, summer action kits prepared for summer leaders and a staff activity challenge will be taking place.

The City of Richmond has also been an active participant in an initiative funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development titled Richmond Children First. This is a community partnership that brings together all sectors in the community to focus on the service delivery system for young children up to age 6 and their families.

Municipal Government

Municipalities have accepted the responsibility of providing recreation for citizens although it is not mandated at any level of government.

Currently, as part of the master planning process, a policy is being developed that addresses issues of access for Richmond residents. This policy will be a guide for addressing issues that affect our residents in low-income situations who have difficulty affording recreation opportunities. After consultation with community partners and stakeholders, a draft policy will be presented to Council.

The City of Richmond offers the Recreation Fee Subsidy program that helps reduce the registration cost for activities at community facilities. Sources of funding include both City of Richmond and community associations.

In addition, 3 free swim visits per child per year and 3 free skate passes are distributed through the schools. The rate of return on swimming passes is approximately 25% and skate passes is 10%. With each set of swim lessons that children register for, they also receive one free swim practice pass.

In 2004, over \$88,500 in financial subsidies and free activity passes was provided to children and families to assist with access to programs and activities, \$65,000 contributed by the City and \$23,500 by community associations. The Recreation Fee Subsidy program will be revisited upon completion of the access policy to look for ways to enhance the program.

Program Opportunities:

ROAR (Richmond's Opportunities for Affordable Recreation) is a seasonal guide distributed to health nurses, libraries, community centres and social service agencies. (Attachment 2)

Programming at community recreation facilities includes many free and low cost opportunities for participants. Examples of this would include summertime Free Park programs, Open Gyms, Family Sundays at the Art Gallery, Concerts in the Park and many more.

Raise the Roof is a project taking recreation program opportunities out to low income housing complexes to provide opportunity and create awareness of activities for residents as well as creating community connections.

Special events that are free and low cost are offered in the community. The 2nd annual Playday will take place on July 23, providing the opportunity for families to explore and celebrate play. This event is designed for 3-10 year olds and offers a 5-hour day of free family fun.

Community Organizations:

Many of the minor sport organizations within Richmond offer subsidies available to residents who cannot afford to pay full registration costs. This generally takes place through a full subsidy, a reduction to an affordable cost, or a trading of volunteer time in lieu of registration. As part of the Sports Strategy, future service agreements with affiliated minor sports groups will include a clause to ensure opportunities are provided for individuals who cannot afford full registration fees. Some sport organizations also offer equipment exchanges or used equipment sales that allow for the purchase of lower priced but still usable equipment.

In addition to this, Sport BC co-ordinates a charitable fund, KIDSPORT, that will pay up to \$100/child per year for registration costs for minor sport registration for eligible children. KIDSPORT estimates \$6-10,000 annually is provided to Richmond children and youth participating in a full range of sports.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond ensures a variety of activities and opportunities are available to residents who live in low-income situations. Long term planning, current initiatives and work plans demonstrate the City's ongoing commitment to enable access for those residents who have difficulty affording opportunities.



Sean Davies
Diversity Services Coordinator
(4390)

SD:sd

February 17, 2005

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Office of the Premier
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell:

Re: Development of Tax Credits for Parents Who Contribute Financially to Their Child's Participation in Sports, Art, Music, Dance and Drama Programs

Please be advised that on Monday, February 14th, 2005 the following resolution was adopted by Richmond City Council:

“That the City send a letter to the three local MLA’s, the Premier of the Province and the Minister of Sport for Canada, advising of Richmond’s support for an initiative that would create a tax credit for parents who make expenditures on registration and equipment fees for children participating in minor sports, art, music, dance and drama programs.”

The above resolution was brought forward in support of the position taken by the City of Port Moody on October 12th, 2004 on this matter.

By way of background to Richmond’s position, Council recognizes the value of sport in shaping the character of the community and the nation. Council also acknowledges the physical and social benefits to children and youth achieved through sport and cultural program participation. Lower health costs, respect for others, team work, increased self-esteem and the acquisition of life-skills are among the benefits derived from such participation.

In addition, the City also recognizes that without the financial and volunteer efforts provided by parents of children in sport programs, the number of elite athletes representing Canada would be diminished. The proposed tax credit will alleviate some of these expenditures.

I trust you will add the City of Richmond's support to the groundswell of public opinion in favour of this initiative of your government.

Yours truly,

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

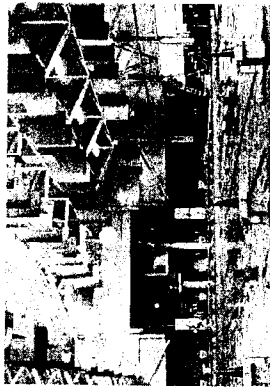
- c. The Hon. Geoff Plant, MLA
- The Hon. Linda Reid, MLA
- Greg Halsey-Brandt, MLA
- The Hon. Stephen Owen, Minister of State (Sport)
- Mayor Joe Trasolini, City of Port Moody

Aquatics

Watermania (wave pool, slides, playground) and Minoru Aquatic Centre are indoor pools. South Arm Pool and Steveston Pool are outdoor pools available for public swimming. Individual and family rates available. Please call 604-276-4300 for more information.

Watermania

14300 Entertainment Blvd 604-448-5553
7560 Minoru Gate 604-718-8020



Arena Services

Richmond has two arenas. Richmond Ice Centre and Minoru Arenas, that have times available for public skating. A number of games and activities are available for viewing. Please call 604-276-4300 for more information.



Library

Brighthouse (Cultural Centre), Steveston and Ironwood Libraries provide access to informational, educational, cultural and recreational materials and services in a variety of formats and technologies. Free use of computers, books, videos and CD's. For more information call 604-231-6405 or www.yourlibrary.ca.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds and sport fields are located throughout Richmond. Phone a community centre in your area for availability and exact locations.

Richmond Trails

Our popular waterfront and interior trails and designated bike lanes provide excellent opportunities for residents to discover the treasures of "Richmond Island City. By Nature". Walk, jog, or cycle over 40 kilometres of trails that feature marsh and river habitats, beaches, sloughs, bog forests, agricultural landscapes, and distant mountain and island views.

London Heritage Farm

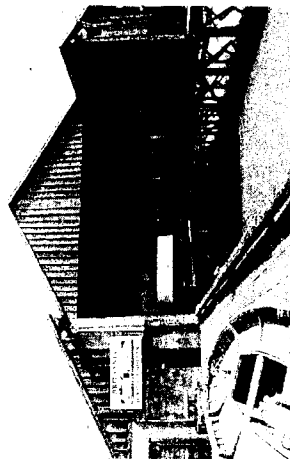
Restored 1906 farmhouse with barn, gardens, and displays situated across the road from sandy beaches and marshes. Saturday and Sunday afternoon tea served.

Iona Beach Regional Park

Located at the north end of Sea Island, Iona features a 4 km jetty for walking and cycling that extends out into the Strait of Georgia.

Britannia Heritage Shipyards

Over 8 acres of a historic waterfront park with turn-of-the-century cannery residence, boat works, shipyard, board walk, marsh and Murikami Visitor Centre. Self guided tours available



Eliminating Barriers

Recreation Fee Subsidy Program

The Fee Subsidy Program enhances access to recreation by providing assistance to people who are in financial need. Subsidies are given for admissions and program registration in Richmond's community centres, cultural centre, aquatic centres and arenas. For details, please contact Recreation and Cultural Services Central Office at 604-276-4107. *An income test is required to determine eligibility.*

Where to Look & Ways to Register

- **Recreation and Culture Guide** – available at any recreation facility
- **Recreation and Cultural Services**
Department Central Office 604-276-4107
- **Registration Call Centre** 604-276-4300
- **Website** - www.city.richmond.bc.ca/leisure/

Richmond Recreation Facilities

Community Centres

- Cambie Community Centre* 604-233-8399
- City Centre* 604-233-8910
- Hamilton Community Centre* 604-718-8055
- Sea Island Community Centre* 604-718-8000
- South Arm Community Centre* 8880 Williams Road 604-718-8060
- Steveston Community Centre* 4111 Moncton Street 604-718-8080
- Thompson Community Centre* 5151 Granville Avenue 604-718-8422
- West Richmond Community Centre* 9180 No. 1 Road 604-718-8400

Recreation & Cultural Services

- Britannia Heritage Shipyard* 5180 Westwater Drive 604-718-8050
- Richmond Fitness Centre* 7191 Granville Avenue 604-718-8004
- Minoru Place Seniors Centre* 7660 Minoru Gate 604-718-8450
- Richmond Cultural Centre* (Art Gallery, Arts Centre, Museum) 7700 Minoru Gate 604-231-6457
- Richmond Nature Park* 11851 Westminster Highway 604-718-6188



ROAR

Richmond Opportunities for Affordable Recreation



"A guide to inexpensive, family recreation opportunities in Richmond"

Spring 2005

City of Richmond
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
www.city.richmond.bc.ca

Special Events

Multifest

Flavours and activities of East Richmond's multicultural community.

Cambie Community Centre

Sun June 12 12:30-5:00pm Free

Envirofair

In conjunction with Multifest, an event to raise public awareness about the environment.

Cambie Community Centre

Sun June 12 12:30-5:00pm Free

Island City, by Bike Tour

Discover some of Richmond's cycling routes with your choice of short and long rides.

Britannia Heritage Shipyard

Sun June 12 10:00am-3:00pm Free

Thompson Community Picnic

An outdoor evening for the entire family featuring carnival games, face painting, community information booths, and free hotdogs. Please pre-register.

Thompson Community Centre

Thu June 16 6:00-8:00pm Free

Hamilton Festival

Join your community for a BBQ, games, rides, talent show, smiles and more!

Hamilton Community Centre

Fri June 17 5:30-9:00pm Free

Burkville Daze

Join the community of Burkville for their annual community celebration. Parade starts at 3:00pm.

Burkville Park

Sun June 26 3:00-6:00pm Free

Sea Island Community Centre

Sun June 26 2:00-7:00pm

Richmond PlayDay

A free family fun event celebrating play and the fun, freedom and learning that naturally comes with it.

South Arm Park

Sat July 23 11:00am-4:00pm Free

Nature Park Activities

Animal Show

Meet the small collection of live animals.

Sundays 3:00-4:00pm Free

Interpretive Walks

Explore the bog with a nature interpreter.

Sundays 2:00-3:00pm Free

Bugs for Dinner Talk and Tasting

Come and learn about the world-wide dietary habit of eating insects.

Wed June 8 7:00-8:30pm Free

Garage Sale & Swap Meet

Garage Sale

Open to a broader range of items. Come out and shop without emptying your wallet.

Minoru Place Activity Centre

Sat May 7 10:00am-3:00pm

Car Boot Sale

A garage sale out of the trunks of cars. Come check out the great deals. Call the specific community centre for more information.

Steveston Community Centre

Sun May 15 9:00am-12:00pm

South Arm Community Centre

Sat May 31 10:00am-2:00pm

Thompson Community Centre

Sat June 18 9:00am-12:00pm

Kids Only Swap Meet

Find some great buys for your children. If you'd like to sell child-related items purchase a table. Call the specific community centre for more information.

West Richmond Community Centre

Sun June 5 10:00am-2:00pm

East Richmond Farmers Market and

Agricultural Festival

Over 20 vendors of organic and conventional produce, honey, baked goods, prepared foods, specialty meat, dairy products and craft items.

Cambie Community Centre

Sun June 12-Oct 9 10:00am-2:00pm

Environment Week

Pond Dipping

Peek beneath the surface to discover the organisms that live above, below and around the pond.

Minoru Park

Mon May 30 5:00-7:00pm Free TH-22280 5-12yrs

Papermaking

Design your own handcrafted paper using recycled materials. Space is limited so register early!

West Richmond Community Centre

Free Sat June 4 10:00-11:30am WR-28000

Recycled Art

Come create art projects using recycled materials.

Richmond Arts Centre

Tues June 7 3:30-5:30pm Free AR-24080 6-12yrs

Nature Walk at Britannia

Join naturalist Hugh Griffith for a nature walk about the plants and animals of the Fraser River Estuary.

Britannia Heritage Shipyard

Sun June 12 10:30-11:30am Free NP-25722 12+yrs

Nature Bike Ride

Take a guided bike ride along Richmond's West Dyke and learn the natural history of the area. Helmets are mandatory.

Terra Nova Park

Sat June 18 10:30am-12:00pm Free WR-28001

First Nations Cook Pit

First Nations style cook pit. Enjoy a botanical hike while the vegetables are steaming.

Garry Point Park

Sat June 25 11:00am-4:30pm Free ST-24905

Family Sundays – Arts and Crafts

Parents and children will explore making art together in a casual and creative environment.

Cultural Centre -Art Gallery

Sun May 26, June 23 1:00-4:00pm Free

Play Time – Parent and Tot

Variety of activities including crafts, stories and climbing equipment. Offered weekly.

Hamilton

Tue 10:15-11:45am Free

Sea Island

Tue 9:30-11:30am Free

Steveston

T/Th 9:00-10:00am Free

Thompson

Tue 6:30-7:30pm Free

Drop-In Hockey

Come out and enjoy an early morning game of hockey. For adults over 19 yrs.

Richmond Ice Centre

M/W/F Mar 29-June 30 7:30-9:00am Free

Tai Chi (24 Style)

A simplified version of Tai Chi that will give you better balance, increased flexibility and relaxation.

Hamilton Community Centre

T/Th Mar 29-June 30 8:00-9:45am Free

Open Gym for all Ages

Children, teens and families can enjoy basketball, badminton, soccer, volleyball and much more! Price ranges from Free to \$4/session. Please call the community centre in your area for a schedule.

Night Shift

Cambie, Steveston, Thompson, West and South Arm community centres stay open between 10:00pm and 1:00am on Fridays or Saturdays for youth activities.

Youth Groups

Most community centres have a Youth Coordinator who facilitates youth groups like YIC (Cambie), SPY (South), YIA (West), BLISS (Thompson), and SWAT (Steveston). These groups work together to plan activities and make changes in their community.

Community Centre Games Room

Open during regular community centre hours. Enjoy activities like table tennis, pool, foosball, bubble hockey and video games with your family. Passes are available for \$1 to \$5 per year. Call the centre near you for more information.