



**To:** Richmond City Council  
**From:** Ted Townsend  
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications  
**Date:** July 5, 2006  
**File:** 01-0185-01/2006-Vol 01  
**Re:** **UBCM Awards Submissions**

**Staff Recommendation**

That Council support the City of Richmond's entries in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' 2006 Community Excellence Awards, including:

- Best Practices/Annual Reporting: City of Richmond 2005 Annual Report
- Best Practices: Richmond Corporate University
- Leadership and Innovation: Garden City Community Park
- Leadership and Innovation: Capital Planning and Asset Management
- Local Government Partnerships Supporting Physical Activity and Healthy Living: Garratt Wellness Centre

Ted Townsend  
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications  
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<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b> <i>Acting</i>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards program are designed to profile excellence in local government. The entry deadline for the 2006 Community Excellence Awards is July 14, 2006. The UBCM requires entry submissions to be supported by resolution of Council.

### Analysis

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards program is described as “an opportunity to showcase municipalities... who want to ‘lead the pack’, take risks to innovate, have established new partnerships or who don’t hesitate to question established ways of doing business and pioneer new customer focus practices.” The awards program reflects the City’s own commitment to excellence. Richmond has won a number of UBCM awards in the past. Last year, the City won an unprecedented third award in the best municipal website category.

Upon reviewing the award categories, TAG has selected four entry submissions, which it is recommending Council support for entry in this year’s UBCM awards.

**Best Practises:** This category recognizes initiatives that improve efficiency, effectiveness and demonstrated cost-effective solutions, have applicability and transferability to other UBCM members and improve public accountability and awareness of local government. Staff have recommended that the Richmond Corporate University be entered as a submission. The award-winning RCU is an innovative training program which is geared at developing the City’s next generation of leaders and managers. The program not only trains staff to be more effective and productive in their leadership roles, it also addresses the issue of succession planning in a marketplace where increased competition and impending retirements are posing significant human resources challenges.

**Annual Reporting:** This award recognizes creativity, ingenuity and good communications in the content and presentation of municipal annual reports. The City of Richmond’s 2002, 2003 and 2004 Annual Reports were honoured with the Government Finance Officers Association’s Canadian Award for Financial Reporting. In addition to financial reporting, Richmond’s Annual Report also provides an opportunity to highlight the achievements the City has made over the year and the ways in which the City has worked to enhance the quality of life in this community. The professional quality and design of the report, which is produced entirely in house, make it easy to read and appealing to readers.

**Leadership and Innovation:** This category recognizes excellence in successfully incorporating the principles of sustainable development into an engineering and/or infrastructure-based project.

Staff have recommended two submissions in this category:

The Garden City Community Park is nominated for its innovative and sustainable management of waste water. The park’s major water feature adds recreational and environmental appeal, while also promoting environmental sustainability goals by serving as a detention area for storm water during heavy rainfall events, with the intent of reducing flooding of upland areas.

Richmond's storm water system to date consists of a combination of closed pipe systems, box culverts, open ditches, sloughs, flood boxes, and pump stations. Incorporating the Garden City pond, which has a capacity of approximately 25,000 cubic metres within this drainage system adds another tool to the City's strategic approach to storm water disposal and flood control.

The City has realized significant savings in the maintenance and renovation of its building through the adoption of a new system that provides better forecasting of its building repair and replacement needs. The introduction of new capital planning and asset management software and other strategic changes allows the City to more effectively collect and manage information about the condition of all its buildings, prioritize needed renewal and repair and model the impact of different solutions. By having current and more consistent information about facility conditions, the City is able to make optimal choices about capital investments.

**Local Government Partnerships Supporting Physical Activity and Healthy Living:**

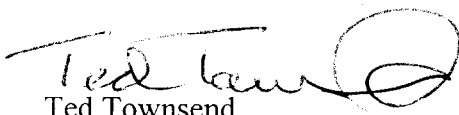
This category recognizes two or more parties that have demonstrated excellence in supporting healthy and active living. Staff are recommending the City's partnership with Richmond Health Services on the Garratt Wellness Centre be entered in this category. Faced with the challenge of finding a new community benefit for the former Garratt Elementary School site, the City worked with Richmond Health Services to create the new wellness centre. Garratt Wellness Centre acts as a holistic hub for all wellness needs, featuring a participant resource library, education rooms and fully equipped fitness centre. Programs offered at the centre focus on chronic disease prevention and chronic disease management.

**Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact.

**Conclusion**

The City of Richmond has a reputation and one of the most innovative and outstanding municipal governments in BC. This reputation has been reinforced by the more than 60 regional, national and international awards received by the City over the past decade for excellence, innovation, leadership, customer service and more. Many of these awards come from the City's peer groups within the local government field, where Richmond has an unprecedented record of achievement. The City's entries in the 2006 UBCM Community Excellence Awards reflect the City's continued commitment to excellence.



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