

**Steveston Salmon Festival Committee Report to
Parks and Recreation Committee
September 25, 2018**

The most important thing the Salmon Festival and Steveston Community Society would like to see going forward is that our 73 year history and traditions remain in place. We want to make sure our brand is not lost in another event that is running parallel to ours. The biggest hurdle we have seen with this is the confusion from the public with what is where, who is running what, and why two events!?

A very big part of our festival is our main stage. Having two main stages in the village for the past two years has caused much confusion, having people waiting at the wrong “main stage”, as well as competing acts on at the same time. We do not think there should be two that day. We would like to have one main stage, situated where we had ours last year, adjacent to our parking lot. We would like to collaborate with city staff on an evening line up that complements our own and work together to put this on. This will give people a central place to be until the fireworks begin.

We envision that the main stage would provide entertainment up until the fireworks. We would like to discuss partnering with city staff to work on what the event will look like after 5 p.m. when the main Salmon Festival Events end. We feel it is important to keep the public entertained and fed until the fireworks and would be happy to collaborate with what that could look like.

We also wish to continue our Kid’s Zone and our children’s stage situated on the other side of the street in the baseball diamond. We are working on further improvements to our children’s festival with more activities and placing flooring over the dusty baseball field. We would like to see one central kid’s area and make this an even bigger draw than last year, as the newer location and moving our children’s stage there was very well received.

We would like to see the street closure on Moncton go much later so we can have entertainment etc. bridging both parking lots, as well as to keep it safe for festival goers until the start of the fireworks.

We are working on attracting more floats and bands to our parade. We also will be changing what type of entries we will be accepting because we want to tighten up the parade. We are also looking at adding an elevated stage area at the corner of No.1 and Moncton where an announcer can describe each entry so the crowds know more about what they're seeing.

Our goal is to improve our event every year by listening to what our community wants. We are financially stretched to run this festival and come out ahead so we can put money back into the event and projects such as our playground. We would appreciate discussing some monetary assistance. This is the largest event in Richmond which attracts of between 80,000 to 100,000 people. This festival has grown and been so successful due to our hard working volunteers who put in countless hours to get this right. The Steveston Salmon Festival truly is one of the best examples of what volunteers provide for our community and Richmond as a whole.

We are not sure that running two separate events side by side may be the most efficient way to do this and may be somewhat redundant. We would be more than happy to partner with the city further than we are at present to continue making the Seveston Salmon Festival such a great event. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirstine Dickson and Brenda Yttri
Co-Chairs, Steveston Salmon Festival