

RIVERSHED SOCIETY OF BC 2015 FRASER RIVER SWIM RELAY

Recommendation:

- 1) That staff investigate the possibility of holding an event on / or around Sept. 25 at McDonald Beach in conjunction with the Rivershed Society of BC 2015 Fraser River Swim Relay;
- 2) and that staff look at opportunities for partnering with the Richmond Blue Dot team, the Rivershed Society of BC, the Richmond School District and others

Background:

Council received correspondence from the Rivershed Society of BC and subsequently from the Richmond Blue Dot Campaign about the possibility of the City of Richmond holding an event to coincide with the Rivershed Society of BC 2015 Fraser River Swim Relay.

The Rivershed Society of BC states on their website (<http://rivershed.com/>) "The Fraser River Swim Relay team aims to inspire action, raise awareness about environmental threats and solutions, and engage communities in public education and community outreach. By swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River, their goal is to inspire Canadians to protect and care for their local watersheds. They hope to increase river stewardship by working with community groups and schools across BC and Canada, and engaging audiences in public education, curriculum and community outreach."

The City of Richmond's Sustainability Framework which Council adopted in January 2010, guides Richmond's transition to a sustainable community. The Framework outlines the key long term economic, social and environmental priorities for our community's development. Richmond's location – at the point where the Fraser River meets the Pacific Ocean – puts our island City adjacent to some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. The City of Richmond is committed to healthy watercourses, and protecting the water in our sloughs, ditches, and the Fraser River.

We have the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of the Fraser River to Richmond, promote the fact that Richmond endorsed the " Right to a Healthy Environment " through the Blue Dot Campaign and that the health of the Fraser River is integral to this.

Thank you - Linda McPhail

2015 Fraser River Swim Relay

From Mountains to Sea

Three Sustainable Living Leadership Program alumni, Jacquie Lanthier, Amy Law, and Keely Weget-Whitney are teaming up with Skeena River swimmer Ali Howard, and Sheena Miller to form a dynamic women's swim team with the goal of swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River. This incredible project will take place in September of 2015, which coincides with the 20th anniversary of Fin Donnelly's first swim down the Fraser.

This project requires a lot of work, but it is coming together nicely thanks to the dedication of the swim team. In addition to training and fundraising for the event, the team has also been working hard to plan the event. If you would like to help the team by helping to organize an event in the towns listed below, fundraising or donating, or by volunteering in another way, please get in touch with info@rivershed.com to find out how you can help.

Objective:

The Fraser River Swim Relay team aims to inspire action, raise awareness about environmental threats and solutions, and engage communities in public education and community outreach. By swimming the 1,400 km length of the Fraser River, their goal is to inspire Canadians to protect and care for their local watersheds. They hope to increase river stewardship by working with community groups and schools across BC and Canada, and engaging audiences in public education, curriculum and community outreach.

[Meet the Fraser River Swim Relay team.](#)

Draft Itinerary:

Community Celebrations:

- Mount Robson – Tuesday, August 25th
- Dunster – Wednesday, August 26th
- McBride – Thursday, August 27th
- Prince George – Friday, September 4th
- Quesnel – Monday, September 7th
- Xat'sull – Tuesday, September 8th
- Williams Lake – Wednesday, September 9th
- Lillooet – Sunday, September 13th
- Lytton – Tuesday, September 15th
- Yale – Wednesday, September 16th
- Hope – Thursday, September 17th
- Agassiz – Friday, September 18th
- Chilliwack – Saturday, September 19th
- Mission – Monday, September 21st

- Fort Langley – Tuesday, September 22nd
- Coquitlam – Wednesday, September 23rd
- New Westminster – Thursday, September 24th
- Burnaby – Friday, September 25th
- Vancouver (Jericho) – Saturday, September 26th
- Vancouver – BC Rivers Day, Sunday, Sept. 27th

5 swimmers. 20 communities. 34 days. 1,400 kms.