



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** April 6, 2017

**From:** Serena Lusk  
Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services

**File:** 11-7000-01/2017-Vol  
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**Re:** Spring Break Program Update 2017

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, "Spring Break Program Update 2017" from the Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services, dated April 6, 2017, be received for information.

Serena Lusk  
Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services  
(604-233-3344)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage Community Social Development Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

**Staff Report**

**Origin**

Spring break provides a unique programming opportunity for the City and its community partners. With a two week break for the majority of schools in Richmond, staff are able to activate facilities and offer programs and services that meet multiple objectives related to Council-approved strategies including the Wellness Strategy, the Social Development Strategy, the Parks and Open Space Strategy, the Arts Strategy, Museum and Heritage Strategy as well as the Volunteer Management Plan.

This report supports Council’s 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

*Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond’s demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.*

*2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

*2.4. Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.*

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Community Services’ spring break programming.

**Analysis**

Spring break in Richmond public schools was from March 11 to 26, 2017. Community Services aligned its programming within this time frame. Throughout the Division programs designed to meet the physical, cultural and social interests and needs of children, youth and their families were offered. Programs varied from a few hours to all day in order to provide options for the varying needs of the community. As many parents are working at this time, full day camp options are popular as a daycare alternative for parents. Family oriented activities are also offered, with many of these occurring evenings and weekends.

Program highlights for Spring Break 2017 are outlined below, along with participation numbers for each of the programs mentioned. These programs are offered over and above the regular host of programs and services that are offered throughout the year.

Department or Facility	Program	Number of Participants or Hours Volunteered
Art Gallery	Free Family Sundays	149
Britannia Shipyards	Tours	341
Steveston Interurban Tram	Tours	1,925
Richmond Nature Park	Get Wild	1,113

Department or Facility	Program	Number of Participants or Hours Volunteered
Division Wide	Camps and Programs	2,700
Arenas	Cosmic Skates	3,004
Aquatics	Advanced Aquatic Courses	150
Aquatics	Public Swims	22,525
Aquatics	Free Swim Coupons redeemed	1,500
Volunteer Services	Youth Volunteer Hours	800 (hours)

### *Low Cost, No Cost Opportunities*

A variety of free and low cost activities were provided, including Free Family Sundays at the Art Gallery, tours at Britannia Shipyards and the Steveston Interurban Tram, and Get Wild at the Richmond Nature Park. While open to everyone, these programs are highlighted as opportunities for families to get out and recreate together. As always, the Recreation Fee Subsidy program was also available to families in need of financial support for programs or camps during this time.

### *Camps and Programs*

Over 2,700 preschoolers, children and youth participated in camps and programs throughout the city. Opportunities included Sports Camps, Architecture and Design, Inventors Camp, Drawing and Painting, Clay Handbuilding, Nature Detectives and Little Chefs. By offering such a wide variety of options, staff are meeting the varied interest of participants, and allowing them to grow and develop skills in new and interesting areas.

### *Cosmic Skates*

For the fourth year in a row the silver rink at Minoru Arena's was transformed into a celestial experience with black lighting and a disco ball creating the star power. As well, participants were provided glow sticks to enhance their experience in this cosmic environment. The cosmic skates are offered afternoons and evenings throughout the two-week period catering to both families and as a "COOL" activity for spring break day camps. Over three thousand people participated in this unique experience this year.

### *Leadership Development*

In addition to volunteering, as a means to develop leadership skills, many youth participate in advanced aquatic training over spring break. Courses such as Bronze Cross, Lifesaving Instructor, Water Safety Instructor and National Pool and Waterpark Certification, train youth for employment as lifeguards and swimming instructors. Seventeen short format courses were offered during spring break allowing 150 students to advance their skills and prepare them for future employment.

### *Public Swimming*

Public swims are a popular way for children, youth, and families to be active at spring break. Over 22,000 people participated in swimming at Minoru Pool and Watermania during the two

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week break. Aquatics and Arena Services sent a flyer home to 13,000 Richmond school children promoting swim and skate opportunities and included a free swim and skate coupon. Fifteen hundred swim coupons, or 11 per cent of those issued, were redeemed during the holiday period, a very favorable response rate.

#### *Volunteer Participation*

Ninety youth volunteers provided 800 hours of service throughout the Division. Volunteering gives youth the opportunity to connect with the community they live in, while building interpersonal skills and gaining new experiences as they work in a team environment providing recreational programs. By volunteering, the youth build up their personal skills which can be added to their resumes as they pursue jobs, educational programs and other volunteer opportunities. Volunteering also helps build individuals self-esteem and self-worth through their contribution to the overall programs success.

The full slate of spring break programs and services were promoted via a variety of mediums including dedicated web pages, pop up banners in facilities, social media including Facebook and Twitter and flyers to students in Richmond schools.

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

#### **Conclusion**

Richmond residents are offered a wide variety of opportunities to participate in healthy, fun, and safe activities throughout the spring break. In partnership with our community partners, the City is able to deliver on key initiatives identified in many City strategic plans, ultimately working to make Richmond the most appealing, livable and well managed community in Canada.



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