



**SUBJECT: YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee.

**REPORT**

The following report outlines highlights of youth services provided through Burnaby Parks and Recreation. Listed below are examples of recent activities and initiatives taking place at each location, followed by Departmental projects scheduled for implementation in the near future.

**1) FACILITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

**(a) Willingdon Heights Community Centre:**

The "Youth Minds" teen committee have been meeting on an ongoing basis to assist staff in the development and organization of a variety of programs including Friday evening activities, in addition to volunteering their time for special events such as Easter Eggstravaganza. Teens also fund raise to help support these activities.

The centre was very active during Youth Week, having hosted several events to mark the occasion: "Behind the 8 Ball" pool tournament, Spring Fling Dance, a barbecue and soccer event.

Members of the youth committee attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 21st at Willingdon Centre and made a presentation with reference to the basketball facilities at the centre.

During the summer, the Friday evening program at the centre will be extended by 1/2 hour each session to accommodate a growing demand.

The youth committee will continue during the summer and has planned as part of its program, hosting a dunk tank activity at Willingdon's annual community day event.

**(b) Kensington Park Arena**

Kensington Arena has had an active youth committee throughout the school year which has met monthly. Members of the committee have volunteered at some arena programs such as the R.C.M.P. Free Skate and public sessions.

**(b) Kensington Park Arena (Cont'd)**

Other teens who attend the arena prefer to volunteer their time by assisting with Learn-to-Skate and in-line skate programs. There is also a small group of teens who help outdoor leaders in the summer with park and playground activities in the vicinity.

There is an in-line youth hockey tournament scheduled for July 14 and 15 at Kensington Arena.

**(c) Eastburn Community Centre/South Burnaby**

Some of the most popular youth programs currently taking place out of Eastburn include: roller hockey, "Movie Madness", "Sharp Shooters" (tournament night), pre-teen dances (grades 5-7), Friday evening program where the youth plan their own activities and open gym where basketball is currently the most popular gym game.

The Burnaby Firefighters (local 323) have been very supportive of Parks and Recreation youth programs this past year. They donated \$2,500 to Eastburn for the purpose of upgrading equipment in the games room area. This same group also donated \$3,000 to Club Metro for the purchase of a home theatre system.

Eastburn is forming new community partnerships in an attempt to develop a summer lunch program for youth to address nutrition concerns of young people from their area.

There were several successful out trips organized this past year through the centre including tobogganing, hike in Golden Ears Provincial Park, trip to the Water slides, and an opportunity for youth participants to go to a tree farm to select a Christmas tree.

Other special events that took place at the centre this past year were the annual Halloween Haunted House, Christmas Dinner for youth (in partnership with a long list of agencies including the Edmonds Youth Resource Centre), and a variety of Youth Week activities (3 on 3 basketball tournament, a snooker tournament with the seniors at Edmonds Senior Centre and a volleyball game and barbecue involving the R.C.M.P.).

**(c) Eastburn Community Centre/South Burnaby (Cont'd)**

Staff at Eastburn Centre have also been busy in the community with youth involved in the following: "Sport Drop" - a drop-in sport program out of Armstrong School; "On the Move" program (Second Street Community School) which is designed to encourage the participation of girls and women (ages 13-17) in sport; pool and snooker lessons for girls (Edmonds Youth Resource Centre); youth drop-in meetings and "Slam'n in the Sun", an outdoor basketball league for youth during the spring and summer.

"BOLD" (Burnaby Opportunities for Leadership Development Program) will return this July. This program is designed as a series of workshops followed by a volunteer practicum component where youth participants are given the opportunity to gain experience assisting playground or summer camp staff.

**(d) Bonsor Recreation Centre**

Bonsor, like most other Parks and Recreation centres, has a youth committee which assists staff in the development and organization of programs for youth. The open gym program at Bonsor is very popular. During the fall and winter, average participation of youth in this program is 100+ each week. There are additional gym times scheduled for youth only which are always full.

Bonsor has started a program called "Roots'N'Culture" in partnership with the Burnaby Multicultural Society which is a cultural-specific program designed for all youth involving recreational activity, and other life skill activities. The program is designed to provide a safe format for youth to explore aspects of different cultures.

Other ongoing programs offered for youth include aquatics, arts, fitness and weight room activities.

The "Gym Rat Basketball Tournament" semi-finals were hosted this year at Bonsor as part of Youth Week. Eighteen teams from around the city participated including an all girls team from Eastburn. The closing event for Youth Week, "Bonsor After Dark", was also held at Bonsor involving approximately 250 youth in many special activities including a coffee house, a crafts table, gym tournaments, ICBC presentation and giveaways, racquet sports, and free draws.

In collaboration with the Burnaby Multicultural Society, Bonsor will have a Chinese speaking youth worker work at the centre this summer to facilitate an integrative approach for teen participants at Bonsor.

**(d) Bonsor Recreation Centre (Cont'd)**

The "On the Move" program reported earlier under Eastburn's programs, is scheduled to begin at Bonsor as well beginning this fall.

A fall and Christmas basketball tournament is also planned.

**(e) Burnaby Lake Arena/C.G. Brown Pool**

A youth council operates out of Burnaby Lake Arena to assist staff in planning and organizing special events, recreation programs and evaluation of existing services.

There are several volunteer programs for youth offered in these areas (Burnaby Lake Arena, C.G. Brown Pool, Central Burnaby) which allow young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

A request from parents to offer a pre-teen drop-in service out of Charles Rummel centre is currently being considered.

During Youth Week, C.G. Brown hosted a Loonie Swim

**(f) Club Metro Youth Centre**

This past year, Club Metro had its most successful summer program in terms of numbers of participants. Nearly 150 youth took part in a variety of high-interest activities including horseback riding, Water slides, rock climbing, camping, and white water rafting. These activities were in addition to the ongoing drop-in service that the centre offers.

Although Club Metro's out trips are most recognized in the summer, activities such as skiing, snowboarding, go carting and splatter ball are offered year round.

Year end statistics of drop-in participation have not yet been compiled for the centre. It is anticipated the results will show that the centre remains popular.

Club Metro also offers a limited gym program through Maywood Elementary School.

Club Metro, primarily through the efforts of its teen committee, have been very active in community events such as the Rhododendron Festival, Burnaby Discovery Days, presentations at the youth detention centre, and a high school wellness fair.

Youth at Club Metro participated in many special events outside of the centre including attending the Premier's Youth Forum, visiting other youth services around the Lower Mainland, Youth Week activities and preparing a large social activity in conjunction with the B.C. Summer Games to be held this summer.

Club Metro is scheduled to move from its current location to Jubilee Avenue this summer. Current programs, which consist of drop-in services and structured activities such as pool tournaments and out trips, will continue.

**(g) Cameron Recreation Centre**

"VOID", the teen committee at Cameron, has overseen the organization of many youth activities including Film and Food Night, coffee houses, a leadership development program and fundraising events.

A teen drop-in gym program is run each Friday evening at Cameron

In the summer the centre provides out trips, for example, canoeing, camping, rock climbing, and cycling.

For the past two years, the centre has supported Youth Week by hosting a Battle of the Bands program and holding a pre-teen dance. As well, youth representatives from Cameron have participated in the Youth Week Gym Rat Basketball Tournament.

Due to the highly active nature of the community surrounding Cameron, particularly around the issue of youth, staff have become very involved with community groups and projects such as the Northeast Burnaby Youth Action Association (NEBYAA). The Northeast Burnaby Youth Centre, operated through NEBYAA, opened in the fall of last year, with much success. Programming includes drop-in opportunities and also the use of some gym time at Stoney Creek Community School.

**(h) Shadbolt Centre For The Arts**

Shadbolt offers numerous programs in the performing, literary and visual arts areas designed for the youth audience including: musical theatre (a popular 30 week program involving several public performances), animation and video courses, poetry workshop, drawing and painting, clay work, dance and chamber music.

The teen arts advisory council at Shadbolt have been active at the centre. During Youth Week, for example, they organized a Hot Chocolate House Cabaret where teen theatre students performed casually with family and friends.

(i) **Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool & Fitness Centre**

Eileen Dailly in partnership with Burnaby High Schools sponsors a career preparation program for youth.

A youth Swim was organized as part of Youth Week celebrations.

**2. GENERAL YOUTH SERVICES**

One significant highlight this past year for Burnaby Youth Services was the opening of the Confederation Park Skateboard facility. The site has been given top reviews by both local youth and international skateboard professionals.

The other highlight was the development of the Civic Youth Strategy which was designed in part to recognize that "Youth will be involved as active partners and participants in the development, assessment and delivery of youth services."

An interesting donation was received from Lenscrafters (eye glasses retailer) whereby several youth identified through Burnaby Parks and Recreation youth services were given free eye exams and eye glasses.

Youth from Parks and Recreation services attended several workshops and conferences this past year including: Forum on Bringing Home the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, First Call Youth Conference, the Premier's Youth Forum, Burnaby School Board's Youth Symposium.

Another successful Burnaby Youth Week was held this year from May 4-10th. A report will be forthcoming once the evaluations are complete.

Parks and Recreation staff, community agency staff, and adult and youth citizens met for much of the past year to explore options to develop a new youth centre in Northwest Burnaby. The project will be reviewed in 1998.

Enquiries continue to be received with reference to Burnaby's youth programs. The latest have come from Oakland, California and the City of Calgary. There is intense interest about Burnaby's youth services - how to provide them, how much does it cost, and policy papers.

A late night program will be introduced at Cameron and Bonsor centres which will include basketball and other social activities. This program has been designed as an alternative for young people currently on the streets during late evening hours.





**2. GENERAL YOUTH SERVICES (Cont'd)**

The Stride Avenue Youth Centre will open in September. The portable structure will be located adjacent to Stride Community School to provide social space for youth in the community.

This is for the information of the Commission.

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