

rec ex Rambler

“Serious about fun”

Winter 2010

LANGLEY

Our ice season is in full swing by now, actually half finished, and what an exciting and busy season it has been so far! The start of the ice season also brings with it the return of many of our seasonal staff for Learn to Skate lessons, Skate Patrol, and Concession. We are happy to see you all back, and for all the new employees we welcome all of you!

The second season for the Aldergrove Kodiaks Jr. B team has started off strong with an 8 game undefeated streak. The Kodiaks find themselves sitting in 5th place in league standings going into the New Year. Keep it up guys!

Kaleigh Fratkin became the first female to play in the Pacific International Junior Hockey Association. She suited up with the Aldergrove Kodiaks and helped them walk away with a 1-0 win. Kaleigh held her own on defence and even earned the games 3rd star. The 17-year old Burnaby native is currently playing for the Vancouver North West Giants in the Major Midget AAA. She is quite familiar playing with the boys in a full contact league and definitely did not look out of place with the Kodiaks. Good work and keep it up Kaleigh!

On a side note, the Kodiaks Dec 23rd game hosted a marriage proposal during the 1st intermission. Mathew Busch proposed to his bride-to-be Amy Schroder. Congratulations to newly engaged couple! >

On Nov 1st the George Preston Rec Centre hosted the annual Cruise for Kids event. It was a packed event with over 300 people in attendance, all for a good cause!

Fraser Valley Ringette hosted their Annual Spirit of Winter Tournament in mid-December involving teams from around the Province. Our Fraser Valley team won gold in the U19-A division.

Our “Skate With Santa” was another great success. Santa joined our public skates at both George Preston Rec Centre and Aldergrove Community Arena on Dec 19th. 50% of the proceeds went to the Langley Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Langley continued on the inside

Recreation Excellence publishes the Rambler three times a year.

IN
THIS
ISSUE

- Pitt Meadows
- Lethbridge
- Corporate
- Salt Spring Island



Our
mandate
is your
mandate.

RECEX IS GOING TO THE OLYMPICS!

Several members of our Family including Garry Rushton (Aldergrove), Gary Smart and Debbie Vey-Lourens (Pitt Meadows) and even our GM, Norm Kassis will all be involved. It will be a very busy time while they juggle their respective duties with Volunteer responsibilities as we share in the Olympic experience.

Garry, Gary and Norm will all be involved in ice resurfacing (hopefully helping Canada win gold!) and Debbie Vey Lourens will be involved in administration and guest services at GM Place. Sure hope Norm remembers what to do, driving that Olympia ice resurfacer as he un-retires his keys!”

Way to Go all of you! RecEx appreciates your volunteer spirit!

LANGLEY

CONTINUED

The Annual Langley/Aldergrove Christmas party was held at the Fort Langley Golf Course on Dec 3rd and as usual all had a great time. It was a great evening filled with good food and entertainment. Congratulations to our Full Time employee of the year Sandra Wright, and Part Time employee of the Year Larissa Finnbogason. Congratulations also to our Volunteer of the Year, Marcel Laferriere.

On New Year's Eve our very own Tyler Klymchuk (skip for Team Klymchuk) won the BC men's junior curling title. His team of four is a part of the Langley Curling Club, which plays out of the George Preston Rec Centre. Team Klymchuk now moves on to represent BC at the M&M Meats Canadian Junior National Championships in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec Jan 16-24. We wish them all the best in capturing the National title! 🏹



Sandra Wright

Larissa Finnbogason



Marcel Laferriere



CORPORATE

Corporate Recreation Excellence has been very busy the past several months. Tom and Maria travelled to all Recreation Excellence projects in late November and early December to share in the holiday season with all of our staff, clients, and teammates. Christmas is always a special time of the year for the company as we take time to reflect on the year past and celebrate all our successes with our staff in each community. Tom truly enjoys the opportunity to share this time with everyone and it was wonderful to once again be able to travel to each project site and be with our teams!

Speaking engagements and consulting work continue to roll in for Tom. Recently Tom was the Keynote speaker at the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association's Annual Youth Workers Conference in Langley and he was a featured speaker in Penticton in January. Tom has been working with the Regional District of Central Kootenay on a large consulting project as well which has been very exciting. In addition to this, Tom has been asked to assist Athletes In Action with some Mission, Vision, and Goal Setting initiatives in 2010. The Township of Langley is hosting the 2010 Summer Games and Tom along with Norm Kassis, Sandra Wright, and Rikki Thompson are assisting the Township in this exciting venture. Tom is in the final stages of writing his book and he and Advantage Media Group (his publisher) from Charleston, South Carolina are looking forward to a release date in mid 2010.

All in all it has been a very, very, busy few months for Corporate Recreation Excellence and Tom is looking forward to another exciting year in 2010. The Olympics are just around the corner here in Vancouver – several of our staff are volunteering in various capacities – and we wish them all well in this once in a lifetime opportunity. Go Canada Go!

All the best to everyone and look forward to seeing you all in 2010.

Sincerely,
Tom Watson 🏹

LETHBRIDGE

GREETINGS

Hello everyone! We are looking forward to a great 2010 here in Lethbridge. We have what we believe to be the best team we have ever had with the addition of Tia Noel to our management group. Since the last issue of the Rambler, Jim Monti our Maintenance Manager has accepted an offer from the Town of Bassano that quite frankly, he could not refuse. We thank Jim for the work he has done for us and wish him well in his new position. With his move brings some changes. Greg Davie has made the move to Maintenance Manager, Karin Westerink has taken over the Facility Manager position at Stan Siwik and Tia Noel will be running the ship at Nicholas Sheran Pool.

On Dec 11 we held our Annual Christmas Dinner which was a huge success seeing record numbers of staff attending the event. It was also great to see many of the user representatives, corporate partners and City staff in attendance – I think they genuinely enjoyed themselves. The food was excellent and Rock Paper Scissors had everyone laughing from the start of their performance to the end. Thanks to those who “got involved” in the entertainment and made it great fun!! Until We Talk Again!

Shaun Hanley - Assistant General Manager
Brad Pack - General Manager

STAN SIWIK POOL

As the saying goes, a change is as good as a holiday and having been Facility Manager at Stan Siwik for over two and a half years now, I have been offered and have accepted the position as Maintenance Manager for all our complexes. It was a tough decision to relinquish control over my “baby”. It will give me a little more freedom to hopefully bring a new standard of quality to the operational

and mechanical side of Siwik and Fritz and with the endless knowledge of Mr. Ray Brewster, Nicholas Sheran as well. Ray has probably forgotten more about maintenance than I will ever learn but it is comforting to know his “well” is readily available to tap. Returning to Siwik with also a strong background in pools, Karin is most welcome and I look forward to working closely with her, Shaun and Brad, as well as the other facility Managers - Sunni and the “new kid in town, Tia (wishing her the very best with her new position). As the GM mentioned before, I think we have a very strong management team who liaise well with the public making their safety and supervision a priority as well as working closely with the City of Lethbridge fulfilling their needs and our responsibilities, far into the future.
Greg Davie - Facility Manager – Stan Siwik Pool

NICHOLAS SHERAN POOL

We survived yet another shut down, with no major repairs. We scrubbed everything to a shine for re-opening in mid-December. With re-opening our patrons came back with a flurry! With the Christmas break we had a full pool with all the students off school and it was great to see so many people playing happily and safely. Now into the New Year we are holding 2 Aquafit classes each evening to help people with their New Year's resolutions to lose weight!

Allow me to introduce myself - I am Tia Noel and I have 13 years experience in the aquatic field. Teaching lessons was my first job in Manitoba. I still enjoy teaching to this day, from Aquafit to NLS and everything in between. I have taken many different courses to help move me up the aquatic ladder. I hope to work with the other Managers to help build this business and be an asset to our team! Til next time!

Karin Westerink/Tia Noel - Facility Manager – Nicholas Sheran Pool

PITT MEADOWS

The closing of 2009 came and went with a holiday season enjoyed by our ice users, staff and spectators.

A festive time was had by all at the Recreation Excellence Annual Banquet held at the Pitt Meadows Golf and Country Club on December 2nd where we had a delicious meal, superb "Improv" entertainment and the distribution of wonderful gifts. "Boys in Shades" was the cool festive look for this year! We send a warm thank you to Tom, Kathy, and Maria Halvorson for their time and effort in organizing this event for us. Special thanks to our special guest Maria Badall, who travelled from Vernon to spend the evening with us.

Every year at this party, awards are presented to staff and volunteers in recognition for their contributions over the previous year. Our part time employee of the year award went to Colton Smart, who spent countless hours walking behind the floor machine to ensure the floor was clean for our dry floor users. Many compliments came from the user groups for his efforts. Colton is always eager to take on new tasks and challenges and it is a pleasure to have him on staff.

"Super" Gerry Joinson was our full time employee of the year. Gerry goes above and beyond with everything he does and we all recognize his tireless efforts – a work ethic we should all aspire to.

Wayne Lamont, who has been involved with Pitt Meadows Arena from the beginning received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Wayne quietly goes about fixing things and we are appreciative of his hard work, skill and expertise. He is a man we greatly admire and we are lucky to have Wayne as a part of our team.

Pitt Meadows Arena is going to get a facelift in the near future! The City of Pitt Meadows has approved a \$3.8 million renovation to the existing building. This is in addition to the \$1 Million infrastructure grant that the City received this fall funded from the federal action plan. The city, user groups and staff are excited about the upgrades forthcoming to raise the quality for all to benefit.

Every year Maple Ridge Parks and Leisure Services transforms the Red Rink into a Winter Wonderland full of lights and magical holiday spirit. This year over 1500 people passed through the doors for public skating over the 3 day event. Our rinkside concession offered hot drinks and snacks and was an enormous hit with the skaters. Many thanks go to Jackie Senchyna and her volunteer elves who are responsible for organizing this event. Their tireless efforts ensure the kids and families are given a lasting impression that will have them returning for years to come.

Several staff members participated in the Secret Santa

gift exchange this year, with lots of laughs and a more personal touch to get to know one another. Thank you all you Santas for the gifts.

Skating birthday parties have been well received at the rink this year. Our bookings have increased every month and Deb Vey Lourens and Abbi Ambrosi work hard to co-ordinate every detail so the party is a hit. Staff members who work in the skate shop and concession are also an integral part of this success and we could not pull it off without the efforts of all. Keep up the wonderful work because word is getting out about skating parties!

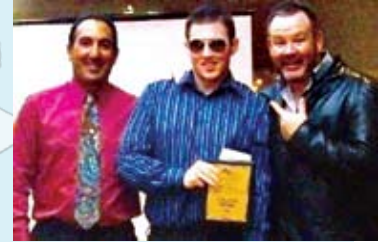
Pitt Meadows Arena was host to several hockey tournaments which kept our staff hopping over several extremely busy weekends. RPM organized their annual Pro "D" Day 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament in October where pizza was flying out of the concession! As always, we can count on Craig Millin, his staff and merry band of Academy students to provide a first class event where fun is had by all the participants!

With renovations in the near future these are going to be exciting times for Rec Ex and the Pitt Meadows Arena. We wish everyone a safe and prosperous new year!

Deb Tucker, *Assistant GM, Pitt Meadows*



Wayne Lamont



Colton Smart



Gerry Joinson



Boys in Shades! Too cool!

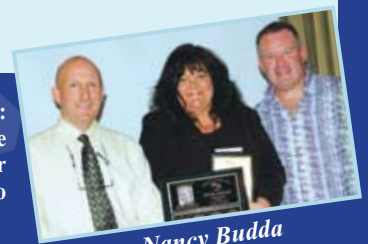


Justin Harper



Michael Poirier

Congratulations to our 2009 award winners: Mike Poirier received the Full Time Employee of the Year, and Nancy Budda and Justin Harper won Part Time Employee of the Year. Way to go guys! We appreciate all you do for us!!



Nancy Budda

FRITZ SICK POOL

On Jan 14 we hosted a special needs Kayaking class for Granum School instructed by High Level Canoes & Kayaks and the kids had a great time.

Attendance is up in fitness swims and Aquatic Fitness programs since Christmas – aren't New Year's resolutions wonderful!! Let's encourage everyone to keep on going far into 2010!

We have been working diligently to increase registrations in our Upper Level courses and I am pleased to say we are making progress. Although classes have not been completely full we have been able to run most of the courses we have offered.

We are avidly supporting Monique Rowe who has sponsored a child in Cambodia gathering pictures and exciting things about where Monique works. Sunni Belle – *Facility Manager/Programmer – Fritz Sick Pool*

HENDERSON OUTDOOR POOL

Greetings from the windy city! As we say good-bye to 2009, we look forward to the prosperous year of 2010. Before the opening of Henderson Outdoor

Pool this summer, the facility could see somewhat of a facelift. The City of Lethbridge, in conjunction with the Chinook Health Region will be determining the scope of the work to completed before we open in the summer of 2010. We are very excited to see the results that the community and the citizens of Lethbridge will enjoy. We would like to thank the City of Lethbridge in advance for their hard work and for their dedication to making our city pools the best and safest that they can be. I hope that everyone has had a prosperous winter and we look forward to seeing everyone this summer at Henderson Outdoor Pool.

Until we meet again, remember to be "Serious About Fun" and to always have "Fun in the Sun" regardless of the time of year!
Deanna Ward – *Henderson Outdoor Pool - Facility Manager*

CONGRATULATIONS !!

We have had some new Aquatic Leader promotions over the last couple of months – Well done Matt Forster and Joey Vedres!

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Things are splashing right along at the Rainbow Road Indoor Pool (RRIP). The public enjoy all the changes we made during our shut down in September and we are all enjoying a mild winter season.



You will never guess who showed up at the pool on December 20! Santa came by the pool and visited with all the folks. He met with all the children and gave out treats for everyone.

We were all so surprised to see him because it was so close to Christmas and he's usually so busy at this time of year!!

Over the Christmas Break it was nice to have all our university students back on the island and working at the pool. Our regular swimmers made us all feel appreciated with the baked goods they brought in. Thanks!

We are pleased to announce our employees of the 2009 year: Megan Cameron (Full Time) and Brenda Akerman (Part Time). Megan has worked with me for 6 years and is a real asset to our facility. She is a favoured swimming instructor and a number of the current staff have been trained by her. She is presently at UBC studying to be a teacher.

Brenda has been teaching water fitness classes for 4 years for us. Her classes are very well attended. She is a busy person who finds time to fit in 7 classes a week. She is presently working on building our Parent & Pre water fitness program.

Another important award was handed out in December: Hans Kos received our Volunteer of the Year award. He has been coaching our Water polo program and doing a great job at that. Thank you Hans! We appreciate what you do for us!

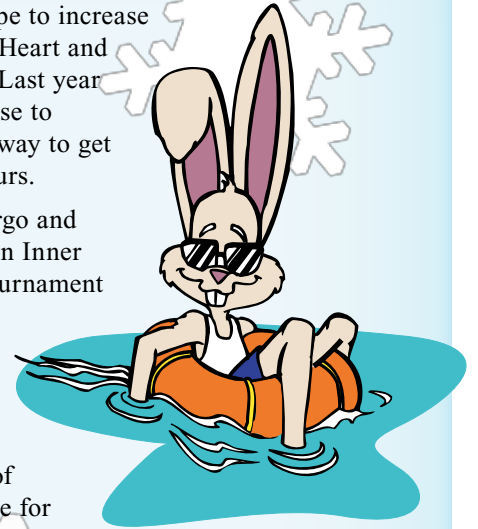
We are pleased to welcome Nathan Cooper to our family of lifeguard/instructors here at the pool. Nathan comes to us from our operation in Lethbridge. He has been a great addition to our staff and has become know on the island as "The Guy Who Runs". And man, can he run!!!!

We are hosting our second annual Swim for Heart Fundraiser on February 14 and hope to increase our donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Last year this event raised close to \$3,500! It's a great way to get in shape and help ours.

On February 5, Margo and Olivia are holding an Inner Tube Water Polo Tournament for the students at GISS. This looks like it's going to be a lot of fun. A big thanks to Wolfgang Temmel of Ganges Auto Marine for his donation of 36 inner tubes. We couldn't do it without you!

Stay fit, keep swimming and remember to be serious about fun!

Jim Raddysh, *General Manager*



Megan Cameron



Brenda Akerman

