

# rec ex rambler

FALL 2011



OUR MANDATE IS  
YOUR MANDATE

“Serious about fun”

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## Langley

The “quieter” Summer season has come and gone at the George Preston Recreation Centre and the Aldergrove Community Arena, and in many ways, it wasn’t so quiet! Quilters, Conventions, Flyball Dog competitions and Tournaments kept things busy this past summer.

Early in May, the Fraser Valley Quilters Guild held their annual show and the popularity of Quilting was on full display as this event was very well attended.

No sooner did the facility return to regular Dry Floor sports mode when, after 3 years of planning, the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star settled into the entire George Preston Recreation Centre for nearly a full week at the end of May and early June. The facility was filled, attracting nearly 1000 people each day from across Canada and the USA. This event marked their 100th convention and it was a huge success.

Between all of these events, the Flyball Dog Competitions were held over several weeks as well. Boy, can those dogs move!

In the sports world, we were also busy as Valley Ball Hockey Association hosted the Junior Provincial championships with games played at both Aldergrove Arena and George Preston, bringing participants and families from around the province to Langley.

On June 16-19th the George Preston Rec Centre and Aldergrove Community Arena hosted the 35th annual Dennis Hickey Lacrosse Tournament. This event provided some great competition, and congratulations go to hometown Langley, winning a pair of bronze medals in their respective divisions. Way to go! The Langley Knights also completed another Senior B Lacrosse season at George Preston.

We’ve also added some new teammates to our RecEx Family. Cheryl Simpson, who was known to us for several years through her hard work as a dedicated volunteer for the Langley Curling Club, has joined us as our Facility Booking Coordinator. We are just as excited to have her join us as she is to be here. The Aldergrove Community Arena also saw change, adding Deb Tucker as the Operations Manager. Deb has previously been involved with us in several projects over the past few years and we are now happy to have her call Aldergrove “home”. We wish both Cheryl and Deb great success in their new roles with us!

In addition, we also welcome several new teammates who will join us for the variety of Seasonal positions we need to fill. Welcome aboard to all of you.... we’re thrilled to have you with us here at RecEx!

Like the entire province, our staff was in full support of the Canucks Stanley Cup run. It was a rollercoaster of emotions in both facilities during the playoffs. A select few were happy to see the Boston Bruins pull off the come-from-behind Cup nabbing too. These people were promptly dismissed after this display! (Just kidding, we kept them so we could rub it in next year when we win!)

Recreation Excellence partnered with the Township Of Langley in the 5th Annual Safer Communities Day. This year, the event also teamed up with the 12th Annual Brookwood Summerfest. One lucky child was the winner of a free bike donated by Cranky’s Bike Shop. The weather was perfect and the events were well attended, making it a great day for a great cause!

A familiar face from the past popped by in July! Former Teammate, Sandra Wright stopped in to let us know that things are going well for her in Ontario, and that she has pursued a career in childcare. After working with us, she should be great at that!

Cheryl Simpson  
Facility Booking Coordinator



As we said goodbye to summer and another dry floor season, the end of August meant that the ice season was underway for 2011-2012 at the arenas. With that, we welcomed back our friends at the Langley Curling Club. The Club has a big year ahead as the Continental Cup of Curling, showcasing many of the World’s best curlers, comes to Langley in January. This event will be held at the Langley Events Centre and many Club Members are heavily involved with the committee for that event.

The Langley Rivermen have joined the BCHL, also calling Langley Events Centre home, replacing the relocated “Chiefs” franchise. The Jr A hockey team held 2 exhibition games at the George Preston Rec Centre on Sep 9th and 10th. They hosted the Wenatchee Wild of the North American Hockey League, who made the bus trip up from Washington state. The Rivermen won the first game in OT 3-2 and fell short 5-4 in the second, which also went to OT. Both games showcased exciting, back and forth hockey action!

Speaking of the Langley Events Centre, this summer saw the Langley Thunder Senior A Lacrosse team not only make the playoffs, but win their first ever playoff series and then go on to vie for the Canadian Championship, the Mann Cup, which was hosted at the Events Centre. Unfortunately, the Brampton Excelsiors came out on top, winning the series 4 – 2, but what a great year for the Thunder. Congratulations on your tremendous success!

Our operations team there has sure been busy with the activities at the Events Centre! So, here we go with another ice season. We welcome back all of our Ice users as we prepare for what will surely be another busy, but FUN Fall and Winter in Langley! We’ll see you around the rinks!

Norm Kassis  
General Manager



Canuck Fever

# Salt Spring

We had a great 2011 summer season at the Rainbow Road Indoor Pool. A number of our university students returned to the pool this year to help us out.

The Rainbow Road Second Annual Triathlon took place on June 19 (Father's Day). We had 39 athletes complete the swim, ride, run distance. A big thanks to all the volunteers that helped us out on that day.

We want to wish Cliff and Angie a happy future life in Prince George. These two have been regular swimmers at the Rainbow Road Pool and have recently moved north to be closer to family. They will be missed.

The summer lesson sets were well attended and we saw a lot of little ones become swimmers. We are pleased to see children become comfortable in the water because we know that greatly reduces their chances of drowning. And we do live on an island, after all!!

The Salt Spring Sting Rays had a fantastic summer with over 50 swimmers registered and training regularly. With the return of coach Rachel and the introduction of new coach Hanna the team was very successful at the regional and provincial levels. Their July swim meet at the Rainbow Road Pool saw 239 swimmers competing over the two-day event. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make this a fun swim meet!



Phil hard at work

Shut down was a lot of work. We managed to drain the main pool and repair the damaged expansion joints and scrub the entire bottom with a little acid solution to remove any staining that has occurred over time. We installed a new waterslide in the deep end that kids of all ages will enjoy for years to come. The women's change room ceiling was repaired from the water damage that occurred in May and a number of signs have been put up around the pool to help our customers make their way safely while they are with us.

During the third week of shut down all the winter staff got together to refresh their lifeguarding skills. Everyone easily completed the fitness portion of this test and confidently handled the rescue skills. Everyone can be assured that they are in good hands when they visit Recreation Excellence at the Rainbow Road pool.

We are excited to be in the middle of our fall lesson sets, classes are filling up and instructors are doing a great job as always. We love to see the continuing progress of our swimmers.

Our 2nd annual Halloween party is in the planning stage, we are hoping to have even more spooky fun than last year.

We have already sent our request to the North Pole to have Santa stop by in December. We hope the big guy will have time to take a picture or two with some of our young swimmers.

That's it for now – keep swimming!

Jim Raddysh, *General Manager*



Triathlon winners



Margo and Meredith



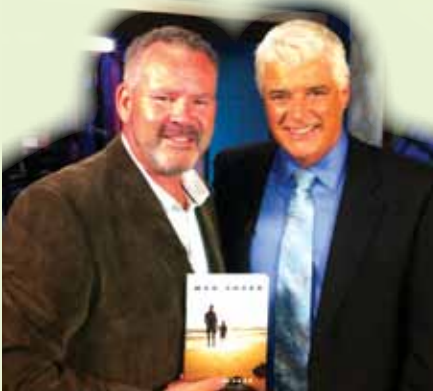
Goodbye Cliff and Angie



It's been a busy few months for Tom and Maria at Recreation Excellence Corporate Offices. Tom was involved in two fundraising committees and events in Langley this fall. One for Rotary International and one for Trinity Western Spartan Basketball. Both events were highly successful. As well, Tom and several Langley Recreation Excellence staff participated in the Recreation Foundation of BC Golf Tournament and the Blue Wave Foundation Golf Tournament over the past few months. Tom was honoured to be asked to provide a Commissioned paper for the National Recreation & Parks Summit which was held in Lake Louise in October. In addition to providing the paper, Tom was selected by the National Summit organizing committee to be one of the delegates at the conference which was held to discuss the key issues facing Parks & Recreation, and to chart a course for the industry in the coming years. Tom was the Keynote speaker at Business By The Book in downtown Vancouver in September and he was also the Keynote speaker for the Trinity Western Spartan Foundation's fall fundraising event. Many of you know that Tom is now officially a Published Author. His book *Man Shoes* has garnered a great deal of attention across North America and Tom has been asked to appear on numerous Television shows to talk about the book over the past few months. You can catch up on all the Man Shoes excitement by going to [www.manshoes.net](http://www.manshoes.net).

These activities along with the daily duties of working with the individual Recreation Excellence projects have kept both Tom and Maria on the go this fall. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks as we join you to celebrate the Christmas season and another successful year! All the best, thanks for everything you are doing to make sure your communities are well served and we look forward to seeing all of you very soon!

Tom Watson



Tom appears on CTV National News in Toronto with Brad Giffen

## SAFETY CORNER

We are proud to announce that both Deanna Ward and Brad Pack have successfully completed their first step towards becoming certified Internal Auditors within the Alberta Association of Safety Partnership's program that is recognized by the Alberta Government. Brad and Deanna will be conducting their first internal audit on November 13, 14, and 15th. Once this Qualifying Audit is complete, they will submit their reports to the AASP for final approval as their last step towards becoming certified Internal Auditors. This process will allow Brad and Deanna to perform yearly Maintenance Audits in order to allow Recreation Excellence Lethbridge to maintain their COR certification.

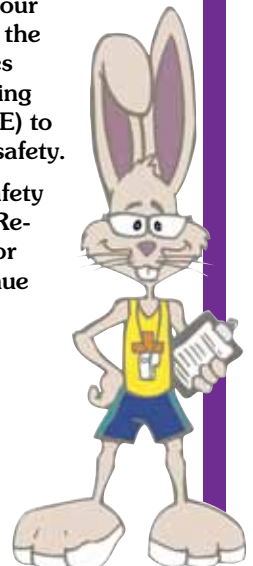
### Safety Tips for Employees:

1. It is important for all employees to remember to report any near misses or any accidents that occur while at work. If near misses or accidents are not reported, then it is very difficult to improve the working environment to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible at all times.
2. As always, we would like to remind all employees that it is important to hold each other accountable. If you see another co-worker not following OH&S policies and procedures, then it is your responsibility as a co-worker to remind your colleague to follow the set safety guidelines (for example, wearing the appropriate PPE) to ensure everyone's safety.

Be "Serious About Safety While Having Fun"! Remember to look out for each other and continue to work together as a team!

Until Next Time,

Deanna Ward  
(OH&S Coordinator)



# LETHBRIDGE

## GREETINGS FROM LETHBRIDGE

We are soon coming to the end of the University of Lethbridge Max Bell Pool shutdown as they are slated to re-open on Oct 31, 2011. We have been delighted to be able to help out and although it has definitely stretched our resources to the limit, the experience has been positive. I'd like to personally thank our staff for continuing to smile even though they worked extra hours, did extra cleaning to keep the facilities in shape and did whatever else it took to get the job done. Great job everyone – continue to do what you do.

Other things that have happened since the last Rambler include a couple of in-services:

- Henderson In-service on June 19, 2011
- Lesson In-service on September 17, 2011
- Emergency Procedures In-service on October 23, 2011
- Shaun Hanley and Katy Tallman attended the Red Cross Water Safety Conference in Calgary this year.
- Deanna Ward completed the Internal Auditor Course for our OH&S Program.

Upcoming items include:

- Competency - all staff will have to pass the new Lifesaving Society Lifeguarding Standards
- Internal Audit for COR November 13 – 15, 2011.
- Nicholas Sheran Pool shutdown November 28 – December 14, 2011

Also a big welcome to all the New Staff that have joined the RecEx Team since the last Rambler!

Shaun Hanley - *Assistant General Manager*  
Brad Pack - *General Manager*



Hallowe'en Colouring Contest

back, so it is a bit hectic with them in the pool and all the school bookings as well! But time flies by!

Currently, we are having a Halloween coloring contest - 3 age groups with 3 different prizes! Our wallpaper at the front desk is now colouring pages from the kids. Looks good!

Have fun in the fall and till next time.

Karin Westerink - *Facility Manager Stan Siwik Pool*

## NICHOLAS SHERAN POOL

We still haven't found the right replacement for Katy as Facility Manager for Nicholas Sheran Pool but we are still searching. Mike Poirier and Katrina Hurdle stepped up as Acting Managers and ran the pool thru the summer into early fall. They both did a fantastic job and our sincerest thanks go out to them both. Thanks also to Tanis Snowdon, our Head Customer Service Representative for all her help picking up extra duties while we continue to look for a new Manager. It's definitely been a busy time with the U of L shutdown as we have opened this pool at 6am Mon – Fri. since June. Summer was busy with lessons as we were jammed to capacity in pretty much every class. Well done everyone - busy means we are being successful!

Brad Pack – *Nicholas Sheran Pool*

## STAN SIWIK POOL

After a very busy summer, one of our little lesson guys, Domanick, was in the paper. There was an article about him because he went from a very scared child in the spring to an awesome little swimmer by the end of the summer. He can swim 25 meters without a life jacket and has a lot of fun jumping off the diving board!

After the summer, the U of L user groups came back, so it is a bit hectic with them in the pool and all the school bookings as well! But time flies by!

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Brad Pack – *Nicholas Sheran Pool*



ECS Lessons

## FRITZ SICK POOL

Where to begin... Over the last 6 months we have had the great opportunity to work with the University of Lethbridge during their shutdown - we have laughed, we have cried and we have learned to share! It has been a fantastic experience to get to know other community groups and patrons. As Oct 31st fast approaches we will say farewell to our new friends as they return to the U of L and hope to see them again! We wish them well and good luck. A huge thank-you to Excalibur, U of L, LASC, Synchronelles, Masters, U of L Patrons and Fritz Sick pool Patrons for working so hard to make this a positive, fun experience for our staff and everyone who takes joy in swimming! I would also like to personally thank everyone from my team who was here helping and dealing with staff, patrons and User groups through the transition and right to the end!!!! Hats off to all of you! Now to get re-organized and back to normal (whatever that is!)

Sunni Belle – *Facility Manager/Programmer – Fritz Sick Pool*

## HENDERSON OUTDOOR POOL

Greetings Everyone!

Another season has quickly come and gone at Henderson Lake Outdoor Pool. We were very fortunate this summer to experience some nice weather which always makes swimming at an outdoor pool that much more enjoyable! When the weather was hot, our pool was the place to be! All in all, it was a very successful summer, and once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the patrons of Lethbridge for another great summer season. We hope that you all have a very peaceful and restful winter and we look forward to seeing everyone again next season! Take care and remember to continue to be "Serious About Fun"!

Deanna Ward  
*Henderson Lake Outdoor Pool Facility Manager / OH&S Coordinator*

The little ones love Rowdy and Rowdine!

