

January 6, 2022

File: 540-20 CV Recreation Commission

Members

Comox Valley Recreation Commission

Re: Comox Valley Recreation Commission – 2020-2021 Chair's Report

This brief Chair's report aims to review Comox Valley Recreation Commission (Commission) work in 2020-2021, and provide a preview of policies and other decisions that we may consider as we close out the term. Generally speaking, as one of the services most affected by the COVID era, I believe we should be appreciative of the Commission's, staff's, and all the volunteers' work in responding to the challenges of the past two years. Especially since January of 2021, we have had to deal with a constantly changing situation regarding protocols, restrictions, and forward planning. While we started the year with hopes that vaccinations would bring the pandemic to an end, or at least to a state of more predictable policies, this simply hasn't been the case. Instead, staff and patrons had to constantly adjust to shifting Provincial policies, sometimes noting inconsistencies in the treatment of activities. While the Commission has not fully advocated to the Provincial government for more stability and consistency across policies between recreational activities, this could be considered in the coming months should members wish to. Without dwelling on this overarching situation, there were many achievements to highlight in the past year, which we should take the time to celebrate. Over the past year, the Commission has:

- 1) Re-launched the Comox Valley Sports Commission as the Comox Valley Recreation Commission, bringing under its authority the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds;
- 2) Helped establish a brand new recreational Hockey league, which launched with an over-subscription of teams;
- 3) Completed renovations to the Aquatic and Sports Centres, including a new team room for the Glacier Kings, as well as a major overhaul to the Aquatic centre including improved filtration to help create a better environment for users and staff;
- 4) Brought forward a new ice allocation policy, which attempts to bring more equity across different sports, age, and gender groups;
- 5) Completed a Facilities Condition Assessment for the Aquatic Centre, and a Concept Site Plan for the Exhibition Grounds;
- 6) After three years, launched the regional Leisure for Everyone Accessible Program (LEAP), to help reduce financial barriers to recreational opportunities;
- 7) Purchased and put into operation the first all-electric Zamboni on Vancouver Island;
- 8) Extended our Strategic Plan by two years, to 2023-2024.

With these accomplishments, I believe we can equally look forward to a productive year as we finish off our term as elected officials. In terms of what is in store in the coming months, the Commission is likely to consider the following items:

- A) Consider governance options to broaden our recreational offers, partnerships, and funding alignment;

- B) Continue to analyze asset management options for our facilities in the long-term, and initiate focused engagement on aquatic services specifically.
- C) Consider opportunities around possible future facilities and investments with community partners
- D) Support our communities with as many recreational offers as we can during a time of pandemic.

Thanks to all of you for serving on the Commission, and for your active leadership in helping fill the recreational needs of the Comox Valley.

Sincerely,

D. Arbour

Daniel Arbour
Director