

Programs

Aquatics

- Willows School began their swim team practices on Tuesday, November 19th. They will be swimming every Tuesday from 3:30-4:15pm until December. Oak Bay High School swim team finished their practices on Wednesdays from 3:15-4pm. Monterey Middle School will continue swimming Wednesdays, 4-5pm from now until December.
- The 2nd Fall lesson sets began Saturday, November 2nd with over 629 swimmers registered in group lessons and more than 36 registrants in Simple Set Private Lessons.
- This Fall we piloted new swim lessons and a family drop in swim session. This swim helped us explore new ways to allocate pool space within the lesson program. We also measured the usage of the family drop in time to see if it meets the current community's needs.

Community Recreation

Licensed Care

- This month the Afterschool Care program started skating lessons on Mondays with approximately 45 children attending.
- Six youth in the Afterschool Care program enjoyed participating in the Remembrance Day concert at the Dave Dunnet Theater on Thursday, November 7th. The youth created a video of what Remembrance Day means to them and the Canadian College of Performing Arts edited and showed the video at the concert. This was a great community partnership with the college for the second year in a row.
- The Neighbourhood Learning Centre Afterschool Care has been offering "Sensory Parties" in the program rooms. The Support and Inclusion Team Leader has spearheaded this project as a way to teach children self-regulation techniques through directed play. An example of activities includes: playdough making, calming jars, and dream/nature journals. This all takes place in a space with calming music and ambient lighting to set the mood. So far the feedback from the children has been fantastic - during these activities the children are focused and calm and have expressed an interest in activities they are not usually drawn to.
- The Windsor Preschool Playhouse is full with 18 children.
- Preschool Playhouse went on an out trip to the Oak Bay Fire Department. They loved getting to meet all of the fire fighters, see all of their gear, and most importantly see the ladder truck! Afterwards, the children baked the firefighters snickerdoodle cookies and made them thank-you cards.
- Paddington Daycare children continued with their visits to Kindergym on Tuesdays, walking trips to neighborhood parks, dance/yoga classes, and music classes. The group also visited Swan Lake for a nature walk and visited the nature house.
- The Daycare has transformed the science table to a dinosaur tactile table. The children are really enjoying learning about Dinosaurs.

CR Programs and Camps

- Crafty Pro-D Day Camp was successful with a total of 24 participants participating in winter wonderland crafts.
- The Oak Bay staff participated in the Christmas Light Up Festival on the Avenue with street hockey and children's crafts. This is a great event for staff to engage and develop relationships with children and families in the local community.
- The Pro-D Day in November was full with 65 children participating at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The group did walking out trips around the local community in the morning, then swimming at the pool in the afternoon.
- The new birthday party options have been very well received: Star Wars; Hogwarts; and Superhero themed birthdays have received all top marks from parents on feedback forms.
- Youth Badminton and Table Tennis sessions on Monday evenings have a steady rate of participants, between 12 to 14, and continue to provide a unique youth drop-in program that is one of the only offered anywhere in the city.

Culture

Studio Tour

The 20th Fall Artists Studio Tour took place on November 2nd and 3rd, with 28 artists taking part in the tour. There were six who set up their space in the NLC and over 230 people came to the centre over the weekend. The artists in the community reported a varying amount of participation.

Concert of Remembrance

The 2nd Concert of Remembrance took place on Thursday, November 7 at the Dave Dunnet Theatre at Oak Bay High School. It was well attended with approximately 250 people in the audience and \$1,900 donated to the Military Family Resource Centre and the Canadian Heritage Arts Society. This concert is presented in partnership with the Canadian College of Performing Arts. It also featured the Band of the Fifth Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.

ArtsAlive jury 2020

Seventeen applications were received for the 2020 ArtsAlive program. The Public Art Advisory Committee will jury the applications and recruit sponsorships to support the program during November.

Acorn Arts Award 2019

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Acorn Arts Award, the purpose of the award is to recognize an individual or organization in or from Oak Bay who have made a significant contribution to the artistic life in our community.

Fitness

- Seven fitness staff attended the presentation “Dealing with Aggressive People” presented by Chris Spargo with Sheep Dog Self Protection. The presentation provided valuable strategies for de-escalating conflicts and managing aggressive people.
- Drop-in group fitness class demand continues to grow so two classes have been added starting in January: Core Fitness Class at the NLC starting on Tuesdays 9-9:45am and a Circuit Training class on Mondays 7-8am at Henderson Centre.
- Gym Etiquette “Get on Board with Gym Etiquette” Contest ran from October 15th – 31st. Three hundred and thirty patrons entered in a draw for two personal training sessions for agreeing to respect Gym Etiquette. The contest provided a great opportunity for Fitness Studio staff to approach patrons to advise and reinforce the policy.

Monterey Centre

- Over 80 Monterey Members participated in the flu shot clinic November 6th to 9th. The complimentary flu shots were generously provided by Oak Bay Pharmasave.
- Wellwise Mobility and Safety Assists lobby display was presented on November 13th.
- Monterey Recreation Activity Association hosted a Leadership Lunch on November 14th to thank the leaders involved with Clubs, Advisory Committees, the Bazaar, Rummage Sale and the Board of Directors. Special guests included Mayor Kevin Murdoch and Councillor Hazel Braithwaite.
- The “Welcome to Oak Bay” community resource fair was held at Monterey Recreation Centre on Saturday, November 16th from 1:30-3:30pm. Twenty community agencies, groups and centres participated. Attendees enjoyed the live music, refreshments, door prizes and getting to know about all the services, supports, and opportunities available in the community.
- On Sunday, November 17th Monterey hosted an Indoor Community Market featuring 31 vendors including artisans, bakers, fudge, knit wear, artists, cards, books, calendars and jewelry.
- The Hearing Support group continues to meet monthly at Monterey. They discuss ways to support each other’s hearing challenges, and bring in guest speakers and use Monterey’s hearing assist device.

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- On Thursday, November 21st Pacific Opera performed a complimentary morning show for members in the Garden Court and the Island Sexual Health Society performed their “You’re Doing What at Your Age?” theatrical education play in the afternoon.
- The Monterey Concert Band held their annual “Night of Music” on November 21st. Over 120 members and guests attended and enjoyed the lively music and a delicious meal.
- Friday November 22nd was decorating day at Monterey. Volunteer Elves transformed the centre into a winter wonderland.

Arena/ Teens / Indoor Sports Field

Arena

- Adult skating lessons are running Friday evenings with just under 20 participants.

Indoor Sports Field

- The indoor sports field is very busy now that the weather has changed and daylight is shorter. To date there have been no additional inquiries or demand for the turf due to the Oak Bay High School’s turf closure, keeping in mind the only times open to book are before 8am and after 10:30pm to midnight throughout the week.
- Soccertron continues with its Saturday morning classes that have been very successful without lowering their numbers during their regular Monday and Wednesday afternoon classes.
- Indoor sports field Premium Birthday Parties such as bubble soccer, dodge ball, laser tag, and Nerf battles are booked up every Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the fall season.

Youth

- Youth Centre numbers continue to be strong at lunch with 35-45 youth and afterschool between 15-18 youth regularly attending.

Tennis

- Two classes were piloted: Introduction to tennis for adults that have mental health issues (partnership with VIHA); and parents with preschool kids.
- Block Booking accommodated all patrons requesting a time during the September – December 2019 session. To ensure these groups continue to stay together and active during the winter session, fall 2019 block booking groups will now be given “first right of refusal” (Note: aligns with the Indoor Sports Field Policy) prior to a new Block Booking court registration on December 14th.
- Child/Parent/Guardian participation lessons on Sunday have been very popular. Consideration is being given to shortening the duration of lesson set to allow more children to have the opportunity to try playing tennis with their parents/grandparents.
- Junior Future Stars Tournament was held November 9th with 16 children participating in 25 matches. Doubles play continued to be part of the registration fee in order to create more tennis friendships.
- The 40th New Year’s Classic Tennis Tournament has now been confirmed to be running on January 2nd- 12th, 2020. We are repeating the new Coach/Varsity Team division from last year as it drove more community involvement/spectatorship. This is a Tennis BC sanctioned tournament. Registration deadline is December 27th.
- For the second time in 5 years, Oak Bay has facilitated Tennis Canada Club Professional 1 certification. Four coaches from Oak Bay are taking the course. Recreation Oak Bay has the most certified coaches on the Island and the most coaches with Club Pro 1 certification or higher: 7 coaches currently and 6 in progress.

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- Starting to partner with Tennis BC Provincial team to allow more of the local children the opportunity to represent. Tennis BC will host a couple of workshops at Oak Bay for the children to participate over the upcoming months.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 23rd - **Santa's Kindergym Surprise** – Henderson Centre 9:30-10.30am and 11am – noon
- Saturday, December 7th – **Charlie Hunter & Lucy Woodward**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Tuesday, December 31st – **New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance with Groove Kitchen** - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Saturday, December 7th – **Breakfast with Santa**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge, 9:00am – noon.

Maintenance

- Staff continue to experiment with the tennis bubble air handling and controls to mitigate adverse court conditions. A faulty air handler on roof was repaired as it was not functioning at full capacity.

Parks

- Tree Canada gave the municipality \$3400 for a planting project in Uplands Park. Staff worked with Tree Canada and Telus to plant over 400 native grass and forbs and 8 Garry oak trees in an area where invasive species were removed.
- The new picnic shelter has been completed at Windsor park playground.
- The new hand railing project on the Sunny Lane to Dennison trail has been completed.
- The golf course closed for the season on November 12th.
- Leaf clean-up is in full swing along all taxed boulevards and parks.
- Parks staff were busy with Christmas light installation for 3 weeks in November.

Oak Bay Parks: Report on Administration of the Tree Protection Bylaw and Related Tree Work.

For the Month of November

The weather this November was unusually dry and calm without any big storms. The arboriculture crew assisted with the installation of Christmas lights for Light up on the Avenue, Estevan Village and The Oak Bay Recreation Centre. The crew is working on calls for service now with a focus on deadwood and larger removals before the winter. Tree planting season has started this week with most of our trees now residing in our Haro Road nursery. Crews assisted with a house move from 605 Newport with some pruning and the removal of two over mature Plum trees. There was some damage to one boulevard tree despite previous pruning. Tree banding for winter moth has been completed on a number of trees that had been impacted last year. The news article about tree banding generated a number of calls with questions about both municipal and private trees.

Public Property

A total of 3 trees were removed from public property. These trees were either dead, diseased or dangerous. Two of these trees were Garry oaks.

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Private Property

Fifteen permits were issued under the Tree Protection Bylaw this month. Six removal permits were requested for the removal of seven trees protected under the Tree Protection Bylaw. These permits were issued because the trees were dead, diseased, dying or structurally unsound or removed for construction. Only one of the removals were Garry oaks. No trees were removed for construction this month. Nine permits were issued for pruning protected trees. Two large cypress hedges were permitted to be removed. One was eight Lawson cypress trees all under protected size and most of them were dead from root disease. The other was an unmaintained Leylandi hedge of 14 trees and three of the trees were over protected size. Their structure was so poor they were not retainable.

Security Deposit and Enforcement

No security deposits were received this month. Two deposits were returned this month for a total of \$4250. The bylaw requires security deposits to ensure care of required replacement trees; deposits are held by the Municipality for 3 years pending satisfactory planting and care or required replacement trees. Forfeited deposits go to the Parks tree purchase account.

Work Orders

This month we received 26 calls for service and completed 35.