



ArtsAlive Oak Bay

Be part of Art in Oak Bay....

As I look back at the last five years as Arts Laureate, I am excited at the accomplishments and very appreciative of the support from the Commission, Council and the community. The three initial goals, which the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) worked on, are the core of Arts in Oak Bay. We are expanding these and adding new initiatives to broaden our scope with new projects

1. We have Parks, Recreation and Culture Department with a part-time Arts & Culture Programmer, Karen Manders who is doing an outstanding job coordinating and supporting our projects.
2. There is now a Public Art Policy which sets out clear details concerning:
 - Vision, Purpose, Definitions & Principle
 - Governance
 - Municipal Funding Mechanisms for Public Art Policy
 - Guidelines for Roles and responsibilities
 - Project Recommendation
 - Project Procurement-Gifts and donations
 - De-accession of Public Art

The PAAC is working on developing a jury process to aid in, and support the choosing of public art.

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), including myself, is very appreciative of this policy. **However we are looking for secure funding to maintain what we have, and support growth:**

The PAAC suggests the inclusion of some provision for funding for public art, other than through the municipal budget, sponsorships and donors :

For example, public art funding through the present revisions to Amenities By-law, or, a separate by-law designating a small percentage for public art on commercial, or multi-family buildings, and multiple house projects may be considered by Council as is done in some other municipalities.

We feel this funding would allow installations and signage to be done to last, and new projects to be more easily added. New projects such as murals on otherwise drab walls such as the back of the public works or outsides of public washrooms, and, aesthetic replacement, as required, of hand railings. (For example, railings could include additions of miniature sculptural forms of the local flora and fauna, or railings could be kelp-like in form in bronze or other sustainable materials.)

3. ArtsAlive Oak Bay 2018

ArtsAlive is created to bring an art experience to the community promoting well-being and thoughtful interaction; to build a legacy of public art for future generations; and, to enhance economic prosperity by bringing visitors to our community.

-Oak Bay's Public Art Collection:

1. "Salish Sea" by Chris Paul (Community donors and filming funds)
2. "The Sleeping Giants" by Nathan Scott and Fred Dobbs (2016 People's Choice: PC)
3. "Rebirth" by David Hunwick (Community donors and grant from Hon Don McRae)
4. "The Hunt" by Ken Hall (Grant from the Hon Don McRae and community donors)
5. "Bodhi Frog" by Doug Taylor (Donated by the Clogg Family)
6. "Lunar Transitions" by Fred Dobbs (2017 PC)
7. "The Gardener's Gown" by Bev Petow. (Donated in memory of Dr Margaret Leith by her estate)

2018 PC is "The Salmon Cycle" by Trinita Waller. A request to purchase will be forthcoming.

-Sponsors make ArtsAlive possible:

ArtsAlive Sculpture Walk sponsors:

-\$1500 cash to sponsor an artist:

REMAX (Nicole Pelan), Oak Bay Pharmasave (Tony Tucker)

The Avenue Gallery (Heather) Marc Owen-Flood

Engels& Volkens (Scott & Sandy Piercy)

Barclay's Fine Jewelers (Geoffrey Beatty), David Adams QC,

Oak Bay Marine Group (OBMG) (Brook Castelsky),

Oak Bay Tourism (Michele LeSage), Vis a Vis (Matt & Wendy MacNeil)

Brenda Russell, Royal LePage Coast Capital Realty

Abstract Developments (Mike Miller), Urban Core Ventures (Len Cole)

- Oak Bay Beach Hotel (Opening Reception, room discount for artists)

- Experience Victoria (Opening Bus Tour)

- Oak Bay News
- AlleyKat Signs

ArtsAlive Art Pianos Sponsors:

- Allison Piano
- James Movers
- Cheryl's Gourmet
- OBMG

Some members of the community are housing the Art Pianos this year so we can use the same pianos next year (except for one that has been purchased for personal use by Anne Russo).

ArtsAlive 2019

We have juried the submissions and have confirmed 9 sponsors, the last 3 sponsors should be confirmed this month. Locations and artist list will be confirmed by month end.

New Projects:

1. Sea Lore: a donor has offered \$50,000 to put a sculpture in Oak Bay bay:

The donor is elderly, 96, so we are working on the application process for a "Licence to Occupy" a rock in the bay from the provincial government, and the call for artists and selection process in parallel time:

- The application has been submitted and we are working on gathering more information as requested.

- Choosing an art piece:

- Call, Jury selection, Maquette, Final selection, Engineered base, Installation:

- The process took three jury sessions reviewing 32 submissions before the final choice emerged: "Octeavina" by Fred Dobbs and Lisa McCulloch

- We (Artist, Chris Hyde-lay, Steve Meikle, myself and another PAAC member) are meeting the Engineer, James Galloway, this week to discuss the installation method and requirements. James Galloway will produce a plan.

2. Casual Meeting /Performance Space at the "Salish Sea": We are hoping we can work on accomplishing project :

We have: - OBMG: \$10,000, - Plan by Illarian Gallant , - Butler Bros: Concrete at ½ cost, boulders: this sponsorship expires at the end of April 2019

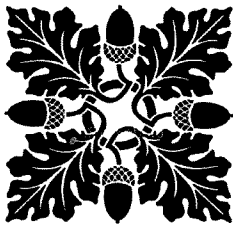
We are hoping to have the project included on the District to do list for 2019 in order to maintain this sponsorship, and to have the "Salish Sea" permanently installed as Chris Paul has been waiting to have the First Nations dedication ceremony.

3. -Mural Project:

The Oak Bay Sketch Club has received an \$8000 grant to do a mural on the back of the public works building and we will work with them to accomplish this. Process to be determined at our next meeting.

-Acorn Arts Award

Call for nominations is out and we have 2 nominations received so far. Deadline is January 15.



Acorn Arts Award

Parvis e glandibus quercus

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow"

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture is now accepting nominations for the Acorn Arts Award.

Oak Bay's Acorn Arts Award is an honorary artistic achievement award that recognizes a living individual, group or institution who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to, and significant impact on the arts in Oak Bay.

The purpose of the award is threefold:

- 1.) To acknowledge and celebrate outstanding artistic merit or outstanding arts contributions in Oak Bay.
- 2.) To enhance awareness of the arts and the role they play in nourishing Oak Bay's economic, social & emotional well-being.
- 3.) To acknowledge persons who have contributed to an enlivened, healthy, and meaningful community.

Arts can include, but are not limited to: visual arts, craft, design, film, new media, music, dance, writing, public art, theatre arts, philanthropy, business supporting the arts, volunteerism in the arts, culinary arts, landscape art, or architecture.

The award is administered by the Oak Bay Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture and the Municipality of Oak Bay and is adjudicated by the Oak Bay Arts Laureate and the Public Art Committee with no monetary value. The honoree receives a bespoke acorn keepsake and will be publicly recognized for their achievement.

In 2017 the Acorn Arts Award was presented to Pat Martin Bates, a renowned artist and long-time member of the Oak Bay community.

Nominations can be made on the [Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture website](#), hard copies are also available by request.

Nominations will be accepted until January 15, 2019.

Feel free to nominate a worthy recipient!

In conclusion:

1. There are three areas the PAAC would like to see accomplished with support of Commission:

- a. Continue to enrich the **ArtsAlive** program:
 - Move forward with the Casual Performance/Meeting Area at Turkey Head to complement “The Salish Sea” sculpture.
 - Consider an additional method of funding specifically for public art
- b. Sea Lore Sculpture in the bay project
- c. Broaden the scope of projects to include planning for the eventual rehabilitation of railings etc with art, and creating murals to enhance public buildings.

2. Your support of ArtsAlive shows leadership in engaging the community in the development of a rich and desirable lifestyle in Oak Bay. The Public Art seems to have fostered more visits to the Oak Bay Village, and Estevan Village by locals and tourists. It is our hope Public Art will encourage more memorable experiences for all in Oak Bay.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Adams

Oak Bay Arts Laureate

To: **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission**
From: **Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture**
Subject: **Commission Strategic Plan – Staff Review**
Date: **January 2, 2019**



www.recreation.oakbay.ca

PURPOSE

At the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission meeting of November 7, 2018 the Commission referred their Strategic Plan 2019-2023 draft document to staff for review and comment.

BACKGROUND

The Commission has undertaken a process to develop a strategic plan, outside of Council's strategic planning process for the District. Staff recommend that the Council and Commission planning processes become linked through Council's 2019 strategic planning and associated budget processes.

ANALYSIS

Staff recognizes that:

- ✓ the Commission's 10 identified priority initiatives have significant budget and staffing implications;
- ✓ that the Official Community Plan provides guidance for a Parks & Recreation Master Plan, as well as additional policies that can inform Council's decision making for 2019 strategic planning and budget processes; and,
- ✓ that Council is required to balance a large number of priorities and initiatives across the District in the context of capacity and budget, which will impact what initiatives the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department can undertake.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are a number of items in the draft which would have a financial impact, but the level of funding required to undertake the noted initiatives has not been analyzed.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Commission refer its 10 priority initiatives to Council for consideration as part of the upcoming 2019 strategic planning and budget processes;

AND FURTHER, THAT staff provide costing estimates for the Commission's 10 priority initiatives, with associated analysis of budget impact and staffing capacity, to Council for the upcoming 2019 strategic planning and budget processes.


Ray Herman
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Draft for Staff Review (v3.5 FINAL) – 2 January 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (“Commission”) has a broad mandate defined and governed by municipal by-laws and administrative policy. The Commission oversees the single largest component of Oak Bay’s annual budget and its program and facilities portfolio. As such, it needs to ensure that the parks, recreation and culture facilities and programs it is responsible for can respond to changes in Council and community expectations.

As a result, it is timely that the Commission create a strategic plan to guide its actions over the next four years and enable it to make the choices required to meet expectations. It is intended that the plan be submitted to Council for its review and validation in early 2019.

The purpose of the Commission’s strategic plan is to:

- To align the Commission’s responsibilities and actions with its mandated authority and base any recommendations to Council to address any gaps or updates in its current scope
- To provide strategic context for all of the Commission’s work – including but not limited to its budget, strategic focus and setting the agenda for its meetings
- To support the Commission in being more innovative and proactive in its advice to Council
- To set annual priorities on major initiatives that will help guide choices and action

The Plan sets for the Commission’s focus and work:

- a **vision** for Oak Bay as leading the province as a healthy, active living community with vibrant arts and culture that celebrates the stewardship of its natural ecosystem
- a **mission** that defines its purpose as providing excellent and accountable advice to Council that supports and inspires active and stimulating living through healthy lifestyles by providing sustainable, diverse and accessible recreation, arts and culture opportunities
- six **goals** to advance its proposed vision and mission – namely to:
 1. Build a more active, more connected community
 2. Protect and value Oak Bay’s natural ecosystems
 3. Support and improve Oak Bay’s parks, recreation and culture infrastructure and programs

4. Be a regional leader in community arts and culture
 5. Encourage and enhance community engagement in the Commission's work
 6. Create a partnership with First Nations to participate in future decision-making
- ten **priority initiatives** that it proposes to work on to advance these goals - namely:
 1. Develop a plan to rebuild Carnarvon Park
 2. Oversee the implementation of Oak Bay's Urban Forest Strategy
 3. Promote active transportation
 4. Create a master plan to modernize playgrounds
 5. Protect rare and endangered species and ecosystems
 6. Review and update dog-use by-laws and policies aimed at ensuring how to best protect Oak Bay's parks and beaches and share them with a diverse group of stakeholders
 7. Ensure all our facilities (natural or built) are open and accessible
 8. Develop a budget plan and options aimed at ensuring that all of Oak Bay's recreation facilities and programs maximize their cost-recovery potential
 9. Develop an integrated Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture master plan
 10. Enhancing intergenerational opportunities to connect people

A time frame for the completion of the proposed priority initiatives as well as performance measures to track and measure the Plan's progress will be completed following Council's validation of the draft PRCC Strategic Plan in early 2019.

Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Draft for Commission Review (v3.5 FINAL) – 2 January 2019

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (“Commission”) has a broad mandate defined and governed by municipal by-laws and administrative policy. The Commission oversees the single largest component of Oak Bay’s annual budget and its program and facilities portfolio. As such, it needs to ensure that the parks, recreation and culture facilities and programs it is responsible for can respond to changes in Council and community expectations. As a result, it is timely that the Commission create a strategic plan to guide its actions and recommendations over the next four years to enable it to make the choices required to meet these expectations.

Among the key purposes of the Commission’s strategic plan are:

- To align the Commission’s responsibilities and actions with its mandated authority and base any recommendations to Council to address any gaps or updates in its current scope
- To provide strategic context for all of the Commission’s work – including but not limited to:
 - aligning its annual budget for parks, recreation and culture programs and facilities with strategic priorities,
 - directing the Commission’s focus at the strategic rather than operational level in its work and,
 - Setting the agenda for the Commission’s meetings
- To help the Commission be more innovative and proactive in its advice to Council with initiatives that are based on strategy, aligned with Council priorities and the Official Community Plan (OCP) and responsive to public input
- To set annual priorities on major initiatives that will help guide choices and action – supported by a framework for measuring its progress and impact

The Commission’s strategic plan is set over a four year timeframe (2018 to 2022) to help facilitate longer-term planning work. It is expected that it will be reviewed annually and refreshed with new goals and objectives once those initially set are accomplished. The annual review should be conducted in September so it can inform the development of the Commission’s annual budget recommendations for parks, recreation and culture programs and facilities.

VISION

Oak Bay leads the province as a healthy, active living community with vibrant arts and culture that celebrates the stewardship of its natural ecosystem

MISSION

The Commission provides excellent and accountable advice to Council that supports and inspires active and stimulating living through healthy lifestyles by providing sustainable, diverse and accessible recreation, arts and culture opportunities

KEY ROLES

The Commission has a broad mandate defined by municipal by-law and administrative policy. Within this mandate, the most important roles that the Commission exercises are ...

- To advocate for active living through healthy lifestyles in everything the municipality does
- To advocate for the stewardship of Oak Bay's natural spaces
- To advise Council on suggested parks, recreation and culture program initiatives and capital projects
- To encourage the active engagement of the public in the Commission's work and priority initiatives
- To provide oversight of all parks, recreation and culture programs, facilities and infrastructure operated by Oak Bay – including coordination of leisure services and custody, maintenance and regular refresh of facilities and infrastructure
- To provide oversight of Oak Bay's parks, recreation and culture budget - exercising integrity and due diligence in its management

STRATEGIC THEMES AND DIRECTIONS

- **ACTIVE LIVING**
 - Promote active and inclusive lifestyles through ways that are both inclusive and sustainable
 - Encourage modernization of our current active-living assets and infrastructure and how we do our business
 - Promote more community gatherings i.e. movie nights, Arts Alive walking tours, free drop-in play sessions
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
 - Encourage engagement with the public to seek input, celebrate achievements and support transparency in the Commission's work

- Expand and improve community engagement through public information sessions specific to parks, recreation, arts and culture – broadcast events more often
 - Recognize First Nations cultural significance on all print and posters, as it pertains to indigenous culture
- *A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY*
 - Support natural conservation, appreciation and protection

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

In conducting its work and exercising its mandate, the Commission will ...

- Promote healthy lifestyles - through active living opportunities
- Promote sustainability - protect, steward and conserve natural spaces
- Promote accessibility – increasing opportunities and access to active living programs for all in our community
- Be forward-thinking with an open mind to new ideas and approaches – agile, open and flexible; focussed on problem-solving
- Seek continuous improvement - through innovation and not being afraid to be bold
- Encourage public input - being respectful and inclusive in our interactions with the public
- Be appreciative – recognizing achievements and accomplishments; maintaining a deep and fundamental respect for what we’ve got
- Be accountable and transparent - in our interactions with the public, Council and each other; compliant with Council protocols and practice for information sharing
- Be fiscally responsible – in our oversight of Oak Bay’s parks, recreation and culture budget
- Honour and acknowledge First Nations in our work

GOALS

In order to advance our vision and fulfill our mission, the Commission aims to:

1. ***Build a more active, more connected community*** - by enhancing opportunities for all residents to pursue active, stimulating and healthy lifestyles as well as inter-generational opportunities to connect people together
2. ***Protect and value Oak Bay’s natural ecosystems***
3. ***Support and improve Oak Bay’s parks, recreation and culture infrastructure and programs*** – through innovation and improvements that enable access for all members of our community
4. Be a regional ***leader in community arts and culture***
5. ***Encourage and enhance community engagement in the Commission’s work*** - by promoting the Commission’s work to members of our community and other commissions and agencies of the municipality and being always open and encouraging of public input into our work
6. Create a ***partnership with First Nations*** to participate in future decision-making regarding landmarks, gardens and other areas of relevance

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

To best advance our goals, the Commission will work actively on the following priority initiatives. (A time frame for the completion of proposed actions will be completed following Council's review and validation of the draft PRCC Strategic Plan.)

Initiative	Actions
1. Develop a plan to rebuild Carnarvon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch community engagement process • Complete project
2. Oversee the implementation of Oak Bay's Urban Forest Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete implementation
3. Promote active transportation - including active transportation enhancements such as bike paths, improved and upgraded trail networks and non-park walking routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
4. Create a master plan to modernize playgrounds based on design principles that, among other factors, will make our playgrounds more inclusive/accessible; more innovative and imaginative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft master plan • Public engagement • Final plan to Council
5. Protect rare and endangered species and ecosystems through stewardship of our natural assets and restoration of natural habitats in conservation-oriented parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement procedures to protect Critical Habitat for Species at Risk in municipal parks consistent with those established in federal recovery strategies • Identify and map the distribution of imperiled ecosystems in municipal parks • Develop and implement procedures to restore imperiled ecosystems in municipal parks to a more natural state
6. Review and update dog-use by-laws and policies aimed at ensuring how to best protect Oak Bay's parks and beaches and share them with a diverse group of stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and draft report on suggested revisions • Public engagement completed • Revised draft report to Commission for endorsement • Commission report to Council for endorsement

Initiative	Actions
7. Ensure all our facilities (natural or built) are open and accessible while not compromising integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
8. Develop a budget plan and options aimed at ensuring that all of Oak Bay’s recreation facilities and programs maximize their cost-recovery potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For FY19/20 Commission budget
9. Develop an integrated Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture master plan to sustain Oak Bay’s leadership in active living	<p><i>Arts and Culture Master Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Arts and Culture Master Plan • Public engagement on draft plan [sponsored by <i>ArtsAlive</i> committee] • Revised draft plan to Commission for endorsement <p><i>Parks and Recreation Master Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan • Public engagement on draft plan • Revised draft plan to Commission for endorsement <p><i>Integrated Plan (combines Arts and Culture Master Plan with Parks and Recreation Master Plan)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft integrated plan to Commission for endorsement by • Commission plan to Council for approval
10. Enhance intergenerational opportunities to connect people together – for example, drop-in play sessions, continuing free skate and swim days, creating an annual municipal “Block Party”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot turning the existing “<i>Movie in the Park</i>” night program into a late afternoon/evening block party event that speaks to our mission (i.e. promotes activity arts and culture as well as ecosystem stewardship and protection) and ends with the movie

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To be determined – once the strategic plan is reviewed and validated by Council. The performance measurement framework will also require guidance from and alignment with forthcoming OCP monitoring framework.

Programs

Aquatics

- December has been a great month for advanced aquatic programs with 27 completed participants. To date, six completed the first step to becoming a Red Cross Water Safety Instructor (WSI), twelve were certified as WSIs, and nine received their Bronze Medallion Award. Additionally, over the holiday break, there are 12 registered in the WSI Step 2, 10 registered in the Bronze Medallion/Cross Combo Course and 21 registered to become certified Lifeguards for the first time. Oak Bay continues to be the only pool in the city offering this flexible, over the holidays, option for busy young people!
- On Saturday, December 21st and Sunday, December 22nd, Recreation Oak Bay will be hosting "Swim with Santa" during the 1-5pm Kids Fun Swims. Santa will help run games and activities with the lifeguard "elves" throughout the afternoon. Some of the fun will include reindeer races, scavenger hunts, and Santa going down the drop slide!
- The aquatics department received the following feedback this month:
"Amber (Sunday 930am Sea Turtle Instructor) is phenomenal! She is patient, caring, and does an excellent job motivating little ones. Thank you for all the work you do."

Community Recreation

Before/Afterschool Care

- In after school care, the kids have been very busy with skating and swimming lessons as well as creating unique crafts such as papier-mâché and snow globes which they have hand carved from clay.

Paddington Daycare

- The children in Paddington Daycare celebrated the holidays with a concert at the NLC on December 13th. The children dressed up as elves and sang songs for their families. Santa paid a visit and parents were able to socialize and enjoy snacks with friends afterwards.

Windsor Preschool Playhouse

- Preschool Playhouse at Windsor had their annual Holiday Party on Friday, December 14th. The children sang songs for their families followed by a potluck.

CR Programs and Camps

- Recreation Oak Bay and the Rotary Club of Oak Bay put on yet another great Merrython event on Sunday, December 3rd with approximately 90-100 people participating in the main run/walk and 25 children in the kids run around the Henderson Centre Chip trail.
- Over 50 families enjoyed the Santa's Kindergym surprise on December 22nd. Children enjoyed activities, crafts and a visit from Santa.
- On Saturday, December 22nd a new Crafty School of Art workshop ran. Similar to a Pro-D day camp but on Saturday, it was offered to give parents a break in order to get some last minute holiday items done. Thirty children attended the morning and afternoon sessions in total.
- Skidaddle over the winter holidays was offered December 27th, 28th and 31st with many fun trips planned including a trip to Butchart Gardens and the Royal BC Museum. Campers enjoyed the Recreation Oak Bay facilities by skating swimming, and playing in the gym.

Program, Parks and Physical Plant Report December 2018
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- Registration for the winter and spring sessions started December 3rd and many of the popular programs in Community Recreation have filled up fast including Preschool Preparation, Music Together and Cooking for Fun. The Programmer has added additional Morning Munchkins sessions and increased registration numbers for Preschool Preparation to support the demand for the program.

Fitness

- An upgrade of the cardio equipment in the Recreation Oak Bay Fitness Studio is planned for 2019. There will be demonstration pieces in the Fitness Studio in December and January. Comment cards will be gathered for patron feedback on the demonstration equipment and a decision will be made in the winter with the new equipment arriving in July 2019.
- The Times Colonist 10 KM run is happening on Sunday April 28, 2019. Training clinics start in January on Tuesday evenings at Henderson Centre and Thursday evenings at Windsor Pavilion. The clinic registration fee includes all the pieces to get participants set for the start line including; race entry, race t-shirt, RunSport's 14 week run training program, training tools and expert tips, technical training shirt. All levels of runners and walkers are welcome.
- Our indoor cycling classes will be open for online registration 24 hours prior to the start of each Drop in Cycle session. This will allow patrons to register in advance as opposed to showing up 45 minutes early to secure a spot in the class.

Monterey Centre

- December was a fun filled month of events and club parties at Monterey.
- Almost 200 members and guests attended the Holiday Luncheon on December 12th. Attendees enjoyed the delicious turkey meal with all the trimmings, uplifting seasonal music and a special visit from Santa.
- Monterey Centre joined forces with the People Meeting People group to host the "Holly Daze Dinner and Dance" on Sunday, December 16th. One hundred and forty-four patrons danced the night away to the Stephanie Greaves Trio.
- December outings included a day trip to Chemainus for brunch and a live theatre performance of "Little Women", a trip to Butchart Gardens, the Greater Victoria Police Choir Concert and the Annual Night of Lights Tours. Monterey trips provide a safe environment for individual patrons to enjoy adventures that they wouldn't do on their own, while also creating opportunities to build social connections with other like minded people.
- The Monterey Recreation Activity Association Wellness Committee arranged for a Shoppers Home Health Care lobby display on December 5th showcasing the latest in mobility assist equipment and devices.
- Popular Courses this December included, Enchanting Lorre Valley, Aging Backwards Shoulder and Neck Series, and Brie and Bloom.

Arena/ Teens / Indoor Sports Field

Indoor Sports Field

- The Indoor Sports field is busy in December, particularly over the holiday break. The Bays Junior Soccer Association host their two annual youth soccer tournaments that run all day on December 14th-16th and December 27th-30th. The Bays Seniors hold the adult tournament starting on New Year's Day and running in the evenings until January 6. The 'Island Fire Football Association' is renting the turf for the first time for children's holiday soccer clinics January 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

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Arena

- Learn to skate numbers continued to be strong for November and December. January will mark the 3rd lesson set and will run until the beginning of March.
- On December 1st, British Columbia came together in a truly Canadian way with communities across the province opening their local arenas and outdoor rinks for a province-wide skating party to kick off the official countdown to the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship. People of all ages and abilities were encouraged to come out to this celebration and represent their community, province and country. Staff at Recreation Oak Bay hosted a themed skate supported by Hockey Canada. There were World Junior stickers and tattoos handed out to the patrons to celebrate this exciting theme skate!
- The Annual Skate with Santa was held on Sunday, December 16th. This popular themed skate had Santa skating with the kids, handing out prizes and posing for photos as well as carolers singing holiday carols while families skated. The carolers from Outreach Events were arranged by the Arts and Culture programmer. In the arena lobby there were Christmas coloring stations and holiday face painting. On ice games included pass the present at center ice and skating with Santa.
- Christmas Skate on December 25th and the New Year's Day Skate on January 1st will both be free to the public for admissions and rentals. Big crowds are expected for both sessions.
- Victoria Minor Hockey offered tournaments over the holidays December 28th - 30st.
- Eleven extra skates for the public were added over the holidays on top of the regular public skates that are held regularly.

Youth

- Youth Centre numbers continue to be strong at lunch with 35-45 youth and afterschool between 10-15 youth. The Centre will be closed for the holidays from December 21th to January 6th.
- Special events in December at the Youth Centre were: evening table tennis tournaments and an evening of holiday baking with Christmas movies. Both events were well attended with up to 15 Youth.

Tennis

- Regular programs ended December 14th prior to the holiday season.
- Forty-two fall block bookings were rolled over for the winter session. This is the 3rd year doing this with positive feedback. Two new block booking groups attended the lottery.
- The 39th New Year's Classic Tennis Tournament (January 4th - 13th) will have some changes to the events planned in response to trends in registration. For example, the number of "Intermediate" divisions has been increased as well as the "Open" division being replaced (due to decreasing registration) with a Coach/Varsity Team Exhibition level. The goal is to offer more Intermediate divisions that are in better alignment with the lesson levels being offered at Oak Bay. The goal of the Coach/Varsity Team Exhibition level is to showcase varsity play to the junior players as well as create more social opportunities for the tennis community whereby better tennis entertainment, with Oak Bay coaching staff also playing, should bring more people out to watch and socialize with each other. Another benefit to having varsity player's play is a partnership opportunity as these players could be future staff coaches.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, January 11th, **Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues Band Dance**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.

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- Saturday, January 12th, **Steve Dawson & Friends**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Friday, January 18th, **Edie Daponte "From Paris to Rio"**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Friday, January 25th, **Pearl Django**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.

Maintenance

- Work continues on the Energy Loop in the ammonia plant room. The new desiccant dehumidifier has been lifted onto the roof and should be installed shortly. The computer controls phase of the project is now underway and the hardware for the lobby TV monitor has been installed.
- Pool water, domestic hot water and arena dehumidification set points are still reduced due to the reduced gas supply available in BC.

Parks

- Parks staff are busy with seasonal garden bed maintenance and leaf clearing from parks and taxed boulevards.
- A large private Grand Fir tree failed onto a public right of way during the evening windstorm on December 17th. The tree crew was called out to clear the laneway.
- The full tree summary for 2018 will be included in the February 2019 Commission report.