



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 28, 2011
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 12, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Community Services, in consultation with General Manager of Financial Services and General Manager of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society Recreation/Gymnasium Operating Funding 2011

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve 2011 funding in the amount of \$235,059 to the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society for the delivery of recreational programs and operation of the Collingwood Gymnasium (the "Gymnasium") for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011; source of funds to be the 2011 Operating Budget.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY

On December 15, 1994 Council agreed to provide Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society "the Society" funding for a basic level of services for gymnasium/recreational programs at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

On February 19, 2002, Council approved a five-year lease (the "Lease") with the Society, which commenced on May 1, 2002 and the City and the Society entered into a Gymnasium Licence and Operating Agreement with the Board of School Trustees of District No. 39 on January 1, 2002, governing the shared use of the Gymnasium by the Society and the School Board.

On November 7, 2002, Council approved an operating agreement with the Society to formalize funding and operating commitments for the Gymnasium through a modification to the Lease dated November 26, 2003 (the "Lease Modification").

PURPOSE

This report recommends funding in the amount of \$235,059 for 2011 funds to deliver recreational programs and operate the Gymnasium at the Collingwood Neighbourhood House. This represents no change from the 2009 and 2010 approved funding levels.

BACKGROUND

The Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society has been operating at the Joyce-Vanness location since 1995. The facilities, including the gymnasium, are owned by the City and leased to the Society pursuant to a Lease dated November 25, 2000.

The Lease Modification requires that the Society provide the City a business plan detailing programs and services to be delivered and financial and performance information for the current fiscal year ending March 31.

The operation of the Gymnasium is considered to be a unique arrangement. Although owned by the City, the Society leases and operates the Gymnasium. This arrangement is less expensive than if it were City managed and allows for more community input into the operation.

The City also supports the work of the Neighbourhood House through other granting mechanisms. The Society has received a Community Services Grant to support community capacity building, community development and advocacy since 1986. On February 17, 2011, Council approved a 2011 Community Services Grant for Collingwood Neighbourhood House for \$92,740.

DISCUSSION

A. Operating Results for the Year Ended March 31, 2011

The Society continues to provide a broad range of programs to meet the needs of a diverse community including residents of different age groups and cultures to improve recreation opportunities, cultural development and participation in the community. As per Appendix A, in 2010/2011, approximately 23,390 local residents and 14,000 youth participated in Collingwood's 71 recreational programs - about an 8% increase in participants over 2009/2010. (Note: These statistics include multiple visits from program participants.)

In 2010/11, the Recreation Department of Collingwood Neighbourhood House, which delivers the programs under this agreement, experienced a surplus of \$2,028. The unaudited financial results for the year ended March 31, 2011 and budget request for 2011/12 are summarized as follows:

Year Ended March 31, 2011	Actual 2009/2010 Audited	Actual 2010/2011 Unaudited	Budget 2011/2012
Revenue			
Earned Income	94,827	107,527	111,410
City of Vancouver	235,056	235,056	235,056
Total Revenue	329,883	342,583	346,466
Expenses			
Accessibility:			
Total Accessibility Exp	4,503	3,890	3,580
Human Resources:			
Total Human Resources Exp	266,063	259,636	281,325
Administration:			
Total Administration Exp	55,819	55,537	56,301
Capital And Facilities:			
Total Capital & Facility Exp	5,264	13,548	5,908
Program Expenses:			
Total Program Exp	2,376	7,943	4,382
Total Expenses	334,025	340,554	351,496
Surplus (Deficit)	-4,143	2,028	-5,030

B. Funding Request for 2011

As required by the Lease Modification, the Society has provided a copy of its 2011/12 Work Plan for Council review (Appendix A). The Society continues to address the challenges associated with providing affordable, accessible recreation programs in a highly diverse community. To improve accessibility and make best use of existing resources, the Society maintains a number of partnerships with local schools and community centres to provide recreational programs.

The 2011/12 proposed budget reflects the need to support the delivery of programs outlined in the Society's Work Plan.

City staff have concluded that the Society continued to provide quality services throughout 2010/2011 and that their business plan for 2011/2012 was consistent with the City's goals.

City Staff recommend no change from the 2010 approved funding (\$235,059).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The review of the existing lease with Collingwood Neighbourhood House (currently overholding) will be part of a Corporate Project aimed at improving oversight of City-owned property leased to non-profit agencies. One potential outcome of the lease review for Collingwood Neighbourhood House is to provide a multi-year arrangement to fund the Gymnasium activities. In the meantime, the existing lease arrangement requires that funding be approved by Council on an annual basis.

City Staff recommend continued financial support from the City for the delivery of recreation programs and the operation of the Gymnasium at Collingwood Neighbourhood House through the proposed City funding of \$235,059 for 2011, source of funds to be the 2011 Operating Budget.

CONCLUSION

The Society provides an important service to a demographically diverse community in the Collingwood area. The unique arrangement of a local organization responsible for the development and operation of a City-owned gymnasium has been mutually beneficial in this community. Continued financial support for the delivery of recreation programs will ensure that such services can continue to be provided to the members of the community.

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Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society 2011/2012 Work Plan Prepared by Carmen Correal and Michael McLenaghan, Director of Community Services, March 31, 2011

Collingwood Neighbourhood House Recreation/Gym Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Vancouver with an update of program activities to date (March 2011) and provide a plan for the upcoming year. Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) is seeking approval for 2011 operating funds to support continued and expanded delivery of recreation programs in the Collingwood Neighbourhood House and community. CNH is requesting a cost of living increase on its current funding as Council policy permits. This increase is necessary to cover existing costs and address budget pressures.

BACKGROUND

City funding for CNH recreation has been stable and consistent since 1994 and most recently, in May 2010, Council approved funding to CNH in the amount of \$235,056. In November 2002, in order to clarify roles and responsibilities, staff recommended in a report to Council that the agreement between the City and the Society regarding the funding for the gymnasium/recreation be formalized. City staff worked with the Society to draft and enter into a specific operating agreement. This agreement completed and executed in November 2003, set out the requirement for this review. One of the principal elements of this agreement is the recognition that Corporate Services, Community Services, and Parks and Recreation require representation in performing an annual review of gymnasium and recreation operations. Management of the services contract is therefore seen as a joint responsibility.

An Overview of the Collingwood Community

Collingwood has been undergoing unprecedented development since 1995 resulting in rapid population growth in the last decade, and this is expected to continue as current and new developments are realized over the next few years. School enrolment figures and demand for services also confirm this continuing growth. The Collingwood Village growth projections alone, correctly predicted an additional 10,000 new residents with all phases completed. This projection of 10,000 has been surpassed and there are additional housing developments due to be built in the next few years. (Boundary and Kingsway development)

Collingwood is also one of the most economically and culturally diverse communities in East Vancouver. The proportion of residents with English as a Second Language is over 75% and government statistics confirm that there are large pockets within the community of low-income families, new immigrant and refugees. Collingwood also has one of the highest proportions of newborns, as well as the highest number of youth per capita as confirmed by Health and Census statistics. Lastly, Collingwood has a disproportionately high number of seniors and special needs residents. This community diversity continues to shape the overall content of recreation programs and their accessibility. The population of seniors is growing extremely fast and this will continue in the next few decades. The estimates range from a 30% to 40% increase in the seniors population by the year 2030.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House Gymnasium and Recreation Program

The Collingwood Neighbourhood House gymnasium was part of the 1995 Collingwood Village Amenities, a comprehensive city plan to support the establishment of city funded services as part of the approved Collingwood Village development. The development of a gymnasium and recreation program was a community priority identified by the Joyce Street Area Planning Committee.

Under this plan, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House assumed responsibility for managing the gymnasium/recreation program on the understanding that the Society would receive City funding to support these operations at a comparable level to that provided to similar operations. The gym/recreation program was one component within a multi-service facility that included other community amenities, such as licensed childcare facilities, settlement services, family and social services, community development, park space, and an elementary school that opened in January 2002.

As noted in the 1995 City report, this approach was less costly than having the gym/recreation program operated by the Parks Board. It also ensured that services on the Collingwood site could be better coordinated and that there was maximum potential for community input into the operation. Under this agreement, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House agreed to fund services beyond the basic level through fundraising and program revenues.

A steering committee was established in 1995 to start up operations, establish operating budgets and guide programming direction. This committee was made up of representatives from the Joyce Street Area Planning Committee, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Parks and Recreation, and the Vancouver School Board. Working within the mission of Collingwood Neighbourhood House to serve the needs of the community, this committee helped to establish the principles and vision that continue to guide Collingwood's recreation program operations, as described in the goals below.

Main goals of the Recreation program

1. To provide a broad range of recreation and leisure services and opportunities to Collingwood residents of all ages and ability levels.
2. To provide a good balance of social, cultural, physical and arts related activities and to communicate with residents to ensure programs are relevant and responsive to community needs.
3. To provide programs and services that remains accessible to all people in the Collingwood community, responsive to disadvantaged residents, and designed to reduce or eliminate any barriers to participation.
4. To create community development opportunities through recreation and leisure including activities for people from different generations to engage in recreation together.

Overview of Activities

The overall Collingwood Neighbourhood House Recreation program is comprised of approximately 71 individual programs with most of these operating year round. There are a wide range of ongoing activities offered including arts, music, outdoors, reading and language, cooking, social, fitness, and many physical activities and sports. We also run up to ten summer camp recreation programs for children including gymnastics, music, basketball, creative arts, arts and crafts, piano, dance, soccer, floor hockey, rhythmic gymnastics. Special Events such as Move for Health on May 10, are offered at various times throughout the year. On Feb 12, 2010 The Community Living Room Opening Event for the Olympic and Paralympic games of 2010 took place at CNH. The nature and number of programs offered reflect the continuing growth and change of the Collingwood community itself. As people age, and move into the seniors demographic (over 55) programs need to be developed to meet the increasing needs of this group.

Future Challenges for Collingwood/Renfrew Community and Impacts on Recreation and Leisure services

1. **Rapid population growth** - We have experienced rapid population growth in our community during the past decade resulting in a steady increase in the number of people participating in our programs and activities. Our membership numbers grow steadily each year and more people seem to discover our neighbourhood house each month. We expect steady growth in population to continue for the next few years however the increase in the population will not be as dramatic as in the past decade. Along with more people comes a need for more and greater variety of services. In addition, the cultural diversity of the community continues to present unique challenges and opportunities in planning recreation programs, as over 75% of residents are English as a Second Language.
2. **Space availability** - Until now we have been able to provide a high level of service and respond well to the changing needs of our growing population. This will become more difficult in the future due to the limit of available community space for recreation programs at the main neighbourhood house. At present, we operate several programs in local elementary schools; however, the availability of other community spaces to operate recreation programs is limited and is usually short term with no guarantee of future availability. These arrangements are achieved through community relationship building and require ongoing attention.
3. **Expansion of services, affordability and accessibility** - We will also need to find ways to fund the expansion of services that community residents need. This will be a significant challenge as many of the people living or moving into the Collingwood community are in the lower to middle socio-economic status and therefore, affordability and accessibility of recreation programs is a major issue.
4. **Training and retention of staff** - Another future challenge will be our ability to provide ongoing training and retention for our recreation staff. This includes part-time unionized employees as well as contract staff. The current collective bargaining agreement ended March 31, 2011. We will be renegotiating our new contract during 2010/2011.

As of April 2010 there has been an increase in wages and benefits for recreation staff, by 2.0% for recreation worker 1, 2, 3 and 4. The rate for contract staff (e.g. Pilates, Visual Arts and Yoga instructors) has been increased by 3% to \$22.94 an hour.

Currently we have limited funds for training of staff and we rely on the ability of new part-time paid employees to learn on the job under the direction of the recreation coordinator. This is becoming more challenging as the range of recreation programs and services we offer continues to increase.

5. With a rapidly ageing population we will be challenged to find the space and resources to meet the needs of those 55 and over.

Meeting the Challenges

1. **Maximizing use of available space** - As our main facility is getting close to full capacity (currently over 90% use) we continue to explore other facilities in the community that can be used for the provision of recreation and leisure services. We are optimistic about maximizing available community space through (e.g.) continuing to use elementary and secondary school gym space after school (and increase this use). However this will depend on continued local support from Principals, and the ability to avoid paying School Board rental fees that may apply.
2. **Promotion of programs** - We need to maximize our efforts to continue promoting existing programs so that community members are aware of what is offered which will help to maintain high levels of participation. This will help to ensure that the recreation needs of a larger proportion of community members are met, as well as increasing revenue that can be used for new recreation opportunities. A goal that remains the same from last year is to increase program participation in our Pilates program as well as other health and fitness related activities. We replaced one of our Pilates sessions with a Zumba fitness/dance class and we added a second Zumba class as they are both very popular. We invite community members and organizations such as Spectrum Society for community Living and Open Door Group (groups working with people who have disabilities) to attend classes for free to try them out.

The Cultural Connectors are addressing some needs by referring people to community programs/services, handing out information or researching information/ resources for individuals. They focus on connecting new immigrants of all ages to programs, services and other opportunities. We have created an informative promotional video highlighting preschool, children, youth, adults, seniors and fitness (2, 3 minutes each) to showcase our recreation programs to the public. The video is often running in the CNH lobby and can be used in schools and other organizations in the community. In addition we offer recreation passes for a reduced rate and run a program promotion where participants get a free water bottle when they purchase 2 passes.

3. **Partnerships and collaboration** - Another way we meet the challenges identified in providing quality recreation services to our community is to develop and maintain strong partnerships with other local community groups and with some groups outside of our community. The following groups are examples of partnerships we have established that help us with our recreation program in various ways.
 - **Renfrew Park Community Centre** - Renfrew C. C. is our main partner in the planning of recreation, youth, and community development programs and activities in Renfrew/Collingwood. We have a strong working partnership and we coordinate activities to minimize duplication and maximize resources and efforts.

- **Vancouver School Board** - We have a standing agreement for the use of the Collingwood Neighbourhood School Gymnasium during after school hours and on weekends.
- **Joyce Street Area Planning Committee** - This resident group has been actively involved in the development of the Collingwood community and the neighbourhood house since the 1980s.
- **Collingwood Community Policing Centre** - Have been involved in the development and planning of recreation in the community and with special events. They support our recreation and prevention education initiatives as key preventative tools in reducing problems such as drug use, bullying and crime in the community.
- **Windermere Family of Schools** - Provides space for recreation activities at Windermere high school and the seven elementary feeder schools. The CNH recreation coordinators have helped to facilitate leadership opportunities and training for students. We have also provided training and workshops for teaching staff during the past 7 years.
- **Evergreen Health Centre** - Evergreen helps to promote active living by providing space for us to display and promote various recreation activities at their center. Our Visual arts program has worked with Evergreen on several projects and we currently have a display of various local artists at the center. Other initiatives taking place in partnership with Evergreen are the Young Parents program and the Young Fathers program. These programs help to support young parents by providing group support, information on health and social issues relative to being a young parent in addition to social and recreation opportunities. Some of these young parents have recently become involved with our Canoe Club.

Langara College - We have offered workshops and assisted with the teaching of classes in Langara's Recreation diploma program. In addition to this we have mentored recreation students during their practicum placements for 6 of the past 12 years.

Renfrew Senior Centre C.A.S.I Community Action for Seniors Independence - CNH co-lead our C.A.S.I project with Renfrew Senior Centre. This initiative focuses on supporting seniors to maintain a healthy, independent lifestyle through:

- 1) Walking Club
- 2) Community transportation van
- 3) Support for housekeeping and yard work
- 4) Seniors community resource guide

- **U.B.C** We work with UBC and the Windermere family of schools on the engaging Neighbourhoods initiative where UBC students will work with teachers and students in the schools encouraging students to become involved in recreation and leadership activities.
- **Night-hoops Basketball** - We have renewed our partnership with the Night-hoops basketball program and currently have a keen group of 14 to 16 year old boys playing in the league. This past year was a real highlight for the boys as they playing in the city championship. We are very excited about the addition of our junior girls team to night hoops.

Some other groups we have established partnerships with include: Yoga Centre, Pacific Immigrant Resources Society - P.I.R.S.; Vancouver Coastal Health authority, Genesis and Eagle High Alternate schools, B.C. Parks and Recreation Association, Gym-Sense Gymnastics Education, Jazzercise Inc., Luk Tung exercise group, Peggy's place, Family support services of Greater Vancouver, Spectrum Society for community Living, Open Door Group, Zumba Fitness BC.

2010/2011 WORK PLAN - Update on Accomplishments to Date

- ***Maintain existing complement of basic recreation programs at high level of quality.***

We have maintained our existing complement of recreation programs and evaluation responses from all of our programs this year have been very positive. The number of programs being offered continues to increase each year although program growth has stabilized more in the past year. During the past year we have offered approximately 5 new programs (Speed reading classes for children and adults, Chinese Classical Dance for children, two Zumba programs, Soccer for pre-school, Speed reading class for ADD & ADHD children) we re-opened the Spanish with Fun for children program on Saturdays. We discontinued low attendance programs such as Spanish Music for Children and Music Therapy. The Pilates program on Mondays has been replaced by a Zumba program.

- **Increase gym and recreation activities on weekends.**

We have maintained several programs that were developed over the past 3 years, including Children's basketball, Youth activities (cooking, leadership and visual arts), Girl's social recreation activities, Jazzercise, Canoe Club, Women and Men's Badminton Club and Piano. Our Visual Arts programs have expanded and increased in popularity during the past year. Many people involved in activities such as the Canoe Club and Visual Arts participate in various community development initiatives such as food security, gardening, Collingwood Days, Harmony community banners and the Moon Festival. We have increased the number of regular programs on the weekend, e.g. piano, Adults Jewelry Making Class for Adults, Speed reading classes for children and adults, and others.

- **Increase services for children and families.**

The new programs being offered on weekends reflect some of the increased services for children and families. The Aboriginal Canoe Club is now in its eighth year and has seen significant growth in both the number of participants and frequency of activities. Gardening activities started in the summer of 2005 with the completion of our new rooftop garden area and we are looking at ways to involve people of all ages. We have increased the number of Piano and Ballet programs. We have created other programs for children and families such as Floor Hockey and Brain Game -Chess.

- **Programs and services continue to expand in the following areas:**

Young Parents programs - We have been successful in planning and implementing four young parents programs in partnership with the Evergreen Health Center and Renfrew Community Centre. These programs consist of a young mothers group, young fathers group and two new young parents groups. As well as offering group support and knowledge related to parenting, these programs provide social and recreational

opportunities for participants and help to link participants to existing recreation and leisure opportunities in the community.

2010 Olympics Ceremonies Living Room Event.

Approximately 170 people of all ages attended the Opening Ceremony at CNH and participated in games, activities and enjoyed the performers, watched Olympic and Paralympic events and were involved in arts and crafts and physical activities in the gym. Some examples of activities in the gym included hockey shots on Luongo, down hill race, moguls and aerials, hockey game, biathlon and more. Seniors created the Olympic and Paralympic banners.

Canoe Club During the past year our Canoe Club has involved over 100 Aboriginal youth from the ages of 10-29. Workshops and instruction in leadership, teambuilding, water safety and canoeing have helped to prepare these young people to be able to participate safely and skilfully in canoe trips. These trips have usually consisted of day paddles in areas such as Alouette and Pitt Lake, False Creek and the Indian Arm. One of the highlights of the year was organizing the annual Pulling Together Journey. We coordinated 20 canoes and about 250 participants to travel on a 9 day journey from Port Moody to White Rock, visiting Aboriginal communities along the way. The Canoe Club's Youth Advisory Committee are the decision makers. These young leaders plan and run the program, manage financial and budgeting tasks, as well as help plan large events that highlight the Canoe Club and allow them to share the Aboriginal culture with the community.

Youth basketball continues to be in high demand. Our youth basketball programming has been maintained at the same level. We are continuing to offer our highly successful fast-break basketball program in partnership with local schools and have expanded regular gym times for youth to play basketball. We continue to provide more in depth training to our youth leaders on our values, based coaching model. As previously mentioned we re-started our boys Night-hoops team in the winter of 2006 and we have recently started a junior girls team. Our teams represented our community well while winning an award for good sportsmanship.

Other youth initiatives include outdoor trips and activities, overnight sleepovers at CNH, increased sport activities such as girls' volleyball and various leadership opportunities. Our youth program has won two awards in recent years including the Solicitor General's award for community safety (one of 2 youth groups in province to win) and a Child and Youth friendly award for working to establish a child and youth friendly community.

Seniors Activities - Our seniors recreation programs have been highly successful and we added Mondays Yoga and Tai Chi 24 forms last winter. Our seniors wellness group is enjoying a variety of activities including out-trips, educational seminars and speaker series. This year we have added cooking demonstrations and a strawberry tea event, which will involve over 100 seniors in the neighbourhood. We continue to encourage seniors to participate in the many community development and volunteer opportunities at CNH.

Performing Arts and Music One of our music programs is working toward developing a community choir. Also, we have expanded our ballet and creative dance program for preschoolers and school-age children. All of these programs are for children and youth. We have started to expand opportunities in performing arts with our seniors and it remains a goal of ours to expand and offer programs of this nature for adults in future.

Expand community education and promotion of health benefits of recreation and leisure.

This is an ongoing goal and we have continued to collaborate and work with the various community health organizations in our community to educate the public and promote the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle. We have continued to expand and update our website and use it as a tool to help educate community residents on the benefits and importance of an active, healthy lifestyle. Currently we have developed programs with the Vancouver Coastal Health authority, the Windermere Family of schools and Evergreen Health Centre that encourage community residents to be active on a regular basis and help them to learn the value of recreation and leisure. Examples include music programs, fastbreak basketball and soccer, Parents and Toddlers First Dance.

The recreation coordinator has continued to develop a values-based approach to sport and recreation that encourages young people to get involved and stay involved in physical activity. This approach emphasizes having fun, socializing, learning and developing skills, play, character development and creating community through participation in sport and recreation. The values-based philosophy is used in many of our programs and it will continue to be encouraged in the upcoming years. We believe this methodology is effective in encouraging skill development, good values and positive character through participating in recreation and sport as well as helping to deal with the current challenges of inactivity and obesity among young people.

Work with the Windermere family of schools (one secondary and 7 elementary) to expand recreation activities for children.

Currently we have activities scheduled for children after school from Monday to Thursday. (An average of two activities per day is being offered at this time.) We are limited to what we can offer at this time as the Collingwood elementary school has access to half the gym, Mon. to Fri. from 8 am to 4 pm. There are some available times and spaces to expand activities on Fridays and weekends and we are exploring these.

We have been involved with the Olympic Youth Legacies - Get Out grants program through the City of Vancouver. We have been successful in acquiring grants for projects such as two Youth led community mural projects and using recycled material from the Renfrew ravine to form a youth percussion band. These one time funding grants act as a catalyst to begin new activities with the idea that we could integrate them into our existing programs in the Renfrew/Collingwood community in the future.

The Child and Youth Friendly initiative, established by the B.C. Society for Children and Youth has operated for the past 6 years at Collingwood in partnership with Renfrew Community Center and the Windermere family of schools. Projects that the youth of our community have taken on include a renovation of the youth center at Renfrew Community Center and mapping existing parks and open play spaces and making recommendations for future improvements that would make these spaces more child and youth friendly. We continue to build on initiatives and create programs that encourage a more child and youth friendly community such as Olympic Living Room event and Move for Health Day.

2011/12 WORK PLAN

In addition to maintaining the existing complement of recreation programs, the following new initiatives will be undertaken:

- **Promotion of programs**

The Recreation Coordinator is working with different instructors and through the cultural connectors from the Settlement Services Department to develop skills that would enable them to do outreach into the schools and our community to provide residents with up to date information on the services we offer in recreation. We have created an informative promotional video highlighting preschool, children, youth, adults, seniors and fitness activities to showcase our Recreation program to the public. Another successful promotional initiative is when people purchase 2 passes they receive a water bottle for free.

These methods of promoting our programs have been very effective and have provided an increase in program attendance.

- **Community involvement**

We believe that residents must be involved in the planning and design of services, therefore we are working toward implementing a community development approach to providing recreation and leisure opportunities for the community. By having a high level of community input and involvement in the planning and development of our recreation program, people are encouraged to take more responsibility for how recreation and leisure become a part of their lives. Through education and building the capacity of people to provide recreation opportunities for themselves and their families, we will be achieving our goal of creating an active and healthy community. This community development model will work in concert with our recreation program service delivery model that is used to provide many recreation programs for community members. Although we feel this is a worthwhile goal, one of the key challenges in attaining this goal will be to set aside the time necessary to more effectively engage the community.

Specific activities include: Community art, music and drama initiatives (e.g. banner project), Food Security Project and artist gatherings and presentations.

- **Special Events**

This would involve assisting with Collingwood Days, Moon Festival (art, music, drama, sport and environment), Basketball Tourneys for youth and Community Art projects, Recreation Open House, Canada Youth Day, Healthy Active Living week.

- **Families Branching Out**

Family recreation activities under this program are comprised of art, music and outdoor trips.

- **Settlement Services**

These services involve linking program participants and their families who are often new to the country to recreation and leisure opportunities. Our new cultural connectors project attempts to connect new immigrants to recreation activities and other services.

- **Night-hoops Basketball**

We are continuing to work on promoting our girl's team in the upcoming year.

- **Girls only Recreation**

We have introduced young women to a wide variety of sports and recreation activities and we'll continue to support this initiative.

- **Canoe Club**

CNH is running the canoe club again this year with one of the goals being to involve more young people and to link them with other recreation and sport opportunities in our community.

- **Work with community residents to develop Gardening Programs and activities**

We have not implemented any programs in this area, however, we are working with the "Food Security Institute" and the "Green-Up, Clean-Up" Committee to determine how to proceed. This could possibly involve seeking community input toward starting a community roof-top gardening program to be located on our second floor patio. Many people will continue to be involved in gardening activities throughout the year. Food produced from our garden is used for Kid's Kitchen, Homelessness program, Preschool and Seniors lunch programs.

- **Recreation Program Development**

Contribute to the development and support of new recreation/leisure activities and programs. Boot Camp, Seniors Osteofit and introductions to Sport Fitness for Children Soccer program for youth in conjunction with UBC' Soccer program. We are looking at providing soccer activities/skills to the youth at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

- **Program Coordination**

Continue to support having two coordinators designated to organize recreation activities for youth and seniors respectively.