City Wins Award of Excellence for Recreation Programming

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2011

VICTORIA, BC – Last week, the City of Victoria won a provincial Program Award of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) for its innovative Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground program. Developed by City Recreation staff with financial support from BC Housing, the program recruited at-risk youth last summer, providing them with training, mentorship and employment opportunities as camp leaders.

“This program is an excellent example of how recreation can benefit the community,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “Not only did this program bring children and at-risk youth together in a constructive way, it created a stronger sense of community and belonging for all of us who call Victoria home.”

Through the City of Victoria’s STEP-Up Youth Leadership program, youth ages 14-18 who live at Evergreen Terrace in the Hillside/Quadra area, were recruited to work as camp leaders. The youth completed two weeks of training before spending one month as junior camp leaders at Evergreen Terrace under the mentorship and direction of City of Victoria summer camp staff.

The award recognizes the success of the Evergreen Terrace Neighbourhood Playground program in providing an enjoyable summer camp experience to children; delivering a high quality, safe, and affordable on-site program to parents; as well as offering training, mentorship and employment to at-risk youth. City staff plan to build on the program’s success by expanding it to more Victoria neighbourhoods this summer.

The BCRPA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in British Columbia. The Program Excellence Award recognizes creative, successful, and innovative programs which may serve as an example of outstanding achievement in public recreation services programming. For more information, visit: www.bcrpa.bc.ca

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