

# Recreation and Culture



*Recreation and Culture is responsible for facility maintenance, community events, and sports field bookings.*

## Third Quarter Report, 2020



**CITY OF**  
**CHILLIWACK**

## Recreation and Culture Events

### Celebration and Activity Grant:

Celebration and Activity Grant		Funding	Guests	
			Projected	Actual
August	Vedder River Art Walk	\$ 1,000.00	1,000+	1,000+
Total		\$ 1,000.00	1,000+	1,000+



The Celebration and Activity Grant reopened on July 1. While a handful of applications were received, only one event was able to meet the requirements of the Provincial Health Order on Mass Gatherings. In August, the Vedder River Art Walk, hosted by the Chilliwack Community Arts Council, received \$1,000 of grant funding and reached over 1,000 guests. The event was able to reach such a high number of community members despite the 50-person limit to mass gatherings as it was spread out over three kilometres of the Vedder Rotary Trail and spanned six hours. This first-time event featured local artists of all mediums including musicians, painters, and sculptors. Guests maintained physical distance from others and enjoyed the artist demonstrations from a safe distance.

### Community Events:

Some of the more significant community events that occurred this quarter included:

- Virtual Canada Day
- Sunflower Festival
- Virtual Chilliwack Fair
- Métis Open House
- Virtual Terry Fox Run

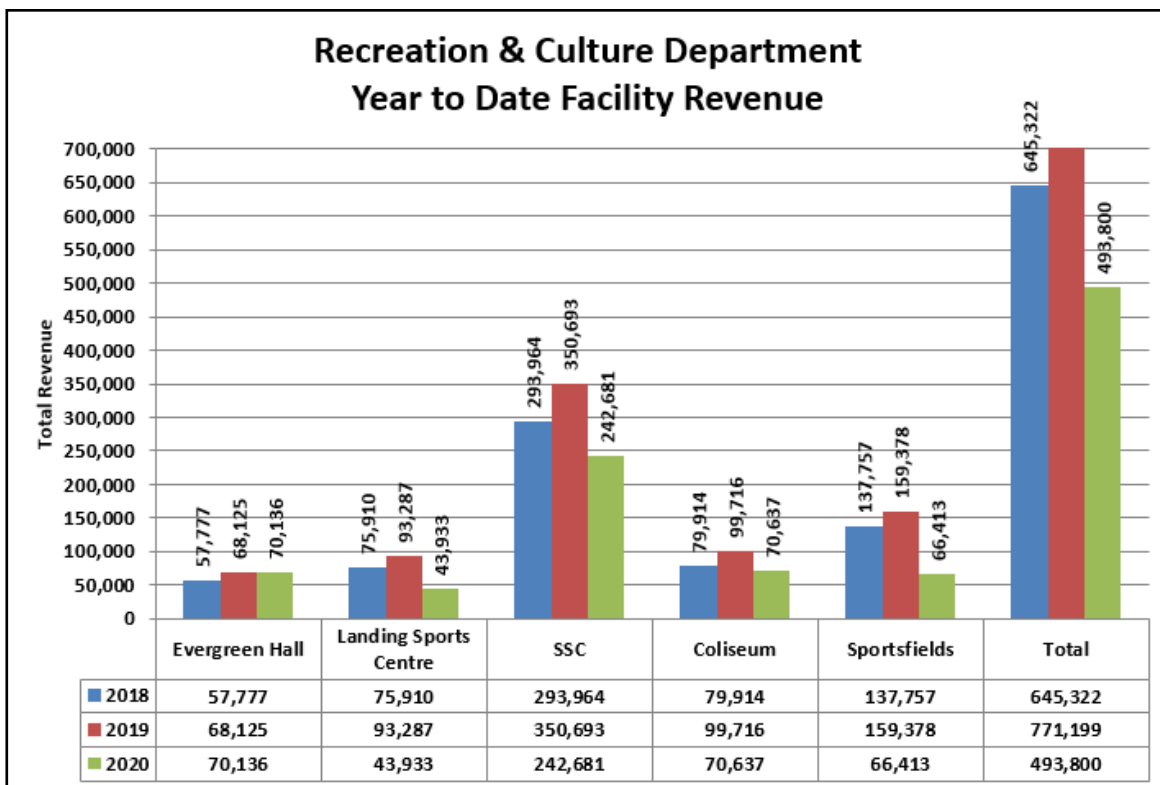


Without the ability to have mass gatherings, Canada Day Celebrations were moved to a virtual format in 2020. The City hosted a Virtual Canada Day Contest that invited local residents to submit photos of how they celebrated Canada Day safely with their households. Although fewer entered the contest, a total of 11,652 residents were reached through the social media campaigns. In addition to the contest, residents were also pointed towards the extensive virtual celebrations presented by the Government of Canada.



Similarly, many other significant community events were moved to virtual formats including the Chilliwack Fair and fundraisers like the Terry Fox Run. The Métis House, however, was able to host a live open house to celebrate their grand opening while following Provincial Health Orders and COVID guidelines. It was a small but significant event for the community. The event received partial funding through the City's CDI fund.

## Recreation and Culture Facility Report



## Chilliwack Heritage Park

The reality of COVID-19 has greatly impacted the operations at Chilliwack Heritage Park with almost all events having had to be cancelled. The events that did take place were modified and operated under strict guidelines, with many running as drive-by or drive-in events. These events included two drive-by Food Truck Festivals, the Chilliwack Fair's drive-in movies and concerts, and the Canadian Thoroughbred Association's horse sale. There were also local horse clubs that held smaller events that complied with Provincial Health Orders.







## Rosedale Traditional Community School Society

RTCSS welcomed kids ages 5-12 to take part in eight weeks of 'Celebrate Summer'. Camp leaders worked hard to provide a high-quality program showcasing weekly themes. In lieu of regularly programmed field trips, special activities were brought in as 'on-site field trip days' such as portable rock climbing, carnival games, a mobile planetarium, and an anti-gravity machine. The program averaged 39 schooled aged children per day and had several teens volunteer for work experience hours. COVID-19 safety measures were followed and campers had a great time!



## Yarrow Community School Society

At YCSS, modified summer childcare programs ran June through August with a smaller than usual group of kids. With some careful planning and consideration, the Cycling Without Age program was able to re-start. It has been so important to find a safe way to keep offering outdoor, fresh air experiences for so many isolated community members.

Another outdoor activity YCSS helped facilitate is the Story Board Walk. About once a month, a new children's story is mounted page by page on sign boards along the river trails and is enjoyed by the many trail users as they walk.

## Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association

PHECSA scaled back the summer session due to COVID-19. Panther Pen Childcare program remained open to offer childcare to our community and to essential service families. The popular day camp program 'Sun n Fun' operated by Panther Pen was at near full capacity for the entire eight weeks of summer programming. The Sun n Fun day camps offered an exciting variety of themed weeks included a special virtual field trip once per week.

## Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

Due to COVID-19, the 'Summer Fun' all day camp was shifted to a licensed summer childcare camp. The hours were extended to 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM and 20 spots were available per day with first priority given to children of essential service workers. The program ran for seven weeks at near full capacity every day. Activities such as games, crafts, and nature walks revolved around a new theme each week. City of Chilliwack funding assisted in providing nutritious snacks and program supplies.



## Chilliwack Museum

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives planned to return to full operating hours on October 13. This will include an extension of hours on Thursday evenings, now open until 8:00 PM.

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives has completed the renovation of the former permanent gallery space. The newly renovated space now includes an exhibition area and a separate education/programming space. This project was made possible in part by the Government of Canada and the City of Chilliwack.



### Funding:

- **Province of British Columbia – Community Gaming Grant:** The Chilliwack Museum and Archives was awarded \$24,400 through the Community Gaming Grant program.
- **Government of Canada – Emergency Relief Benefit for Heritage Organizations:** The Chilliwack Museum and Archives was awarded \$52,011 through the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Benefit for Heritage Organizations.
- **Government of Canada – Young Canada Works (BCH):** The Chilliwack Museum and Archives has been awarded \$12,000 through the Young Canada Works program to hire a Collections Assistant Intern.

### Education & Engagement:

- **Geocache: Navigating History Through Geography:** The Chilliwack Museum and Archives has placed four geocaches around the community that can be located on individuals' smart phones with the Geocache App. The caches contain a collection of newspaper articles, photographs, and other interesting archival information about the neighbourhoods they are found in.
- **Project of Heart:** The Chilliwack Museum is honoured to host the Lightbox Canoe, a legacy piece created by SD71 Indigenous Education Service and the Comox Art Gallery, in recognition of the Project of Heart. The originating project will be on display concurrently at the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre. Project of

### Archives:

Statistics for July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020

	July	August	September	Total
Visitors	9	7	6	22
Research phone calls	31	15	15	61
Research emails	9	11	9	29
Photo orders	4	4	3	11



### Unique Donation:

2020.028 – 58 digital images by photographer Douglas Morley containing scenes around Chilliwack showing the effects of COVID-19 and the closure of services normally provided by the City of Chilliwack.



## Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve (GBHNR)



Through June, COVID-19 safety protocols were put in place so that the Interpretive Centre could be opened in mid-July and summer camps could start in July.

In July and August, programming included two week long wildlife art camps, two week long nature and art combination camps, one yoga and wildlife art camp, and one community program. A week long camp was also run for the Fraser Valley Brain Injury Society.

Free public events this quarter included small, socially distanced guided walks to see the herons nesting. The Interpretive Centre opened on July 13, after being closed on March 16. Despite being closed for part of the

quarter, limitations on numbers allowed in the building at one time, and closed public washrooms, close to 3,000 people came through the Interpretive Centre at the GBHNR this quarter.

Two summer employees worked with the Executive Director this summer, primarily helping with conservation efforts such as invasive species removal and aquatic surveys. Fish population surveys and benthic invertebrate surveys were conducted throughout the reserve and a technical report was produced. Two Salish Suckers were captured in these efforts. Salish Suckers are a red listed species found in only 11 waterbodies in Canada. A number of Coho salmon fry were also caught and measured.

Multiple homeschool programs started in September: two art and nature combination programs, one nature only, and one art only.







## Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre & Cheam Leisure Centre



### Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre:

The beginning of the summer quarter saw the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre open up the weight room facility in a limited capacity. Once a schedule was established and proven to work, the facility was able to open the lap pool in mid-August to allow the local swim club access again. This allowed for a two-week trial run for the re-opening of aquatics in early September. During this time, limited private lessons were offered.



This quarter the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre's lap pool received new deck grating and new dive blocks with touch pad technology, with the diving board receiving a new coat of paint. The aquatic women's and family changerooms were equipped with new benches with all changerooms receiving a fresh coat of paint and new lockers to welcome back the facility guests.



Attendance for the third quarter:  
4,599 at the CLLC  
3,889 at the Cheam

### Cheam Leisure Centre:

The Cheam Leisure Centre provided limited advanced bookings in the weight room with a "Plan to Play" model. The facility also saw the return of group fitness in September with registered classes. Group fitness registration allowed community members to begin their return to health and fitness with safety protocols in place. Scheduled swims were offered at the facility for community members to complete continuous lane swimming with a variety of lane speeds and therapeutic sessions with community therapists.



The Cheam Centre's aquatic changerooms received bench makeovers and new lockers, with the multipurpose room transforming into a welcoming studio with new paint and flooring.



## Chilliwack Cultural Centre

On June 24, the Province of British Columbia announced the province would move into phase three of the BC Restart Plan. Under phase three, the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre re-opened the HUB International Theatre for select performances under strict safety protocols. The Chilliwack Arts and Cultural Centre Society continues to work with artists, promoters, and instructors to schedule alternate dates for shows, events, and classes. Patrons are contacted once the dates are re-scheduled.

### Events:

In July and August, all previously booked theatre events were cancelled. In September the Chilliwack Attorney General's Office rented HUB International Theatre, Rotary Hall Studio Theatre, and several other studios and rooms for a court trial.

### Online Local Performances:

The Society produced 12 free mini-concerts with hired local performers to help keep patrons connected to art. These have been shared on The Centre's social media sites. Artists included Portraits of Us, Rain August, Molly Wilson, Dion Weisbrod, Ted Kim, NAXX, Jackson, The Maybells and Jordain Culpepper.

### Arts & Crafts Classes:

Art & Crafts classes resumed in a very limited capacity in July. They were moved from regular studios into the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre so everyone could observe strict physical distancing. Participants were required to wear face coverings. The classes offered included Beginning Photography and Mixed Media Triptych in July; Mixed Media Triptych, The World of Colour and Cross Stitch Creations in August; Mixed Media Junk Journal, Watercolour Beginnings, Paint with Pat, Intro to Acrylics, and Beginner Photography in September.

### Open Studios:

The Clay Open Studio was open under strict COVID-19 safety protocols when it re-opened in June. The Open Studio was available from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday to Friday except holidays. As of the end of September, the hours were Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

### The Centre Box Office:

The Centre Box Office has remained open in person with shortened hours and the strict COVID-19 safety protocols established when it reopened in June. The online box office remains open and a physically distant option for patrons.

### Chilliwack Academy of Music:

The Academy remains closed to the public but resumed some music instruction with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

### O'Connor Group Art Gallery:

The Chilliwack Visual Artist's Association, who usually curates the gallery decided they were not comfortable continuing until COVID-19 has been resolved. The Society has taken on the job in the meantime and has re-opened the gallery. The first exhibit was a Star Wars inspired exhibit by Chris Woods. The next exhibit was Gary Haggquist from Cultus Lake. The third exhibit was Chilliwack mixed media artist Krista Kivert.





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## Chilliwack Library

July was busy with click and collect services, summer reading club activities and virtual performances online. To facilitate easier pickup, a new express window was installed to ensure a safe option for people to pickup their holds without having to physically enter the branch.

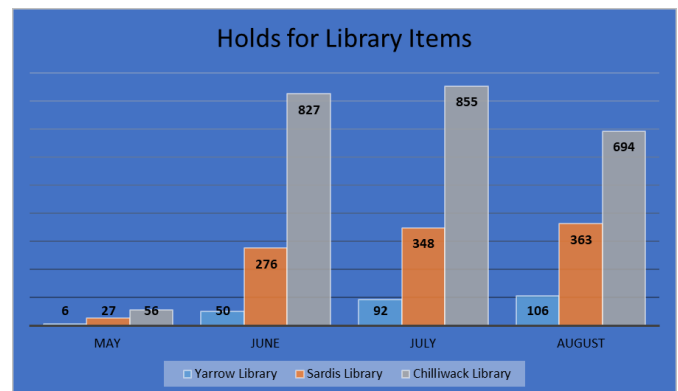
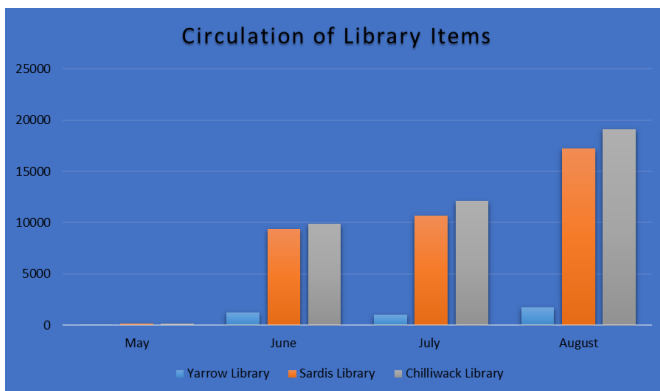
On August 4, all FVRL branches welcomed customers back into the buildings. Physical distancing, face shields, limited numbers and increased sanitizing all contributed to a comfortable experience for both staff and patrons.

Staff members have been diligently working to bring virtual programs to the masses. The latest series, entitled "Explorytime", allows them to bring the outdoors inside for customers watching from home. Stories, crafts, and demonstrations make up the

basis of this forest-based educational video series.



## FVRL Statistics



## Sardis Library

To celebrate Fraser Valley Pride Week, July 10-18, several staff members planned a special virtual Pride story time. One advantage to doing virtual story times has been the ability to film from multiple locations. The first talk about diversity was the featured story, followed by a rainbow friendship bracelet tutorial.

The Sardis Library welcomed the public back inside its building with a greeter at the door, keeping the occupancy low, and customers informed of changes. To make this process a less intimidating, Reid, the resident puppet, donned a mask and was on display for all to see.

In September FVRL announced it was celebrating the 'M' in STEAM - math! In an effort to make math fun and reduce math anxiety, they launched an all online Math in Nature Bingo Contest. Participants of any age were able to download a bingo card directly from the FVRL website, complete with hints, then fill out an online entry for weekly prizes. Interactive experiences such as this keep customers feeling engaged and connected to their library.



## Yarrow Library

The Yarrow Library reopened its doors to in-library browsing, and while occupancy limits remain small, dedicated customers patiently wait their turn. The Yarrow Library continues to support in-class and at-home learning with complementary learning resources. In September, FVRL launched a new database, Solaro. Created by the company who developed The Key Study Guides, Solaro provides course lessons, reviews and practice tests for students in grades 3 to 12.

