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**TO:** Oceanside Services Committee      **MEETING:** November 14, 2019

**FROM:** Dean Banman  
Manager, Recreation Services

**SUBJECT:** Oceanside Recreation Services Update - September 2019

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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Oceanside Recreation Services Update report be received for information.

## SUMMARY

This report provides an update with detailed attachments on the programs, services and operations of Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place Arena and Oceanside Recreation Program Services (Northern Community Recreation Program Services).

Overall, Recreation division services continues to achieve the deliverables and projects identified in the 2019 Business, Financial and Operating Plans for Oceanside Place Arena, Oceanside Recreation Program Services and Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

## BACKGROUND

Oceanside Place was again host to four large 2019 spring events. The Vancouver Island Skating International Island Open, Island Open Taekwondo Championships and the Grumpy Old Men Hockey Tournament were all held at Oceanside Place. The annual Home and Garden Exhibition was hosted May 10-12 at Oceanside Place. All but the Island Open Taekwondo Championships are held over multiple days and all bring many participants and spectators to the area.

In June the \$380,000 chiller replacement and energy efficiency upgrades to the ice plant at Oceanside Place began and was substantially completed on time and within budget. The completion and success of this project was critical to meet provincial safety standards in arena operations.

On June 20<sup>th</sup> Oceanside Place was the site for the RDN Performance Recognition Event. Twenty recipients were able to attend. The RDN Performance Recognition Program recognizes local individuals and members of teams who have won first place or a gold medal standing at a provincial, inter-provincial or national title for sport, artistic or cultural performances from the Oceanside area.

Ballenas Secondary School hosted their annual commencement ceremonies on June 27 at Oceanside Place. There was a large turnout in excess of 1,200 graduates, family members and school staff.

Ravensong Aquatic Centre hosted several community special events in June including the Qualicum School District Cardboard Boat Challenge and the Qualicum Beach Triathlon. The facility also hosted a number of District 69 school swims as part of the school year wrap up.

The public swim schedule at Ravensong changes in July to accommodate additional public swims and summer swimming lessons and aquatic leadership (lifeguard and water safety instructor) courses. Fourteen different swim levels at over 43 different times and four leadership courses were offered in July and the first few days of August.

Swimming and other programming at Ravensong closed to the public August 3 - September 9 for the annual maintenance shutdown. The 2019 shutdown was two weeks longer than normal to accommodate a \$700,000 major mechanical and air handling unit replacement. This project was substantially completed on time and within budget. The front desk at Ravensong remained open during the shutdown and provided regular customer service.

A Community Energy Leadership Program (CELP) grant application in the amount of \$100,000 for financial support for a 2020 solar water heating upgrade at Ravensong was not successful. The project is still planned for 2020 using existing capital reserves.

Faulkner Browns Architects were selected for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre concept design phase and planning for a potential expansion project. The firm and has been working with staff on the development and roll out of the project to stakeholders, users and the public this fall and winter.

Registrations for 2019 summer camps and programs were very strong. New summer programs this year included; volleyball camp, soccer camp for ages 12 -15 years, outdoor camp for ages 9-12 years, drone design camp, two computer coding camps, beginner and intermediate trail running, kayaking for beginners and an introduction to four RDN parks and trails tours.

The Age Friendly Communities asset mapping project working group meetings have been held. A number of community groups throughout Oceanside were invited to participate. Involvement in the project includes community groups such as; Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association, Arrowsmith Community Recreation Association and Nanoose Place. The main goal is to increase the awareness between providers of programs offered for those 50 + years and older. The project will not only show what older adult recreation programs are available but also where they are located in the Oceanside area. The final information collected will be presented in both GIS and printed format and is scheduled to be available in the spring of 2020.

RDN Recreation Services plays a significant role in the Qualicum Beach Annual Ocean Mile Swim. In addition to a large role in planning the event, aquatics staff are onsite event day responsible for both water safety and on land event activities. This year the event was held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and is in its 61<sup>st</sup> year. Sixty - four swimmers participated in the swim.

Department summer camp programs started in July and many camps were full prior to July. Camp waitlists were addressed by either opening up more spots for participants or participants fitting into other summer programs.

In addition to the core summer camps, the department also provides a variety of summer camp opportunities. These include; tennis, basketball, Byte Camp, Ocean Critter Camp at Deep Bay Marine Centre, soccer, Digital Design and Video Game and Drone camp.

Free inclusion support is offered to participants who may require additional assistance in attending one of the department programs. By September over 1,036 hours of support has been provided in 2019 with the majority of support (1,004 hours) occurring in July and August.

Recreation programming in RDN parks such as Stand Up Paddle boarding and Amazing Race continue with limited success but potential for growth. Other summer park programming was

well attended such as; fundamentals of trail running, Go Wild Outdoor Camps and the RDN/QFN summer playground at Qualicum First Nation campground.

September is a month of transition as Oceanside Recreation Program Services transfer from the summer camp season to the fall programming cycle. Department recreation programs generally don't start until the second full week of September. The department organizes the annual community Terry Fox Run held at Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park. The 2019 event had over 240 people participate and raised over \$8,000 (+ over \$2,500 online).

Department staff continue to oversee the Play Oceanside Physical Literacy initiative. Play Oceanside's goal is to raise awareness of the important life skills that come from participation in sport and recreation activities. Project partners include; Pacific Sport Vancouver Island, Town of Qualicum Beach, Island Health, School District 69 and the Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association.

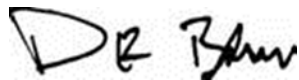
Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place and Oceanside Recreation Program Services all offered additional public sessions and day camps during the Qualicum School District holidays and non-instructional professional development days. These programs assist families with extra recreational opportunities to engage in when area schools are closed.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The projects and operational activities provided in this report are consistent with 2019 financial budgets, RDN strategic plan and department business plans.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.



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November 6, 2019

Reviewed by:

- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Oceanside Recreation Services Key Highlights - September 2019
2. Oceanside Recreation Services Metrics - September 2019