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**TO:** Oceanside Services Committee      **MEETING:** May 16, 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** Oceanside Recreation Services Update - October 2018 to December 2018

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Oceanside Recreation Services Update for October 2018 to December 2018 be received for information.

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides a brief overview with detailed attachments on the last operating quarter of 2018 for Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place Arena and Oceanside Recreation Program Services (Northern Community Recreation Program Services). Key highlights and performance metrics can found in Attachment I and Attachment II.

### **BACKGROUND**

In the three areas of Oceanside Recreation Services (recreation programs, arenas, aquatics) both daily operational and longer term strategic work continued during October 2018 to December 2018.

Staff advanced work on the following key projects; design and feasibility of Meadowood Community Recreation Centre construction, 2019 - 2023 Financial Plan preparations, asset management development, research on potential grant funding opportunities and Oceanside Physical Literacy initiative (Play Oceanside). The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) was also successful in its Age Friendly Communities grant application and work began on an older adult recreation assessment project for the Oceanside area to be funded by this grant. Staff also attended a presentation by Island Health on the Oceanside Health Centre in conjunction with the Centre's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The safety orders issued by Technical Safety BC (TSBC) for Oceanside Place in late summer of 2018 have been completed. The final report from TSBC is expected in early 2019. WorkSafeBC did a follow-up visit related to their ammonia safety initiative and the facility is now compliant. District 69 Arena (Parksville Curling Club) has had similar inspections by both TSBC and WorkSafeBC. RDN staff have been working with club staff and their Executive and that facility is also now WorkSafeBC compliant and waiting for their final report from TSBC.

Adjusting lighting and mechanical equipment stop and start times of operating equipment (increasing energy efficiency programming) at Oceanside Place resulted in a decrease of \$25,000 in overall utility costs for the facility in 2018.

The Ravensong Aquatic Centre continued to see strong attendance throughout the last quarter of 2018. For the first time annual admissions exceeded 100,000. Swim lessons were also well attended and in several cases class wait lists were required.

Preventative maintenance regimens at both Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Oceanside Place helped ensure there were no major service disruptions in the last quarter of 2018.

Aquatic staffing levels fluctuated through the fall and the challenge of having enough available lifeguards and instructors continues to be an ongoing issue operationally. Anticipated cancellations to aquafit classes were avoided with a combination of newly trained staff and contracted instructors. The in-house aquafit training program developed by staff has gone very well and almost all lifeguard/instructor staff are now trained to teach aquafit. There will still be challenges with aquafit instructor availability however as many staff are students and not available for the bulk of classes that take place weekday mornings. Continued efforts will be made to recruit qualified applicants that are available during these times.

Financial assistance for participation in recreation programs in 2018 saw 170 households receive support totaling \$30,860. This amount is a slight decrease compared to 2017. Of the total number of households receiving assistance, 65 (38%) were new requests primarily from seniors and adults with disabilities. The majority of support was applied to public swimming admissions.

Power outages from the December windstorms that occurred in the Oceanside area impacted some facility sessions and rentals. Mechanically both Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre continued to operate with no concerns during these weather events.

Winter Wonderland is the single largest event at Oceanside Place based on attendance. This year's event included 5 sponsored skates, 12 Everyone Welcome skates, 13 school rentals (1,950 students) and 13 private rentals (922 attendance). A teen skate was also offered on Winter Wonderland this year that was attended by over 80 youth. December public session admissions reached 1,149 which is a 12.5% increase over December 2017 (1,022).

Close to 350 people attended the 2018 New Year's Eve celebration held at Oceanside Place December 31 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. In 2017 400 people attended the event.

In 2018 forty - five recreation grants totaling \$67,488 were dispersed to thirty - four local non-profit groups providing recreation programs and events through Oceanside.

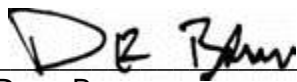
## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The projects and operational activities provided in this report are consistent with 2018 financial budgets and business plans.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Relationships- We Will Focus On Improved Two-Way Communication Within The Regional District And With Our Communities

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - As We Invest In Regional Services We Look At Both Costs And Benefits - The RDN Will Be Effective And Efficient



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Dean Banman

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April 30, 2019

Reviewed by:

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

Attachments

1. Oceanside Recreation Services Key Highlights - October 2018 - December 2018
2. Oceanside Recreation Services Metrics - October 2018 - December 2018