CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

FEBRUARY 2010 / MARCH 2010

Parks, Recreation & Culture Newsletter

COMING SOON

The Parks, Recreation and Culture department has been busy planning the spring and summer program line up, and from the looks of it, we're in for a fantastic season! Planning begins roughly six months in advance of each Activity Guide being released, as pulling thousands of classes together is a major undertaking. This spring and summer you will see many of our most popular classes returning, as well as the addition of some "future classics". Here's a sneak peek at some of the new programs which will be available for registration on March 18th:

- Run, Stairs & Strength
- Finger Painting Pandas
- Gluten 101
- Magic Camp
- Private Tennis Lessons
- Advanced Bootcamp – Plyo Power
- Skimboarding
- Imagination Station: Creative Learning
- Fencing
- Hemp Jewellery
- Trendy Tot Art
- Beginner Beekeeping

And much more!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

There is a lot happening in our community over the next couple of months! Here are a few options.

Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games
February 12 – 28, 2010.
Live Site in the Diana Krall Plaza
The Olympic Games are here! Watch all the action as our Canadian athletes go for gold on the biggest screen in town.

Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games
March 12-21, 2010.
Live Site in the Diana Krall Plaza
Cheer on our Paralympic athletes in their quest for gold!

Club Fridays Teen Video Dance
February 12, 2010. 7-11pm
Beban Social Centre
Featuring the sights and sounds of RSM, Club Fridays Teen Dance is the place to be on February 12th! Don't miss this awesome event.

Canada vs USA Olympic Men's Hockey
February 21, 2010. 4-7pm
Live Site in the Diana Krall Plaza
Watch live as the Canadian men's hockey team takes on the USA in their quest for gold. Free popcorn, hot chocolate and face painting. Bleacher seating is available or bring your own chair.

Picnic in the Park
Snowboarding Competition
February 22nd 2010. 10am-1pm (7-12 yrs) and 1-4pm (13 and up)
Bowen Park
Noseslide, tailslide, 50/50, switch – come show us what you've got! Strap on your board or skis and show off your best tricks at Picnic in the Park. Registration is only $10 and includes event t-shirt. Registration forms available at Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities and online at www.nanaimo.ca. Children and youth under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver form. Helmets are mandatory. Tons of awesome prizes available to be won!

Glow in the Dark Skates
March 2 and 16, 2010. 6:30-8pm
Frank Crane Arena
Come skate in our atmosphere of dimmed lighting and special effects! Regular admission applies.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 50% of registrations for Parks, Recreation and Culture programs now happen online through our iReg system. If you haven't tried it yet, surf on over to www.ireg.nanaimo.ca to see how it works, then call 250-756-5200 to get your family ID and pin code. Registration Tip: Get your iReg information before the Activity Guide arrives in order to register as quickly as possible on March 18th. Our most popular programs are often full before noon on registration day!

EXCITING CHANGES TO THE PRESCHOOL SWIM PROGRAM

Parks, Recreation and Culture's Aquatics team is pleased to announce the transition of our current Preschool Swim Program to the Red Cross Preschool Swim Program. This nationally recognized program consists of seven levels, each represented by an aquatic animal mascot.

For several years we have offered the first 3 levels of the Red Cross Preschool program. Starting on April 19th, we will be offering the last four levels. This change means that the preschool program will now be more compact, with a total of 7 levels (as opposed to the 9 levels presently offered). The transition is expected to be smooth and will help to accommodate those swimmers who are too old for the preschool program but too young for Red Cross Swim Kids by creating a seamless progression system.

Since the Red Cross standards are different that the current City standards, there may be some initial confusion as to which level to register your son or daughter in. Look for full details in the Spring Summer Activity Guide. As always, if you have questions, please contact Marg Graham, Assistant Aquatics Coordinator at 250-756-5243.

Parks Update

BOWEN PARK

Construction for the Outdoor Classroom has begun and is expected to be complete by late April. There will be some closures of the duck pond during construction, but the Millstone trails will remain open.

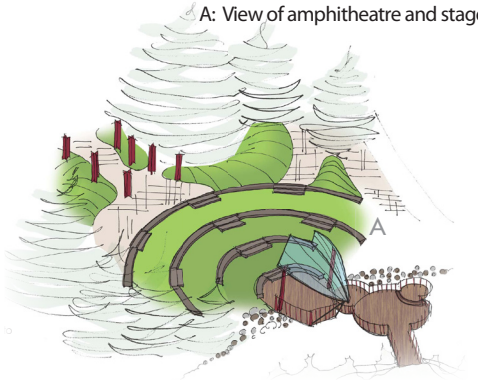
DOG OFF-LEASH PARKS

Over the fall of 2009, Park operations staff hosted two open houses asking the public for their ideas and views on dog off-leash parks. Staff have heard that Nanaimo residents want additional dog off-leash parks, however, there has been much debate on where those dog off leash parks should be and how they should be built.

Over 2010, staff will work to expand the existing dog off-leash area at Beban Park and will also open up additional dog off-leash areas around town as pilot projects. These off-leash areas may have time limits or seasonal limitations, but will offer new options to dog walkers.

More information on the additional dog off leash areas will be available in the spring of 2010.

A: View of amphitheatre and stage



Spring Summer Parks Challenge Contest

Starts March 18th!

Get to know Parks, Recreation and Culture's beautiful parks and trails by participating in the parks challenge. The Parks Challenge is a fun way to explore and experience Nanaimo's Parks and Trails system on your own or with your family and friends. Look for the questions in the Spring/Summer Activity Guide, arriving March 18th, 2010.

To play, just follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Print off a parks challenge forms at www.nanaimo.ca or pick a form up at any Parks, Recreation and Culture facility.
2. Make time to visits the parks
3. Answer the questions on the parks challenge
4. Drop off your form at any Parks, Recreation and Culture facility for a chance to win great prizes.

Parks Fact:

June 10, 1918 – 90 acres of green space was donated by G.W. Bowen of Western Fuel Company to the City of Nanaimo to create Bowen Park.

Did You Know?

Looking for the most up-to-date info about parks, programs, public schedules, special events, and the general goings-on of Parks, Recreation and Culture? Join over 1600 people and become a "fan" of the City of Nanaimo on Facebook! You can also follow us on Twitter. And don't miss our new Week-at-a-Glance page on the www.nanaimo.ca website.

Next newsletter available in April 2010!

Don't want to receive this newsletter? Contact 250-756-5200 to be removed from our mailing list.

CONTACT US

Phone: 250-756-5200 Fax: 250-753-7277 web: www.nanaimo.ca
Internet Registration: ireg.nanaimo.ca
Questions or comments? E-mail us at parks@nanaimo.ca