

President's Report 2014/15

The Westsyde Community Development Society restarted in September 2014 with a new President, Steve Delaney, and many local projects already happening affecting Westsyde residents.

These projects helped us raise our public connection with the community and utilize the Society's News newsletter and website to get information out concerning the City of Kamloops' programs and activities at the Westsyde Neighbourhood Centre (like table tennis) and during the repaving of Westsyde Road, and the okaying of finishing the last unpaved section of the Rivers Trail (Oak Hills Dike), and will continue to do so with the current closure of Westsyde Pool, its roof repair needs, and funding.

Regarding the WCDS's Westsyde Park Project: The Spray Park Waterpark, saw construction of the Phase-1 heated change rooms and utilities building completed and approximately \$6,000 worth of graffiti-proof murals added to the doors and walls, including a prominent display of our logo on the end of the building. The graffiti-proofing on the door murals was tested within a matter of weeks of the doors being finished – it passed. The hard work of Robert Kelly, one of the Society's Past-Presidents and a great resource to us, in having the large wall murals completed, is much appreciated by all who have seen them.

The past winter was the Society's first year for managing the ice on the Ralph Clearwaters Multiplex. Utilizing a grant from the city, the WCDS, with the help of our Event Coordinator Diane Kuchma's family, was able to purchase and test out our ice rink a new snowblower. However, winter was a week of cold between Christmas and New Year, a huge snowfall, then warmer weather until the pavement showed. But the Society, ice and volunteers willing, will be ready for next year.

Spring saw the Liability Signage for using the rink posted and also the arrival of the large bronze dedication plaque for Phase-1 of the spray park. The water flow and components of the Spray Park portion will be finished just as our year finishes for their summer break. Although it will be operational this summer the Grand Opening and Dedication ceremony will take place with the new year starting September 2015.

At the start of our year Monica Chan, the Society's Membership Coordinator, proposed and implemented a flat \$5 per person per year change to the membership dues. Each member now has a proof of membership card with some perks and benefits attached to joining the society and for carrying the card too. This is a great change that simplifies and makes affordable joining the WCSD and can be used by the Society to further connect with our local businesses and community.

The year also saw the WCDS taking over the Westsyde.info domain and control of the websites. The Society also purchased a printer, capable of printing both their newsletter, handout advertising, and their in-house needs.

Fundraising and community-building events included support again for Westsyde's annual Fireworks (put on by Everett Bostock) and the annual HBB & Fall Craft Fair (organized by Jacki Andersen). The Winter Carnival was changed to Spring and then became part of a greatly received community-building Mother's Day Rummage sale. Although the one-day event was a week's worth of work and had its challenges, it was a very good one-day event that will more than likely become an annual event.

This year also saw the end of the WCDS Meat Draws at the Westsyder; many thanks to Ted Erickson for the many years of doing this for the Society. Helped by his wife Evelyn and the odd volunteer, he raised over \$13,000 for Westsyde and the WCDS.

Our dinner-out fundraisers went through some tests this last year and changed from an eat-out Sorriso spaghetti and Nishino Sushi style to a Gary's European sausage take-home, and finally to a Valentine's Day Dinner-Entertainment-Dance with an attached "Parents Night Out", through donation, sitter service which was provided by Bumble and Bean Daycare (Stephanie Morrison) inside our Westsyde Neighbourhood Centre building.

I'm looking forward to using our community's Neighbourhood Centre building more in the future for our events, meetings, dances, and rummage sales.

The WCDS and myself want to note several other people as well:

Kim MacKay, our new vice-president, who was kept busy with writing our grant applications, helping out and sitting on committees. Our Treasurer, Karen Kelly, who has been diligent in keeping expenditure expectations affordable and for tracking and reporting the funds from our events and finances back to the Society. Arlene Grineau, Secretary for the WCSD whose minute-taking is invaluable and who like Gerri Denbigh and Sigrid Wilcox and all of our other volunteers give their help, free-time and much effort in keeping the Society operating. It is very much appreciated - Thank You.

Steve Delaney

President, Westsyde Community Development Society