

Presidents Report for the 2015-16 Session

The year started in September with mixed emotions. On one hand the test flight of the new spray park in Centennial Park was a great success. With everything installed and fresh sod laid to cover construction scars, on Aug 1st the water was turned on to the spray park. But before our first meeting the high had fallen low with the discovery that our new snowblower for the ice rink at Ralph Clearwaters Multiplex had been stolen. We also had one of our new Directors, Angela Mattson, step down.

By October we had our budget for the year finalized and our new members' coupon book with attached WCDS membership cards were printed and in November we were meeting with the City, discussing secondary access points in and out of the community, the city's Transportation Master Plan, and Westsyde Road over concerns raised during a flash flood from a rainstorm at the end of June 2015.

Also in November the annual Home-based Businesses and Craft Fair at the Fellowship Church turned out to be very profitable for the Society. Fundraising for a new snowblower was in full swing and during the craft fair \$675 in donations were received, just shy of \$500 was raised in the kitchen, and over \$1800 was given to the WCDS by Jacki Andersen through raffle and vendor fees.

With the arrival of winter came our new new snowblower from our Local Home Hardware store which was graciously sold to the group at ten percent over their cost.

In December we had guests from the newly formed Brocklehurst Community Association attend our meeting to observe our group and get some tips and information.

The 2016 year started with several fundraisers on the go, some of them were learning experiences like our first attempt at a speed date night, some were a bit profitable like the Rotary Club coupon booklets and the coupon for a steak sandwich dinner at The Dunes, and some were surprises like Gordon Gore offering up the sales for his photo books.

The winter months also saw the WCDS exchange a small honorarium for a gift of labour and materials from Kamloops Wire Products to refurbish the big outdoor hockey nets at the Ralph Clearwaters Mutilpex.

Three members only were available to conduct the regular monthly meeting in February which was surprisingly well attended by local residents who were concerned about plans the City had for Westsyde Pool.

March was then spent preparing for a City Forum on the leisure facilities on the North shore of the city. March also saw Brian Tomlinson, the spokesperson for a group of residents, address issues with the last of the walkways and vandalism between Puhallo Drive and Bebek Road.

The April meeting was usurped by the City forum and needed to be held a day late where mainly the pool was discussed; our support for keeping the pool echoed that of the community's. With the new roof confirmed to be repaired, the strategies have changed to how to increase community usage of the facility for when it does reopen in January 2017.

May was incredibly busy and saw a very successful Westsyde community yard sale and the Mother's Day Craft Fair Flea Market and Hotdog sale at the start of the month (raising over \$890) and then it was back to organizing and planning for the Grand Opening of the Centennial Park Spray Park, which was a seven-year project. On May 28th, between rain showers, the ribbon was cut, the water was turned on, and the Westsyde Community Development Society saw the unveiling of a bronze plaque recognizing Westsyde's Coopers Foods, the City of Kamloops, the WCDS, and all who supported the \$116,000 Phase-1 project, which had led the way for the spray park to be built.

As the 2015-16 year draws to a conclusion and we see some members of our executive leave, new arrivals and returning faces, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Society and our community. You are what makes our community the best-kept secret in Kamloops, and a wonderful 'home'.

Steve Delaney
WCDS President