

# WESTSYDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

## Presidents Report

2016 – 2017

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The Society's year starts at the end of summer and for a volunteer run group like ours a lot can happen before the year ends and the summer break comes again. During our last break, the Spray Park was being well used and over the summer it was greatly enjoyed. It was a good project for the Society and a great addition to Westsyde.

Last September the Society started its year with our new 2016/17 Budget. It was noted that our budget and other financial statements would have to be submitted with any grant application. The Society wants to keep enough funds available to carry itself for a year in the event of, ...something happening and there were no funds raised. And so, we started the year with a bank balance of \$4,700 approx. and a GIC of \$5,000 with a portion being earmarked for our park project.

Our Fall Craft Fair, which has traditionally been a major source of income for the WCDS, has seen its promoter wanting to use profits for other groups too. The WCDS may not always be on her donations list. Regardless, it will still be a worthwhile community networking venture and operating the concession and donations at the door it would be quite beneficial. But this last budget highlighted the need to shift our focus from our reliance on the Fall Craft Fair to maybe the Spring Fair / Yard sales as the major annual fundraiser. Ideas circulated from a pumpkin chuck to a Ladies Night, which went into the planning stage to be held in late January or early February. The pumpkin chuck is still in the idea stage.

We learned while exploring a "Welcome to Westsyde" sign for Westsyde, that per the official map of Kamloops' districts, Westsyde begins at Rue Chez Nous.

The year also started without the swimming pool. The entire roof needed to be removed, with a completion date for these repairs tentatively the end of January, 2017.

The year also started with Monica Chan returning and being appointed again as a director.

The start of Fall saw Kim MacKay serendipitously connected with the North Kamloops Elks Club who thought a picnic shelter for Centennial Park, was a great idea. After a very speedy grant application, they later presented her and Lucie Bourgois a cheque to the Society's park project for \$5,000.

Lucie, Arlene Grineau, and Gerri Denbigh sold many pumpkins on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Dunes Oktoberfest Pumpkin Patch fundraiser after which Bill Bilton from The Dunes donated the \$250 to the Society. The Society doubled that and gave again a \$500 donation to the Westsyde fireworks.

The Fall Craft Fair (November 12<sup>th</sup>) was successful the concession generated just over \$600, the WCDS received over \$900 in donations at the door, nine new members joined, and Jacki Anderson again donated the vendor fees of \$1,500, and the gift basket raffle, which generated \$825, to the WCDS. In total the Fall Craft fair made almost \$3,900 for the Society and its projects.

Unfortunately, November saw vandalism in Centennial Park resulting in closure of the washrooms. Cameras, more patrols, and a youth engagement in the Society and community were discussed as possible solutions.

In December, Heidi Ogilvie and Matt Kachel from the City came to our meeting and gave us an update on the pool building. There will be a lot of windows in the new part of the building. The plan is also to have modernized equipment for the Fitness Centre too. The Grand Opening of Westsyde Pool and Fitness Centre was moved to Family Day in February and a week-long celebration planned, but due to a construction problem with panels it remains closed. At last update, it looks like a September 2017 opening may be feasible.

Gerri Denbigh resigned as Membership Coordinator, but is still willing to help with any future events. Monica Chan, although resigning at the end of the previous year, temporarily became the new Membership Coordinator again. Monica will be missed when she leaves at the end of this year.

New fundraisers often have a bumpy start, the proposed Ladies Night event was rescheduled until February, 2018, to allow for more detailed planning of a memorable event

Nishino Sushi was the location for our WCDS Executive Christmas Party. It was a very nice place for a party.

The year 2017 started with a new corporate member (Westsyde Home Hardware) but also saw Corrinna Douglas formally resign as a Director at Large.

This last winter was an excellent winter for the ice rink, hard on the volunteers like Shayne Kuchma who flooded and shoveled late at night but well enjoyed by the skaters.

February saw a new Westsyde publication: Westsyde Connection (a glossy magazine format). The publisher, Yvonne Dmyterko, has offered the WCDS some ad room in it at no charge, and said the occasional article could be submitted.

Mike Youds, Vice-President and who is also leaving the group at the end of the year and will too be missed, invited Ray Nyuli, a local entertainment / event organizer and fundraiser, to attend the February meeting. Ray presented the two basic choices a volunteer organization has for fundraising: is the focus to be community connection or is the focus to raise money. Ray agreed to write up a proposal for the WCDS using his services as an event organizer.

March brought more growth and some changes. A letter was sent to Mayor and Council asking the City to pursue acquiring land for another park in Westsyde to be located north of Dairy Road. Changes to the website ([wcds.westsyde.info](http://wcds.westsyde.info)) made available past meeting minutes to read. Our new promotional mugs with the WCDS logo on them arrived.

April came and so did new active members to our meetings. It is good to see people like P.J. Reimer and Grant and Janna McConechy at our meetings with new ideas and questions. Suggestions such as WSS students possibly earning extra credits for website assistance.

April also saw Mike Doll, from the City of Kamloops, at our meeting to discuss a list of topics that the WCDS has in planning. Things like the paving of the dike, a covered picnic

table shelter, Bike Park, Skateboard Park, and upgrades to Centennial Park, were discussed and debated. As with most projects there is some give and take and changes made before things are complete. The Centennial Park projects will take some time.

Westsyde's Spring Yard Sale Day (first Saturday in May) again had an online map that advertised the yard sales in Westsyde, with a marker on their location and a brief description of what is on offer. There were many more sales happening this year than the forty that were on the map. Table and yard sale plot rentals at the neighbourhood Centre were low but the carnival games and lollipop pulls were a great hit with the kids. All total the Society raised \$1,140 and thirteen new members, much of the profit due to the hardworking concession and the donation of hotdogs by the new Murphy's Meats deli.

May also brought two new members Kassandra and Jeremy McMullen who are going to be great additions to our online presence.

As the society winds up for the year I want to thank everyone involved and people I didn't mention like Karen and Robert Kelly, Brent Kelly, Sigrid Wilcox, Shalene Logan, Ron and Diane Kuchma.

This last year was a year of change. Having been with the Society for eight years I've watched the ebb and flow of the group both as an incorporated individual and with the group of good hearted individuals who guide the Society onward.

Change can be uncomfortable but change happens, sometimes slowly and unnoticed sometimes quite rapidly and abrupt.

The Society, its role, and relationships are changing but this is and will be a good thing. The dynamic community we represent is constantly changing.

Steve Delaney

President, Westsyde Community Development Society