

# WESTSYDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

## President's Report

2017 - 2018

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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. The year past was fraught with challenges and like past years the WCDS rose to meet and overcome them. It is my hope that the Society will continue to do the same in the future.

The Spray Park continues to be well used and is greatly enjoyed. With upgrades to the viewing area around the Petting Zoo, both those enjoyed last summer, and the new ones being enjoyed now, Centennial Park remains Westsyde's beloved playground.

Last September the Society started its year with our new 2017/18 Budget and comparatively we did better than okay. The Society has enough funds to continue on in the future.

We welcomed two new members, Kassandra and Jeremy McMullen, who were great additions to our online presence. Kassandra quickly set up a presence for the WCDS on the Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook social media sites.

The Westsyde Pool and Fitness Centre opened 'softly' in September, without public fanfare, or WCDS involvement. The climbing wall and zip-swing over the pool were installed in late spring 2018.

And we again donated \$500 to Everett Bostock for his annual Halloween fireworks display. It was AWESOME!

Fundraisers for the fall included a successful Halloween costume swap, coupon booklets, and Gary's Deli.

Our Fall Craft Fair has traditionally been a major source of income for the WCDS. At its conclusion this year, its promoter announced that she is seriously considering retiring from organizing it. This event 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 again 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.

Having said that, the Fall Craft Fair (November 12<sup>th</sup>) was successful - the WCDS received over \$500 in donations at the door, **three** new members joined, and Jacki Anderson again donated the vendor fees and the gift basket raffle to the WCDS. In total this year's Fall Craft fair made just over \$3,700 for the Society and its projects.

The WCDS found twenty-eight new members and two corporate members (Westside Home Hardware, and Westside Dental Centre) in 2017-18 the Society also has seventy-one members grandfathered in as life-time members. Having said goodbye to Monica Chan in 2017, there was no one available this year to fill her shoes as Membership Coordinator. This year also saw Kim McKay (early in 2018), leaving vacant the position of Youth Engagement Director.

The owners of the Petting Zoo attended the November meeting; they presented a list of projects that the WCDS could possibly provide some assistance with such as lighting and windows for the large barn and the WCDS elected to include them in the Society's Park Project. Many thanks are owed to Robert Kelly for spear heading the various aspects of the project.

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

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

Over the winter, with the new BC Societies Act already in effect, Arlene Grineau and I reviewed and integrated our old bylaws with the new ones.

In February, Kassandra resigned her position as Social Media Director effective at the AGM, and one of our new members Joan Rollier stepped in to assist and train with Kassandra until June.

Over the start of 2018 our new mission statement for the WCDS developed, discussed, and adopted as follows: "To enhance the positive development of the Westsyde community through initiatives, engagement and collaboration".

March brought more changes – it was announced that the WCDS will need to find another host server for their website and someone to update and post things to it. Planning for the May Yard Sale event began in earnest. Posters to be put up, newsletter to be distributed, tables for vendors in the gym and plots for the field's flea market vendors, concession to be organized, and membership table to be staffed then online map and forms to be designed and integrated into the website.

Robert, Arlene and I attended a meeting with the City Parks staff at which we reviewed the list of improvements to Centennial Park that had been requested by Parks staff during the 2016/17 year. We received some reassurances that our concerns would be addressed. At that meeting, it was made clear that the Westsyde Neighbourhood Centre will be reverting to the School District in September 2019, which means that we will have to find a new home.

Unfortunately, the old caretaker's cottage on the Centennial Park grounds is an unsuitable location, due to asbestos issues.

Arlene and I submitted our formal resignations in April. April also saw Ben Chobater, our community association liaison from the City of Kamloops, attend our meeting to discuss the City's schedule of "Meet Your Neighbours" events featuring each neighbourhood association. Westsyde's turn occurred on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The City's hope is that these events will increase membership in the local associations.

At the end of April, Robert, Karen, Arlene and I staffed a water station at Westmount, with our banner displayed, during the Boogie the Bridge fundraiser. This was a fun event and the Society may want to take on a station in the future.

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 seventy-nine 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. And the bouncy castle!! All told, the Society raised \$1,140 and some new members, much of the profit due to the hardworking concession and the donation of hotdogs by the new Murphy's Meats deli.

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, Grant and Janna McConechy, Sigrid Wilcox, and Ron and Diane Kuchma.

This last year was a year of change. Having been with the Society for nine years now, I've watched the ebb and flow of the group, both as an incorporated individual itself 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