

Victoria West Community Centre

Year End Report– November 2012

Submitted by Kate Longpre, Victoria West Community Centre Manager



2012 was a year of change for the Victoria West Community Centre. In April of 2012, Kate Longpre was hired as the Manager of the Victoria West Community Centre. With our small but dedicated staff team, Kate, Cherie and Jamie, the Centre set out to accomplish the following goals:

Meet Community Needs

- opened Little Steps Licensed Preschool in September 2012, which is currently running at capacity.
- continued before and after School Care with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria.
- reintroduced Good Food Box program– affordable, locally grown produce can be ordered online and picked up at the Centre.
- lowered prices to make programs more accessible.
- set up wi-fi and free community access computer station for public use.
- tripled the range of programs from babies to seniors including health and wellness, learning, creative and performing arts and drop in.
- rented office and workshop space in the centre to Antidote, a network for multiracial and indigenous women and girls.
- rented the centre kitchen for the Canadian Diabetes Association Food Skills program sponsored by the Victoria Women in Need Community Cooperative and the Ministry of Social Development.
- rented space to the BC Muslim Association of Victoria for their prayers while their mosque was being built.
- provided a home to the Raven District Girl Guides who were seeking a facility to support girls in Vic West.
- provided recreational space to many of the Vic West group homes and their participants.
- provided engaging summer camp programs for families in the Vic West community.



Increase the visibility of Vic West Community Centre in the community

- developed the Victoria West Community Centre program guide; a great resource for community members with information on the programs and services at the centre .
- distributed the program guide through the Victoria News on September 5th reaching homes in Vic West and parts of Esquimalt.
- with Louise Wood's help, updated the website to be more user friendly. www.victoriawest.ca
- shared the stories of the Victoria West Community Centre through Facebook and Twitter. The number of "likes" and "followers" has more than doubled.
- made monthly submissions to the Vic West Elementary School, Macaulay Elementary School, Rock Heights Middle School and Esquimalt High School newsletters.
- extended the Victoria West Community Centre online outreach through Kids in Victoria, Chatterblock, ChildsPlay101, WeePlay101 the Homeschoolers Networks, Times Colonist Go pages, Linking Boomers and GreyPlay101. Centre information is now accessible on the Docksider Green residents website.
- participated in community events such as Vic West Fest, Gorge Swim Fest and the Vic West Corn Roast.
- hosted it's events such as the Vic West Open House and Halloween Fun Fest.



Building Partnerships

- partnered with Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, Victoria Conservatory of Music and Gorging Dragons Dragon Boat Society to offer high quality programs to the community.
- provided youth programming on Friday evenings in partnership with the High Point Church.
- committed with the centre and the Vic West Community School Parent Advisory Council to support one another and work together on initiatives such as the Rain Garden, Halloween Fun Fest and School's Year End event.
- provided a community service learning experience for a graduating student in the UVic Social Sciences program.
- engaged Esquimalt High School student volunteers in the planning and implementation of the Halloween Fun Fest, haunted house.
- collaborate with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria on events such as the CCN Monster Bash and Parenting Workshops.



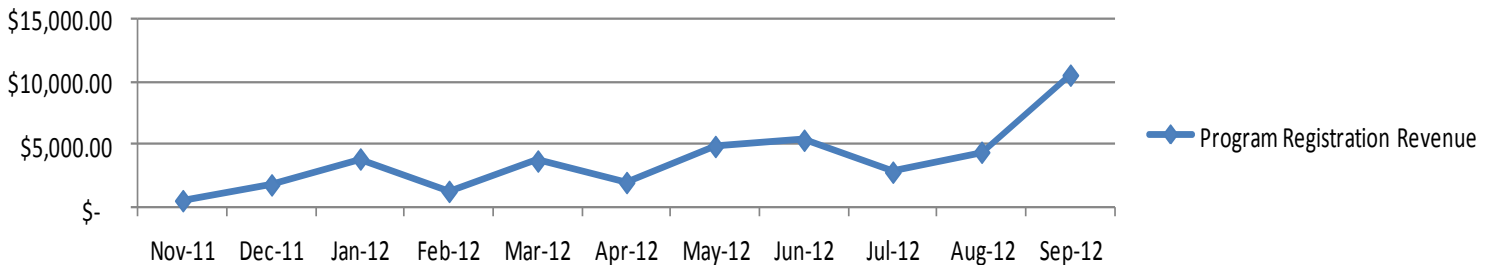
Increase Registered Program Participation

- more than tripled the number of programs offered in Fall 2012 compared to Fall 2011.
- offered high quality programs with skilled instructors, who are evaluated by participants.
- lowered the program registration prices.
- increased the number of facility rentals bringing more people into the building.
- increased center operating hours to Monday through Friday, 9:00am-9:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm.

In Summary

This fall the Victoria West Community Centre lowered program prices, tripled the number of programs offered, increased participation and revenues from rentals and programs while expanding the time that the centre is open.

Vic West Community Centre -Program Registration Revenue Nov 2011-Oct 2012



Special Thank You's

Firstly, I would like to thank the Victoria West Community Centre staff Cherie Miltimore and Jamie Boyd for their continued inspiration and initiative. I would also like to thank the program instructors and volunteers who devote expertise and energy to the programs and services at the centre. Finally, special acknowledgment goes to the Vic West Community Association board of directors and the community centre committee for their ongoing leadership, guidance and service to the community.

I would also like to recognize Suzette Delmage, the previous Community Centre Coordinator. Her efforts in establishing the Victoria West Community Centre have been a tremendous benefit to the community.

The Victoria West Community Centre would also like to thank the City of Victoria for their ongoing support of the centre and the Victoria West Community Association.