

2009 BCRPA PROVINCIAL AWARDS



2009 Provincial Awards Recipients

Program Excellence

Red Fox Active Outreach
Active Communities Vancouver



Active Communities Excellence

Inspiring Wellness and Learning
Teck - Trail Operations



2009 Provincial Awards

BC Recreation and Parks Association

Recreation, culture and parks services in British Columbia contribute to the quality of life of all British Columbians, helping create and support healthy individuals and communities. The BC Recreation and Parks Association is pleased to recognize outstanding programs, innovative facilities and dedicated professionals who remind us daily of the work that is being done in our sector. BCRPA award winners – and indeed all nominees – are an inspiration to their profession and to the parks, culture and recreation movement in BC, and nationwide.

Decreasing Barriers,
Increasing Wellness
City of Richmond



Facility Excellence
Mountain Air Bike Skills Park
City of Burnaby



Environmental Leadership
Terra Nova Rural Park Program
City of Richmond



Oliver Woods Community Centre
*City of Nanaimo &
Gemella Design Inc.*



Burnside Gorge Community Centre
City of Victoria



Parks & Open Spaces
Holland Park
City of Surrey



Student Scholarship
Charissa Steel
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Suzanne Vander Wekken
University of Victoria

**ACTIVE COMMUNITIES
VANCOUVER
RED FOX ACTIVE OUTREACH
PROGRAM EXCELLENCE**

We are inspired when we see resourceful programs that transform and strengthen communities. Active Communities Vancouver has been supporting inner-city Aboriginals in this way through its Red Fox outreach program.

Red Fox is based on the traditional idea of the Medicine Wheel, a code of living that promotes physical, mental, emotional and cultural balance. By providing opportunities for people to get physically active, and for individuals to learn leadership skills, the program is building capacity in the Aboriginal community. Strengthening this community also enhances the city as a whole.

Part of the program's success stems from the variety of activities it offers at events. Whether people try wall-climbing, juggling, stilt-walking or sport, they have the chance to learn new skills and develop self-confidence. They also learn from these experiences that they can take part in recreation



close to home, and that it doesn't require a lot of expensive equipment. Drumming and traditional singing are also part of these events to keep them culturally relevant and foster a sense of pride in the community's heritage. Some events also include a nutritional component where people can learn to make healthy choices when they eat.

“Youth leaders take part in monthly recreation outings, giving them positive leisure experiences and more chances to learn from their community role models.”

Free leadership training is the other important part of Red Fox. Youth and adults within the community are offered opportunities to organize activities and mentor children. They receive HIGH FIVE®, Everybody gets to play™, nutrition, health promotion and communication training. Senior leaders attend meetings with local schools and agencies in a form of job shadowing to acquire program development and special event coordination skills. At all



levels, the leadership training creates a sense of inclusion, community, hope and fun. Through this safe, supportive, socially inclusive and culturally respectful process, people become more employable and gain life skills and the experience to guide their community along a path of ever-increasing success.

Active Communities Vancouver's Red Fox program goes beyond the goals of inclusion and engagement to play an integral role in a community that cares for its members, explores new opportunities, honours its heritage, and enhances quality of life. Because of its ongoing achievements, the Red Fox program has earned BCRPA's 2009 Program Excellence Award.