



Coquitlam Newsletter

May 2016

COQUITLAM 2016 55+ BC GAMES

Community Engaged!

by Gayle Statton, President Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games Society



Sun Shines as Community Celebrates

On Saturday April 9, over 200 community members assembled between 1 and 4 pm for the Community Awareness Event and to celebrate the opening of the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games Office at 640 Poirier Street. If the weather was an omen of the Games' success, then it bodes well because the sun was shining at its best and the temperature was well over 20 degrees.



Well-known performer, Tony Prophet, emceed the event and entertained the crowd with toe-tapping musical favourites and Diamond Bull Karaoke was on hand to help showcase local singing talent.

MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam, Linda Reimer and MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville, Selina Robinson were in attendance supporting the Games. Ms.

Reimer, sporting her newly acquired trendy Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games jacket, spoke on behalf of Premier Christy Clark.



"With over 4,000 people converging onto the region, the Games will be an economic boom to Coquitlam and its Tri-Cities neighbours," she explained.

Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart welcomed everyone and thanked the many volunteers in attendance. "Coquitlam is proud to be hosting the 2016 55+ BC Games as part of its 125 anniversary celebrations," said Stewart. "The City is 100% committed to doing everything possible in order to ensure the Games are successful."



As President of the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games Society, I was there to thank the Board, the organizing committee and the many volunteers who have already signed up to support the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games.



I emphasized that volunteers are a very important part of the Games and that we encourage everyone to volunteer and help us deliver a great 55+ BC Games in Coquitlam.



The event was not all speeches and formalities. The Coquitlam Kinsmen Club outdid itself once again serving up its famous hamburgers and smokies to the hungry crowd, while Ana Rudik painted faces and Mike Azizuki of Bent Air Balloons did his magic designing balloon figures and hats. [CKPM-FM Radio 98.7's Rod Macbeth](#) was live on location keeping the community informed and, community events media Snapd - Tri Cities took numerous photos that is posted on its [website](#).



One of the highlights of the afternoon was the opportunity to participate in the Try-Its.



While some chose lawn bowling, others tried their hand at tennis, pickle ball, table tennis and badminton.



Everyone had fun. It was a fantastic afternoon!



Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games Society Board of Directors

Introducing the President and Board of Directors for the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games.



Front Row L-R: Bill Wray, Director of Registration; Gayle Statton, President; Gerri Wallis, Director of Ceremonies; Peter Muir, Director of Transportation; Back Row L-R: Pat Meyers, Director of Promotions; Barry Lang, Director of Sport; Andy Brauer, Director of Special Events; Brian Wallis, Director of Friends of the Games; Philip Jewell, Director of Protocol; Bill Turner, Director of Communications; Ken Askew, Director of Administration; and, Jay Quan, Director of Medical.

Volunteer and Reap the Benefits!

We sometimes take for granted the community that we live in. People and societies co-depend on each other for survival and growth. What better way is there to connect with your community and give a little back than to volunteer. As a volunteer, you return to society some of the benefits that society gives you.

Volunteering can provide many benefits from having fun, learning and developing a new skill, meeting new people and being a part of a team. It can also boost your career options. If you are thinking of a career change, then volunteering is a perfect way to explore new fields.



Sometimes we get locked into the "rat-race" of life and volunteering can give that escape to every day routine and create a balance in our lives. Finding new interests and hobbies through volunteering can be fun, relaxing and energizing. Sometimes a volunteer experience can lead you to something you never even thought about or help you discover a hobby or interest you were unaware of.

Volunteering brings together a diverse range of people from all backgrounds and walks of life and offers an incredible networking opportunity. Not only will you develop personal and professional

relationships but it is also a great way to learn about people from all walks of life, different environments, and new industries. You can never tell who you will meet or what new information you will learn and what impact this could have on your life.

One of our current volunteers is Director of Transportation for the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games - Peter Muir.



In 1980, Peter earned a Business Administration – Data Processing Management Diploma from the Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology. From 1984 to 1990 he was with the Bank of Bermuda where he worked as a senior analyst programmer to senior project leader. He has 25 years' experience working with the FIS Profile family of systems to become one of the longest experienced consultants in the Profile field. He designed and assisted in implementing and testing, the Bank of Bermuda's Real Time Foreign Exchange System, which won FIS (Sanchez Associates') 2002 innovation award. He also received the Bank of Bermuda President's Award for personal achievement.

From 1995 to 2010 Peter was the President and Principal Consultant of Peter Muir & Associates Ltd. In 1997 he started curling. Peter's

volunteerism is extensive and includes, among other things, being a Transportation Driver, Parade Marshall, Web Designer, and Director/Treasurer. Some of the organizations he has volunteered for are: Continental Cup of Curling, BC Senior Games (Burnaby and Langley), Port Moody Foundation, Port Moody Ribfest, CP Women's Open Golf and the Port Moody Curling Club.

Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games is now recruiting 1500 volunteers to help showcase the games September 20-24, 2016. We need help with every facet of the games. From sport to food, medical to registration, photography, communications, traffic control and more. We have a volunteer role for every skill set, interest and ability.

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give" (Winston Churchill)

To complete a volunteer application on line. [CLICK HERE](#)

Games Sites and Sports

Coquitlam will welcome up to 4,000 participants in 22 different sports and activities. Participants will engage in everything from Archery to Whist. The majority of the sports are happening in two main areas in Coquitlam – the Poirier Sports & Leisure Centre and the Town Centre Park area.



Our neighboring communities are also supporting the Games. Badminton is taking place in Port Moody, Dragon Boating at Rocky Point Port Moody, and golf in Pitt Meadows. For a full list of venues and sports click [here](#).

Torchlighting Ceremony

Our next pre-Games event is the Torchlighting ceremony where organizers, dignitaries and volunteers will all come together for the ceremonial Torchlighting Event.



Join us for the ceremonies!
Wednesday June 1, 2016
7:00pm
Coquitlam Centre
2929 Barnet Highway
Lower Level - Centre Court

Featuring.....

A parade of dignitaries and special guests lead in by Piper Liam Hilder of the Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band. A contortion demonstration with Gymnast Brynne Klassen. Speaker, Author, and CEO of Canada Wide Media, Peter Legge will MC the festivities. Representatives will also provide

information on volunteer opportunities & general info about the Coquitlam 55+ Games.

Park and enter near the Mall entrance between Montana's and the Bay, facing Barnet Highway. Check 55plusgames.ca for more details.

Where to Stay

Book Your Accommodations now! Hotels and RV sites are filling up fast!

Go to the 55plusgames.ca website and select accommodations for a list of hotels, B&B's, RV Sites and more. Or click [here](#).

We look forward to hosting Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games participants September 20-24, 2016.

Visit our sport venues and accommodations map [here](#).

RV Parking

The City of Coquitlam has agreed to make a limited number of RV parking spots available in Mundy Park, near Spani Pool and the venues for Slo-Pitch and Cycling. The lots are not serviced, but shuttles will be available to the other sport venues.

Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. The rate for RVs up to 20 feet long is \$210 for the duration of the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games (arriving Monday, September 19th and departing, Sunday, September 25th) and \$240 for longer RVs up to 32 feet. Payment will be accepted by e-transfer or

cheque received no later than 10 days after the reservation is made. No cancellations after August 1, 2016.**

To make a reservation, please send an email to accommodation2016@55plusgames.ca stating your name, a contact phone number, the size and type of RV. We will be in touch to confirm and arrange payment. The confirmation of reservations will be conditional upon RV users agreeing to safety regulations that will be provided prior to payment being accepted.

**Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games reserves the right to offer RV parking spots for shorter timeframes after July 1st if the RV spots available are not fully reserved by that time.

Athlete Profile

Len Damberger Slo-Pitch Baseball

Len has been playing baseball since he was 10 years old. He used to play men's fastball and transitioned to playing slo-pitch for the past 18 years. Two of his most memorable achievements are winning the world series in Seattle in 2006 with a 65+ men's team and winning a gold medal in Utah in 2015 with a 79+ men's team.



Len lives in Coquitlam. His educational background includes a drafting certificate in structural, architectural and mechanics. He also spent some time in the insurance business. Len used to listen to hockey on the radio and one of his heroes was Syl Apps. Syl won a gold medal at the 1934 British Empire Games in the pole vault competition and later went on to become a hockey player with the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 1930's and 1940's. Syl was 6 feet tall, 185 pounds, didn't smoke and was an all-around gentle giant.

Len's exercise routine includes walking, stretching, light running, bike riding and golf. He draws inspiration and support from his wife who played ball for many years and from his own personal competitive nature. He admits that commitment to his sport does involve some sacrifices such as loss of vacation time and other opportunities. The best sports advice he was given is "go out and play your best and if you lose you can still hold your head high". He lives by the motto "keep going so the person in the sky doesn't catch up to you".

His advice to all athletes 55+ or younger is to get out and enjoy

the game. Other benefits he receives from participation is friendship, health and the comradery of being with the team. Len has participated in many 55+ games over the years.

Athlete Profile

Roger Skinner: Lawn Bowling

Roger is President of the Coquitlam Lawn Bowling Club and has been involved in lawn bowling for the past five years. Over the years he has played football, soccer and racquetball. One day he was watching lawn bowling, thought it looked like fun and decided to give it a try. He usually plays 3 to 4 times per week and participates in two leagues.

One of his biggest accomplishments was in 2014 when his team came second out of thirty playing in the Marg Bauer Mixed Fours Tournament. In 2015 he enjoyed participating in the President's Cup competition hosted by the Granville Park Club. Roger draws inspiration from his wife and family who keep him grounded and are always there to encourage, inspire, listen, pooh pooh and cheer him on.



Roger studied music at UBC and was a member of a successful 1960's band called The Nocturnals. Currently he plays the Hammond organ in a local blues / rock band.

The best advice he was ever given is "a gracious loser is a winner". His advice to all athletes young or 55+ is "always do your best and no matter the outcome, always be gracious". The benefits that Roger receives from sports involvement is the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, and to be a member of the large international community of lawn bowlers. Roger has participated in one 55+ games. This year he has taken on the role of Sport Chair for Lawn Bowling and will be working with the 55+ Games Society to promote the Games.

Dates at a Glance

Date & Time	Event	Location
June 1, 2016: 7 pm	Torchlighting Ceremony	Coquitlam Centre Lower Level, Centre Court
Sept. 20, 2016: 3 to 8 pm	Games Village	Parking Lot of Dogwood Pavilion near 640 Poirier St.
Sept. 20, 2016: 4 to 8 pm	Participant Accreditation	Poirier Forum 618 Poirier St.

Date & Time	Event	Location
Sept. 21 to 24, 2016	Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games	See venues map
Sept. 21, 2016: 10 am to 5 pm	Games Village	Parking Lot of Dogwood Pavilion near 640 Poirier St.
Sept. 21, 2016: 10 am to 5 pm	Participant Accreditation	Poirier Forum 618 Poirier St.
Sept. 21, 2016: 7 pm	Opening Ceremony	Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex 633 Poirier St.
Sept. 22, 2016: 4 to 10 pm	Special Event	Hard Rock Casino 2080 United Blvd. Coquitlam
Sept. 23 2016: 4 to 10:00 pm	Banquet & Dance Dinner: 4 to 7 pm Dance: 7:30 to 10 pm	Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex 633 Poirier St.
Sept. 24, 2016: 1:30 pm	Closing Ceremony	Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex 633 Poirier St.
Sept. 24, 2016: 2:30 pm	Volunteer Appreciation Event	Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex 633 Poirier St.

Friends of the Games

Friends of the Games sponsorships are key to the Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games success. We are thankful for a very strong corporate spirit in Coquitlam. These organizations have shown their support by coming on board as Friends of the Games. The Coquitlam 55+ Games will drive tourism, provide an economic impact estimated at over 3 million dollars and leave legacies such as a volunteer infrastructure and equipment to be donated to local clubs.

Be part of the legacy by sponsoring the Coquitlam 55+ Games! There are different levels of sponsorship, each with its own recognition levels. To obtain a sponsorship package click [here](#).

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Contact Us!

We'd love to hear from you. To reach someone at our Games Office, Board of Directors, a member of the BC Seniors Games Society Executive or a Zone Director, click [here](#).

Our mailing address is:
Coquitlam 2016 55+ BC Games Society
1200 Glen Pine Court
Coquitlam, BC
V3B 2P7

Our Games Office is located at:
640 Poirier Street,
Coquitlam, BC
V3J 6B1

Website: www.55plusgames.ca
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) too!

