

# Report to Council



**Date:** February 19, 2018  
**File:** 1620-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager  
**Subject:** Canada 150 Review

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT COUNCIL receives, for information, the report from the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager dated February 19, 2018 regarding a summary of the Canada 150 initiatives in Kelowna in 2017.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with a summary of the events and initiatives that took place in 2017 to commemorate Canada's sesquicentennial in Kelowna.

## **Background:**

In preparation for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (C150), Council approved \$150,000 to commemorate the milestone locally. The funding was used to support various community grants, celebrations and initiatives. Council's investment was leveraged by the efforts of many community groups and the impact was felt around the city. This report includes a snapshot of some of the highlights and is not meant to be inclusive of everything that took place.

Beginning and ending with New Year's celebrations at Stuart Park, 2017 was marked with a number of community wide projects and initiatives which captured the spirit of our city and gave residents something to celebrate for many years to come.

## Sesquicentennial Grants

Seven community organizations were awarded grants ranging between \$3,000 and \$15,000. All of the grant recipients were able to complete their projects and report on the impact that was made. A quick summary of each recipient is below:

- Kelowna Paddle Trail – The DragonBoat Club took the lead on having 22 buoys installed from McKinley Beach to Bertram Creek Park. The buoys include a list of the beach accesses along the trail and distances between each. The timing of the project was delayed with the spring floods, but the portion covered by the City grant was completed. Signage will be installed and the official launch will take place in the late spring of 2018.
- Stories from 150 Years – with community partners such as members of the Sylix community, Sncewips Heritage Museum, the Okanagan Chinese Canadian Association, the Francophone Cultural Centre, Metro Community Church, Kelowna Secondary School and UBCO a multi-sensory exhibit was created. Visitors to the exhibit had a visual and audio experience learning about the people who have shaped our community over the past 150 years. The pieces used in this exhibit will have a permanent home in the museum.
- 150 Years of Art – The exhibition celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary by bringing together significant Canadian works of art from private collections throughout the Kelowna area for visitors to view and enjoy. The selection included remarkable historical Canadian works by artists such as Cornelius Krieghoff, A.Y. Jackson, Emily Carr, Lawren Harris, A.J. Casson, Jack Bush, Gershon Iskowitz, Jack Shadbolt, and Daphne Odjig. A beautiful keepsake book was created as a legacy for this project.
- A (Kelowna) Christmas Carol - New Vintage Theatre put a local spin on the Charles Dickens' classic to include some of Kelowna's history in the story. Almost 2800 people were able to attend one of the ten performances. The production was considered a great success by New Vintage Theatre and they envision the play will be read and performed again both by their organization and by local schools.
- Canadiana Suite: A Sesquicentennial Celebration – Ballet Kelowna and the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra presented a unique Canadian performance of music and choreography. Over 43 Canadian musicians, four award winning choreographers, seven professional dancers, six professional youth from Kelowna's dance community, the local Neville Bowman Trio and renowned blues artist Shakura S'Aida came together for four performances. Due to its success, Ballet Kelowna continues to tour this performance and the groundwork for future collaborations between these two groups has been laid.
- Canada 150 Summer Fest – Chamber Music Kelowna showcased national and local talent with indoor and outdoor performances. The project increased Chamber Music Kelowna's overall exposure in the community and appealed to a broader demographic. Two high profile Canadian Artists, trumpeter Jens Lindemann and pianist Tommy Banks, took part in the performances. A strong partnership with Festivals Kelowna and the potential for a summer music festival are the legacies for this project.

- na'ʔk'wulamən - The things that we do - Okanagan College created a 6000 square foot teaching and learning indigenous garden that is home to traditional plants used in First Nations culture. Over 50 different varieties of Okanagan plants, shrubs, trees and rocks are contained in the garden. Members of Westbank First Nations and Okanagan College came together to design and develop the garden. It will be maintained by volunteers and Okanagan College so visitors can enjoy it for years to come.

### Incentive Grants

A Canada 150 “top up” was given to a number of grant recipients eligible for existing City grants. Recipients were awarded an incentive grant when they demonstrated alignment with the Canada 150 themes. The overall impact of this funding stream was widespread throughout the community:

#### *Strong Neighbourhoods*

- Incentive Grant funds were used to enhance five projects and 13 events. Over 1200 people connected and 70 volunteers contributed almost 900 volunteer hours. Some of the funded projects included a “Nectar Trail,” an interpretive walking trail and a “Heritage Tea.”

#### *Sport and Event Grants*

- With a focus on volunteer management, the funds were used to improve management strategies, expanded training, recruitment and recognition for volunteers. Six outdoor events which collectively support hundreds of volunteers benefited from this incentive grant.
- The Sport Education Grant was also enhanced allowing seven officials to upgrade their training and/or certification.

#### *Culture Grants*

- Six Incentive Grants were awarded to a range of cultural projects including a Ukrainian Folk Ballet performance, a Canadian Brass Concert and an interactive “blanket exercise” and talking circle which works towards reconciliation.

### Community Engagement

The main online hub for all Canada 150 content was [kelowna.ca/canada150](http://kelowna.ca/canada150). There were almost 13,000 views of this site in 2017 with the most visited links being the Volunteer Challenge and the listing of what’s happening in the community. There were over 600 subscribers for the monthly e-newsletter and through various social media posts and sponsored articles, hundreds more people were engaged. The City’s C150 Facebook posts had a reach of close to 70,000 viewers.

### Events

City staff incorporated Canada 150 messaging into many of their programs. Staff attended and promoted Canada 150 at events and programs such as Park and Play, Dancing in the Park, Family Fun Day and the Cultural Walking Tours.

## SESQUI

At no cost to the City or spectators, a national "Signature C150" project, the SESQUI Dome made a visit. With a generous donation of space from the Capital News Centre, the dome was set up in the lobby on November 4. A 360-degree film was shown which highlighted both famous and remote areas as well as traditional and non-traditional Canadian activities. More than 500 people took part in this free opportunity.

## 150 for 150 Volunteer Challenge

In January 2017, the Mayor issued a challenge to the community to collectively contribute 150,000 volunteer hours. These hours were tracked through the Do Some Good (formerly Volinspire) platform. This challenge was a huge success seeing over 210,000 hours contributed across the community. Do Some Good will keep the momentum going through continued engagement and celebration of volunteers.

## Community Celebrations

Festivals Kelowna was the lead organization to coordinate the major community celebrations for Canada 150. In recognition of the milestone, some new initiatives were created as well as enhancements to the existing program. Some of the highlights of the 2017 program are outlined below:

C150 Celebration Site - for three months during the summer, C150 branded staging was constructed at Jim Stuart Park. This became a community hub and added a more festive atmosphere for celebrations such as Canada Day, Parks Alive! and Dancing in the Park.

150 Banners - a unique project in which 150 people create 150 banners which reflected Canada. Many of these were created through free workshops held at Opus Art Supplies. The banners were displayed first at "Arts on the Avenue" in July and then again along the Artwalk in October.

Canada Day - even bigger in 2017, Festivals Kelowna used additional budget to bring in more performances and higher profile acts. There were additional multi-cultural aspects including the Ki-Lo-Na Friendship Society's "Blanket Ceremony" which provided a teaching and learning opportunity to better understand the impact of colonization on Indigenous populations. With the flooding in the late spring, the fireworks needed to be postponed which made for an enhanced and exciting BC Day weekend in the beginning of August.

Canada 150 Concert Series - purposefully selected acts from across the country performed during two different concerts. These artists were widely recognized and reflected various regions and cultural groups.

Parks Alive! - adding to the C150 Concert Series, Parks Alive! continued with the cross Canada theme. In addition, historically significant spaces, such as Father Pandosy Mission, were used as performance venues.

**Summary**

This report touched on some of the City driven C150 initiatives. There were countless other events and commemorative activities throughout Kelowna and across the nation that contributed to the overall excitement of 2017. Through Council's investment, opportunities for social connection, cultural experiences, learning and recreation were created. Many important projects and conversations were initiated that will continue shaping our community into the future.

**Internal Circulation:**

Communications Advisor, Communications  
Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture  
Manager, Cultural Services  
Manager, Sport & Event Services

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: M Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager

**Approved for inclusion:** J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living and Culture

Attachments: Presentation Canada 150

Cc: Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services