

Mayor Marc Lefebvre has proclaimed the following for City of Parksville in October.

National Seniors' Day and International Day of Older Persons

On October 1, National Seniors Day which coincides with the United Nations International Day of Older Persons, is an occasion for Canadians to celebrate and appreciate seniors. In 1990, the United Nations proclaimed this day in recognition of the contributions of older persons to our society and utilized the proclamation to examine issues which affect their lives. www.seniors.gc.ca

We can all think of a senior who has made a difference in our lives. They are mentors, teachers, grandparents and loved ones. They are volunteers and role models. Every day, seniors in Parksville make a big difference in our community. Seniors have leadership abilities, energy and skills that can benefit us all. National Seniors Day provides Canadians with an opportunity to honour Canada's seniors and thank them as a nation.

In recognition of this proclamation, MLA Michelle Stilwell will host a Seniors' Tea from 1 pm to 3 pm on October 2 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street, Qualicum Beach.

Community Inclusion Month

October 2014 is "Community Inclusion Month" in Parksville which celebrates the achievements of people with developmental disabilities, including independent living, workplace accomplishments as well as community and social participation. The Parksville and District Association for Community Living is planning many events throughout October to celebrate Community Inclusion Month. Information may be found at www.pdacl.ca

Community Inclusion Month also recognizes the hard work of individuals, families and community members to create inclusive communities and opportunities for all residents with developmental disabilities. The month is acknowledged annually by the province to raise public and community awareness about the skills and abilities adults with developmental disabilities and their families can bring to community and the work and support municipalities provide to help build more inclusive communities.

United Way Week – October 5-11

Since 1958 the United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island has sought to stimulate community involvement in the improvement of social conditions. The United Way supports health and social programs that improve the quality of life and focuses on three key objectives which help kids grow up healthy, safe and strong; support healthy people and strong communities; and move from poverty to possibility.

The United Way campaign, important to our community, exemplifies the idea of community health because the donations are staying right here in our community and are distributed to fund those much-needed social programs that support everyone from children to seniors. "Impact councils" comprised of local volunteers with experience in homelessness, early childhood development, domestic health and other social issues review funding applications and recommend which non-profit agencies should receive funding.

United Way provides funding to non-profit agencies in central Vancouver Island; some of the local charities include the Errington Therapeutic Riding Association, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island, the Parent Support Services Society of BC and the Vancouver Island Crisis Society. <http://www.uwcvi.ca/>.

National Teen Driver Safety Week – October 19-25

National Teen Driver Safety Week is intended to focus on distracted driving, an important aspect of driver safety in Canada. While young people make up only 13% of the licensed drivers, they account for about one-quarter of all road-related injuries and fatalities. In Canada, motor vehicle collisions lead to over 14,000 hospitalizations and 161,000 emergency room visits annually. In addition to the human cost, the financial cost is more than \$2.1 billion per year. Parachute believes this week will raise awareness and seek solutions to preventable teen deaths on the roads across Canada and that everyone has a role to play in creating change amongst their peers.

<http://parachutecanada.org>

Foster Family Month

For more than twenty years, British Columbia has declared October as Foster Family Month in order to recognize and celebrate the dedication, hard work and remarkable contributions of foster families. The hard work of foster families certainly deserves to be recognized and celebrated within our community and the City of Parksville is pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge those selfless families who open their hearts and homes to care for vulnerable youth and children. British Columbia has about 7,200 children- and youth-in-care with a diverse range of needs. Each child is unique and they deserve to be surrounded by caring adults in a supportive environment. Foster Family Month recognizes the special people in communities across the province who are committed to helping children, youth and their families when they need it most.

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/ffm.htm>

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