



Children And Youth To Benefit From Future Property Sale

Southern Vancouver Island to receive more critical, relevant services

VICTORIA, B.C. – Changing community needs are driving a change in the way the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria uses its property in Metchosin, which will result in more children and youth receiving the critical services they need.

The non-profit organization seeks to divide its 98-acre property and plans to sell a 40-acre portion of it. The property was purchased in 2004, at market value, at a time when significant youth justice needs meant such property was needed for wilderness programs and nature programming. Since then, changes in young offender laws and an evolution in youth needs have reshaped community priorities.

“This has been a considered decision. Thousands of young people have enjoyed lifechanging experiences at this property,” said Rebecca Lang, president of the Boys and Girls of Greater Victoria Foundation which owns the property. “By selling a portion of our property, we can remain responsive and adaptive to these changing priorities across our communities.”

Today, responses to community needs are considerably more complex than they once were. Although quality out-of-school programming, summer camps and youth outreach remain essential for the Boys and Girls Club, the organization is increasingly stepping in to offer new programs and supports to address some of the greatest challenges facing children, youth and families including homelessness prevention, mental health support and substance use services.

The Foundation’s board of directors believes the eventual sale of this property will guarantee additional, relevant programs and supports for more children, youth and families across Southern Vancouver Island. As a mission-driven organization, it is imperative that community needs drive service delivery. Demand for support is at record levels all across the region.

“We have a legacy of improving lives,” Lang said. “The ultimate sale of this property is the responsible way to fund more services for more young people.”

The process to divide the property began with the Municipality of Metchosin in early 2020 and was discussed in an open council meeting in September. The Foundation remains hopeful that an application to subdivide the property will be endorsed by Metchosin Council.

“As a responsible non-profit organization, our intention is to closely monitor our usage and costs while continuing to offer programming in Metchosin on our remaining land,” Lang said. “We hope people will look at our long track record of serving the community and see that we are, as always, putting the needs of the region’s young people first.”

For more information, contact: Dalyce Dixon, Executive Director, 250-384-9133 x216;
ddixon@bgcvc.org