

**Dragonfly
Pond**



FAMILY SOCIETY

The Pond

Fall 2020

Board of Directors

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Together We Will Fly....

Our programs are made possible by the generous support of

Community Granting organizations:

Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen,

JCI Penticton, Okanagan Fest of Ale Society

Dragonfly Pond Family Society

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COVID-19 and how we got through the season

During the middle of March, 2020, all our programs came to a quick halt when all public spaces and programs were closed down to help flatten the curve. We were introduced to new language- Social Distancing, Physical Distancing, Flatten the Curve, and more.

Our lives all pivoted as we no longer had access to programs we were used to, schools closed down, jobs shuttered and laid off, and people stayed home. We all reinforced the importance of good handwashing, distancing, and staying home when unwell. And masks became an everyday occurrence.

During this time, Dragonfly Pond Family Society was not able to run its usual programs. Our spring program was cancelled, our monthly Family Get Togethers were put on hold, and we were unsure about our Summer program.

But- we adapted! We did a weekly email out to everyone to check in and share some recipes, links and tips. We did a Spring Program take home package with crafts and activities for families to do while staying home over spring break, and included some treats for the kids too! We also applied for two grants that gave us access to special resources during this time- see more information below.

We hope all of you and yours stayed healthy during this time, and were able to adapt along with us. We missed seeing you this spring, but were glad to be able to see so many of you during the summer.

Family Care Package and Pantry Stock up Grants

During the COVID-19 shutdown, we were unable to see the families of DFP and get together, which created a loss of socialization and activities for our families. The support we usually offer was not able to take place, and it seemed we didn't know when we would see each other again. Families were hurting financially from kids being home and being unable to work, from activities and respite being cancelled, and the frustration going to the store to get basic necessities.

That's when two grant opportunities came along. The first was a grant through the Government of Canada to fund programs that met needs during this time. For this grant, we applied for funds to do a Family Care Package.

The contents of this package were locally made cloth masks for adults and kids in the family, hand sanitizer made by a local distillery with a refill, a purse size spray hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, and lastly some summer activities to keep the kids busy. These packages were worth up to \$100 each for the families, and helped reduce the burden of going out when necessary, staying safe and sanitized, and having activities for the kids to do at home. They were much appreciated and well received.

The second one was from the First West Foundation, which is through Valley First Credit union. Their foundation is focused on food security. Realizing how hard it might be for families to keep their pantry stocked while at home with kids and the shelves emptied regularly, we put in a grant application to stock up the pantries of our members. This would allow us to purchase pantry staples as requested by the families themselves, and also give them a gift card to help purchase fresh food and meat for their family.

Both programs ran well and were delivered in part by our Sprott Shaw CC Practicum Student, Tina Gamache.



Dragonflies and Minnows

This summer our Dragonflies and Minnows program had to shift gears. In order to keep to COVID-19 guidelines, we moved all of our programs to an outdoor setting. This meant our Art in the Park days were on track and went ahead, but our Community Centre days had to change. We partnered with Hoodoo Adventures to offer a day of kayaking, an adventure hike, and a survival session. Glow SUP Adventures hosted us twice for Stand up Paddleboarding during the summer, and everyone had a blast! Families got to see Riding 4 Life Equestrian Centre where therapeutic riding takes place, and try out riding a horse themselves, often for the first time. We had a beautiful picnic at Skaha Lake Waterpark, with the chance to network while physically distanced. Families also got to go to Locoland at their own leisure too!

Our Art in the Park was a hit again this year, with the program being modified to have one family group or bubble group per table, lots of sanitizing, and individually packaged craft items. This way no one was sharing craft supplies, and we were able to keep everything sanitized and clean.



Donor Spotlight



JCI Penticton held a fundraising golf tournament in Sept of 2019, and raised a very generous amount to donate to our Dragonflies and Minnows Program.

Their donation allowed us to adapt our program this summer for COVID-19 protocols, and do all outdoor based programs. These programs cost more, and because of their donation, we were able to do all of the activities we did! This included Paddleboarding, Horseback riding, Hoodoo Adventure days, Kayaking and more!

Thanks JCI Penticton for supporting us!! <https://www.facebook.com/JCIPenticton>

Volunteer Opportunities & Events

Fall Online Raffle Fundraiser

We will be running a fall fundraiser to support our programs for 2021. Please watch for more information out soon, and we would love your help to sell tickets- online through social media or to your friends and family! dragonfly@vip.net or call 250-490-3305.

Our Board of Directors

If you or anyone you know of is interested in joining our Board, please contact Tricia at dragonfly@vip.net for more details or to sign up. We are looking for board members that might be interested in the governance of Dragonfly Pond Society, as well as supporting our fundraising initiatives. We meet once a month for a board meeting, and correspond via email mostly.

If you would like to volunteer with a program or fundraiser, please contact program coordinator Tricia for more details @ 250-490-3305 or by emailing dragonfly@vip.net

QuickLink: (each issue, this section will provide a link to a resource for our families!)

The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)

The **British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society**, or as more commonly known, **BCANDS**, is an award winning, Indigenous not for profit, charitable Society serving the unique and diverse disability and health resource / support service needs of the Indigenous population of British Columbia. BCANDS is a “stand alone” organization and the only organization of its type in Canada, BCANDS is in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2018. Incorporated in 1991, BCANDS celebrated its 27th year of successfully delivering Indigenous disability and health programs and services across British Columbia in 2018.

<http://www.bcands.bc.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bcands1/>



British Columbia Aboriginal Network
on Disability Society (BCANDS)

DRAGONFLY POND FAMILY SOCIETY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO SUPPORTED BY...

United Way of the South Okanagan, Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen, Ministry of Child and Family Development, Lakeside Resort, Ramada Penticton Hotel & Suites, Sandman Hotel, The Pasta Factory, Safeway, Community Centre & Pool Staff, Okanagan Fest of Ale Society, Global Spectrum and the South Okanagan Events Centre, Husdon's Bay, The Barley Mill, Penticton Herald, The Boys and Girls club, OSNS, BCSPCA, The Shatford Centre, Penticton Western, Elephant Island Winery, Tim Horton's, Sun-Rype, Knights of Pythias, JCI Penticton, private consultants, community members, family members, foundations, community agencies & service providers