



Abbotsford Youth Commission Annual Staff Report 2012

Table of Contents

	Page Number
Mission / Vision Statement.....	3
Message from the Executive Director	4
Message from the President	5
Impact on Youth Statement and Summary of Statistics.....	6
AYC – 2012 Annual Staff Report	
A. Drop-In Programs.....	10
B. Leadership Programs	12
C. Self Esteem Programs	13
D. Healthy Living Programs	13
E. Life Skills and Leadership Programs	14
F. Special Events	15
G. Community Involvement	17
Board of Directors	20
Thank you to our Volunteers and Donors	20

Abbotsford Youth Commission

because youth matter

Vision Statement

Abbotsford is a city where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered and connected.

Mission Statement

The Abbotsford Youth Commission exists to identify, promote, improve, increase and provide services and programs for youth in Abbotsford.

Background

In 1991, the Districts of Matsqui and Abbotsford established a Youth Commission to ensure that concerns and problems respecting youth in the community would be heard. The goal was to actively identify and promote avenues by which resources in the community could best address youth issues.

In 1996, the Abbotsford Youth Commission became a non-profit society and registered charity. The AYC receives core funding from the City of Abbotsford and the remainder of AYC revenue is generated through granting programs from other levels of government, program registration fees, fundraising efforts, as well as donations from many local service clubs, foundations and individuals.

Goals

- A. To advocate on behalf of youth
 - 1. To assist in the development of a positive profile for youth.
 - 2. To provide opportunities for community involvement.
 - 3. To encourage community investment in youth.

- B. Implement programs for youth in the community
 - 1. To continue and enhance preventative leisure/recreation options for youth.
 - 2. To provide training, leadership, and volunteer experiences for youth.
 - 3. To increase the quality of Youth Commission services provided to the community.

- C. Be actively involved with the community in developing programs & services for youth.
 - 1. To encourage healthy youth and families
 - 2. To create avenues for youth involvement in social/political action
 - 3. To focus on awareness and prevention of identified youth social issues.

- D. Share youth information and resources with the community
 - 1. To promote the Youth Commission as a resource for youth, parents, and the community.
 - 2. To enhance and revise materials which promote services for Abbotsford youth.

Message from the Executive Director

The Abbotsford Youth Commission's vision is that **Abbotsford is a city where every youth feels included, safe, valued, empowered and connected.** For more than two decades now we have been working to accomplish this vision by providing a safe, productive place for youth to go after school, in the evening, and daily in the summer; encouraging youth to live a healthy balanced lifestyle through exercise and recreation; providing an opportunity for youth to talk about issues that influence their development and learn skills to respond to negative experiences; working towards crime prevention by offering youth pro-social activities during high-risk hours; providing youth with the strong adult mentors that they are seeking; giving youth a forum to have their voices heard and assisting them to create positive change in their community. The Abbotsford Youth Commission exists **because youth matter.**

2012 was an exciting and challenging year for the Abbotsford Youth Commission beginning with a reduction in service levels and ending with development and growth. Working within a limited budget we had to take a hard look at what we believed to be the core of our services and make some tough cuts to programming keeping only those programs that we believed most closely aligned with our vision as an agency and with the priorities of the City. This resulted in cutting the grade seven and eight dances which we had offered for more than 15 years as well as cutting many of our short term camps and programs. We concentrated our focus on programs that offered a life skills or leadership component in addition to our free drop-in programs which provide a vital service to those in our community who cannot afford paid recreation. While we made cuts to the number of programs that we offered in 2012, the AYC experienced significant growth in the number of youth participating in our programs. The AYC hit all time high participation numbers in eight of our drop-in programs as well as in our Girls Nite Out program.

We also added two new programs in the fall of 2012. We started to offer lunch time games at WA Fraser and at Howe Middle as well as piloting a program for boys at the Treehouse Hub at Eugene Reimer in response to a need expressed by the school. This program provided an opportunity for boys to connect with adult mentors and engage in pro-social activities every Wednesday after school.

In addition to the many programs, events and presentations that we offer, we also spend many hours working to be the voice of Abbotsford's youth and to advocate on their behalf. We chair and host numerous committee meetings every month; these community collaborations help to ensure that at-risk youth in our city are not falling through the cracks. The AYC is a hub for youth programs and services providing a place for youth and parents to come in and seek advice.



Every year we provide support and referrals for youth who find themselves in difficult situations such as having no place to sleep, needing drug or alcohol treatment or police and ministry referrals for youth who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances. The AYC also partners with numerous other organizations working to improve the lives of youth in our community. This year, as a member of the City of Character Society Executive, I had the opportunity to head up the team that organized the ACC Youth Forum where more than 140 youth and school staff met and made plans for how to bring the message of character into their schools.

One additional highlight from 2012 was the development of a new logo and website for the AYC. Staff and directors alike are pleased with the updated look that is now presented to the community.

The AYC functions in a community environment and receives many benefits from the involvement of our community partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, our generous funders and donors, our board of directors, our practicum students and our volunteers. Without the valuable support provided we would not succeed. Thank you.

Bev Olfert, Executive Director
Abbotsford Youth Commission

Message from the President

Once again, it has been a pleasure to work in the role of President on the AYC Board of Directors. We have a very dedicated board and our level of participation has been outstanding in all ways. The Executive Committee has been functioning very well too and I appreciate the leadership that comes from each of the Executive members. Thanks to Rick Lucy, Stan Petersen, and Karl Olfert for their strong commitment to the AYC in this capacity.

We saw some transition this past year in the AYC team members, with Krista Bryde taking maternity leave and Christy Friess joining our group in Krista's place as Supervisor of Recreation. Our devoted team also includes Christy-Lee Ovens as our Administrative Assistant. Bev Olfert continued on as our Executive Director, providing strong leadership in all aspects of the AYC operations. As president I appreciate their strong work and supervision of all the staff in every program.

Once again the AYC has excelled in providing many programs for youth throughout the year. All programs, from Drop-in Centres to weekly events across the city have seen attendance increases this year. AYC staff set specific attendance targets for these increases and the targets were met, and often exceeded.

The City of Abbotsford provides core funding for the AYC providing the infrastructure upon which funding from other sources is leveraged. The remainder of AYC revenue is generated through granting programs from other levels of government, program registration fees, fundraising efforts, as well as donations from many local service clubs, foundations and individuals. These funds are then used to directly operate the programs and services for youth. The AYC also receives in-kind support from many local businesses and organizations as well as the City in operating drop-in centres in both the Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC) and Matsqui Recreation Centre (MRC). The funding sources from outside the City of Abbotsford are significant in providing resources that would not be available to the citizens of Abbotsford any other way.

We would not be able to operate the Abbotsford Youth Commission without the support of many people, including, the staff, board members, executive committee, many volunteers, the City of Abbotsford, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and many other funders. As president, I appreciate the strong support from all of these partners.

Les Stagg, President
Abbotsford Youth Commission

Impact on Youth 2012

Program	Number of participants		
Drop-in Programs			
ARC After School Drop in	724 youth	5489 entrances	average 29
MRC After School Drop in	261 youth	3088 entrances	average 17
ARC Youth Zone / Evening Drop-in	670 youth	2161 entrances	average 25
MRC Youth Zone / Evening Drop-in	152 youth	640 entrances	average 17
Spring Break	108 youth	248 entrances	average 25
Summer Youth Zone (ARC)	294 youth	1110 entrances	average 26
Winter Break	50 youth	86 entrances	average 14
Basketball	108 youth	427 entrances	average 16
Floor Hockey	96 youth	507 entrances	average 16
Leadership Programs			
Youth Council	26		
Jr. Leadership	32		
Youth Focus	45		
Noon Hour Games	Average weekly attendance 23		
Self Esteem Programs			
Just for Girls	139		
Guys Alive	83		
Healthy Living Programs			
Girls Nite Out	82		
Guys Nite	29		
Recreational / Educational & Life Skills and Leadership Programs			
Winter	6 Programs	71 Registrants	
Spring	4 Programs	52 Registrants	
Summer	11 Programs	108 Registrants	
Fall	5 Programs	58 Registrants	
Total Rec/Ed	26 Programs	289 Program Registrants	
		263 Individual Participants	
Special Events			
Grade 7 & 8 Dance	375		
Bullying Awareness Rally	95		
FVCAT Rally	75		
Youth Week			
• City Council Collaboration	12 Youth Council Members		
• Random Acts of Kindness	7 Youth	5 Youth Workers	100+ affected
• Floor Hockey vs APD	37 Youth	15 APD members	
• BBQ at ARC	38 Youth		
• Neon Dance	375 Youth	25 Volunteers	
URoc Awards	72		
Back to School BBQ	97		

Summary of 2012 Impact on Youth Statistics

In 2012 we reached all-time highs in a number of different programs including:

- Spring Break (different youth and total entrances)
- Summer Youth Zone (different youth and total entrances)
- Girls Nite Out
- Floor Hockey (different youth and total entrances)
- ARC Drop-in (different youth and total entrances)
- ARC Youth Zone (different youth)
- MRC Drop-in (different youth and total entrances)
- MRC Youth Zone (total entrances)
- Basketball (different youth)

We had 4 decreases in 2012 as compared to 2011:

- Guys Nite was down 35% (45-29)
- Guys Alive was down 5% (87-83)
- Basketball total entrances were down 10% (475-427)
- Recreational/Educational and Life Skills and Leadership Programs were down due to change in delivery

ARC Drop-In:

Highest # of youth who came in one day: 72

Lowest # of youth who came in one day: 8

Average number of youth who came in per day throughout the year: 29

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 724

Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 5,489

Comparison to 2011: 17% increase in total entrances and 40% increase in number of different youth

ARC Youth Zone:

Highest # of youth who came in one day: 60

Lowest # of youth who came in one day: 2

Average number of youth who came in per day throughout the year: 25

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 670

Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 2,161

Comparison to 2011: 43% increase in total entrances and 51% increase in number of different youth

MRC Drop-In:

Highest # of youth who came in one day: 34

Lowest # of youth who came in one day: 3

Average number of youth who came in per day throughout the year: 17

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 261

Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 3,088

Comparison to 2011: 15% increase in different youth, 15.5% increase in total entrances

MRC Youth Zone:

Highest # of youth who came in one day: 38

Lowest # of youth who came in one day: 3

Average number of youth who came in per day throughout the year: 17

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 152

Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 640
Comparison to 2011: 192% increase in total entrances, 81% increase in different youth

Basketball:

Highest # of youth: 29
Lowest # of youth: 7
Average number of youth who participated throughout the year: 16
Number of youth who ever came to this program: 108
Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 427
Comparison to 2011: 10% decrease in total entrances, 38% increase in different youth

Floor Hockey:

Highest # of youth: 34
Lowest # of youth: 5
Average number of youth participated throughout the year: 16
Number of youth who ever came to this program: 96
Total number of entrances throughout the whole year: 507
Comparison to 2011: 72% increase in total entrances and 37% increase in number of different youth

GNO:

Highest # of youth in one 8 week session: 19
Lowest # of youth in one 8 week session: 10
Average number of youth who participated in the program throughout the year: 14
Number of youth who ever came to this program: 64
Total number of registrations for the year: 82
Comparison to 2011: An 11% increase in total registrations and 25% increase in number of youth

GN:

Highest # of youth in one 8 week session: 13
Lowest # of youth in one 8 week session: 8
Average number of youth who participated in the program throughout the year: 10
Number of youth who ever came to this program: 19
Total number of registrations for the year: 29
Comparison to 2011: A decrease of 35% in total registrations

Summer Youth Zone:

Highest # of youth who came in one day: 42
Lowest # of youth who came in one day: 15
Average number of youth who came in per day throughout the summer: 26
Number of youth who ever came to this program: 294
Total number of entrances throughout the whole summer: 1,110
Comparison to 2011: 46% increase in different youth; 35% increase in total entrances

Spring Break:

MRC

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 34

Total number of entrances: 103

ARC

Number of youth who ever came to this program: 74

Total number of entrances: 145

Recreational/Educational and Life Skills and Leadership Programs:

Winter	6 Programs	71 Registrants
Spring	4 Programs	52 Registrants
Summer	11 Programs	108 Registrants
Fall	5 Programs	58 Registrants
Total Rec/Ed	26 Programs	289 Program Registrants
		263 Individual Participants
# of times a youth participated in a program	# of youth	
1	240	
2	21	
3	1	
4	1	

Total # of programs: 26 (decrease by 31% (38 – 26 programs))

Total # in all programs: 282 (decrease by 27%)

Average # from all programs: 11 (increase of 10%)

Number of youth who ever came to these programs: 256 (decrease by 16.5%)

Comparison to 2011: 31% decrease in number of programs offered; 27% decrease in different youth; 16.5 % decrease in entrances; 10% increase in the average number of participants in each program. The decreases in this program category are explained by the change in programming in 2012. Due to fiscal constraint we offered fewer programs than in 2012. The most significant difference occurred during the summer session where programs decreased from 23 Recreational/Educational camps with 224 registrants to 11 Life Skills and Leadership programs with 108 registrants.



Abbotsford Youth Commission – 2012 Annual Staff Report

A. Drop-In Programs

1. Youth Centre at ARC

The AYC Youth Centre at ARC has been open for four years and offers youth a safe, supervised and productive place to spend their time all year. The centre offers our free After School Drop-in and Youth Zone programs as well as Summer Youth Zone and Youth Focus. The centre is open Monday-Saturday and is open to youth a minimum of 25.5 hours per week. Youth are able to participate in activities such as: sports, pool, video games, ping pong, foosball, crafts and educational games.

In a response to information gathered during our 'Speak Out 2011' initiative, we introduced 'late night hours' on Saturday nights for youth ages 16 – 18. Despite our best efforts we did not succeed in attracting an older crowd to the centre during that time and several months later we resumed our regular programming.

In July 2012, we began to focus more clearly on enriching the lives of youth who attend our programs. Staff are building stronger relationships and offering youth more activities than ever before. We continue to offer open gym every week where youth have the opportunity to play and learn new sports and games.

Total # of youth participants: Youth Zone 670 / After School Drop-in 724

Total # of entrances: Youth Zone 2161 / After School Drop-in 5489

Total # of volunteers: 14

2. Youth Centre at MRC

The AYC Youth Centre at MRC has been open since September 2009 and program hours are Monday-Thursday 2:30-4:30pm and Fridays 2:30-10:00pm. MRC is open throughout the school year and programs offered at this location include our free After School Drop-in, Youth Zone and Youth Focus programs. Youth are able to participate in activities such as: pool, video games, foosball, ping pong, crafts, games and more. Since September, we have seen a dramatic increase in youth satisfaction and participation as a direct result of our enriched programming and focus on youth development.



Total # of youth participants: Youth Zone 152 / After School Drop-in 261

Total # of entrances: Youth Zone 640 / After School Drop-in 3088

Total # of volunteers: 14

3. Spring Break

In 2012, we offered free daily drop-in at both of our youth centres for the first time. We were open for 10 days; Monday – Thursday 12:00–4:00pm and Fridays 2:00–10:00pm. Free activities included swimming, skating, PJ Party, Superhero Party, tournaments and more.

ARC

Total # of youth participants: 63

Total # of entrances: 145

Total # of volunteers: 3

MRC

Total # of youth participants: 45

Total # of entrances: 103

Total # of volunteers: 3

4. Summer Youth Zone

This program combines our free drop-in programs at the Abbotsford Recreation Centre with our life skills and leadership programs. This was the tenth summer that we offered Summer Youth Zone and we had the best turnout yet! The program attracted 294 youth some of whom came almost every day in July and August. Staff focused on building relationships with youth and keeping youth engaged in activities. Every week the youth were able to swim, participate in open gym and enjoy a free BBQ. Enrichment activities were planned each week such as hosting a tea cart for senior's, a free car wash, creating a City of Character display at ARC, playing cards with seniors and much, much more. All of the hard work by the staff clearly made a difference as is evidenced by the number of youth who attended the program.

Total # of youth participants: 294
Total # of entrances: 1110
Total # of volunteers: 2

5. Winter Break

Winter Break 2012 involved a variety of free activities at ARC over a six day period. Activities included: A tea cart for seniors, swimming, game tournaments, skating, movies and more.

Total # of youth participants: 50
Total # of entrances: 86
Total # of volunteers: 1



6. Drop-In Basketball

This program has been running for the past nine years and is offered as a free program every Wednesday evening from 8:00pm-10:00pm during the school year. In 2012, we had a 38% increase in the number of youth who attended the program. We continue to partner with members of the Abbotsford Police Department who attend once a month to play basketball with the youth.

Total # of youth participants: 108
Total # of entrances: 427
Total # of volunteers: 2
Total # of APD participants: 15

7. Drop-In Floor Hockey

Drop-In Floor Hockey is offered on Thursday's afterschool from 3:30pm-5:00pm throughout the school year. In 2012, the Abbotsford Police Department joined the youth in a game of floor hockey every second week which was a very strong component to the program. This year we had a 72% increase in entrances to the program.

Total # of youth participants: 96
Total # of entrances: 507
Total # of volunteers: 4
Total # of APD participants: 16

B. Leadership Programs

1. Youth Council

Each school year, Youth Council is comprised of 12-15 youth representing a majority of high schools in Abbotsford. This year's Council had representation from MEI, W.J. Mouat, Yale, Robert Bateman, Abby Christian, Rick Hansen, Abbotsford Traditional, Bakerview Centre for Learning and St. John Brebeuf. Members come together several times a month to work on youth initiated projects; this year the Council chose Bullying Awareness as their focus. In November, Youth Council members were thrilled to be presented with a \$200.00 City of Hero's award to help fund their Bullying Awareness Project.

Total # of youth participants: 26



2. Jr. Leadership Program

The Jr. Leadership program was offered monthly from January to May at Abby Middle, Howe Middle and Clayburn Middle School. The idea of the program was to introduce middle school youth to the leadership programs offered at the Abbotsford Youth Commission in hopes that they would join the Youth Council program when they were in high school. In September our focus changed when we created a new program called Noon Hour Games. Due to this shift in programming we only offered Jr. Leadership at Abby Middle School for the remainder of the year.

Total # of youth participants: 32

3. Noon Hour Games

This program started in September at Howe and Fraser Middle Schools once a week at each school during the lunch hour. AYC staff play board games, cards, crafts, sports etc. and chat with youth at the schools. Activities are open to any youth in the school who wish to attend. The school youth worker and any other staff members also point out youth to the staff who they feel would benefit from our programs. The purpose of the program is to promote AYC programs and to invite youth to our youth centres. In addition to the Noon Hour Games, we also had staff wait outside the schools and remind youth to come to our youth centres on Tuesdays and Fridays after school.

On average we had 23 participants each noon hour, although we have had up to 45 participants in one session.

4. Youth Focus Program

Youth Focus is a leadership program which offers youth centre participants the opportunity to have a say in what goes on in the youth centres. Interested youth gather to develop leadership skills, offer feedback on programs, directly engage in the program and event development process, become a role model, and discuss pertinent issues facing youth. The program runs for an hour each week at both MRC and ARC.

Total # of youth participants: 45

C. Self Esteem Programs

1. Just for Girls

Just for Girls is a psycho-educational program for grade seven girls which is facilitated in the school environment by practicum students from several different faculties of study at the University of the Fraser Valley including: Nursing, Criminology, Child and Youth Care, and Social Work. The objective of the program is to prevent harmful emotional and behavioural issues such as low self-esteem, eating disorders and abuse.

In 2012, the program was in 10 schools with 139 overall participants. The program saw a significant increase in participation with almost all schools having 13 or more participants in the fall programs. A total of 26 practicum students facilitated the program and the program would not have been possible without their dedication nor without the support of the staff liaisons within the Abbotsford School District.

Total # of participants: 139

Total # of volunteers: 26

2. Guys Alive

Guys Alive is a psycho-educational program for grade seven boys which is facilitated in the school environment by practicum students from several different faculties of study at the University of the Fraser Valley in addition to part-time staff members at AYC. The objective of the program is to educate boys on peer pressure, bullying, relationships, healthy living and teamwork.

In 2012, the Guys Alive program was in 8 schools with 83 boys completing the program. Comments by the participants about the program were all positive in nature and most boys expressed interest in coming back to the program. We are looking forward to offering the Guys Alive program to more schools in 2013. The Guys Alive program would not have been possible without the support of the Abbotsford School District.

Total # of participants: 83

Total # of volunteers: 5

D. Healthy Living Programs

1. Girls Nite Out

Girls Nite Out is a non-competitive social recreational program that is designed to support healthy living through balanced lifestyle choices including exercise and play. The program atmosphere is designed to encourage girls to try new activities in a fun and supportive environment while enjoying the activities at their own pace and ability. The program runs two sessions a week three times a year for eight weeks.

In 2012, the Girls Nite Out program saw more than a 10% increase in participants who were all very excited about trying new classes such as Hip Hop Dance and Groove Dance.

Total # of youth participants: 82

Total # of volunteers: 6

2. Guys Nite

Guys Nite is a non-competitive program that gives boys an opportunity to try a new activity or sport while teaching them the values of teamwork and active living. The program's focus is on participation in all activities allowing the boys to develop skills without the fear of failure or competition. Guys Nite is offered three times a year and meets at various locations in Abbotsford.

In 2012, 29 youth participated in the program with activities such as Judo and bowling as well as a multitude of other sports including basketball, hockey, and soccer. Our fall program saw an increase from 8 boys per session to 13, and we are striving for even higher numbers in the new year.

Total # of youth participants: 29

Total # of volunteers: 0

E. Life Skills and Leadership Programs

After five years of running what was known as Recreational and Educational Programs, the AYC made a significant shift in programming during the 2012 year to a focus on Life Skills and Leadership Programs. A decrease in services in this area was made to ensure the success of other programs key to AYC success.

These programs offer opportunities for youth to build leadership skills and life skills in a fun safe environment. Below are the programs that ran in 2012.

Winter 2012

Babysitter Training #1	15
Creative Cupcakes	4
Food Safe	13
Cooking Level 1	14
Babysitter Training #2	15
Leadership Training	10

Babysitter Training #2	8
Food Safe #1	10
Get in the Zone	8
Babysitter Training #3	7
Leadership	16
Babysitter Training #4	17
Food Safe #2	10
Life Skills 101	6
Babysitter Training #5	11

Spring 2012

Babysitter Training #1	15
Babysitter Training #2	15
Food Safe	6
Babysitter Training #3	16

Fall 2012

Babysitter Training #1	13
Babysitter Training #2	15
Employment Readiness	11
Babysitter Training #3	11
Food Safe	8

Summer 2012

Babysitter Training #1	10
Employment Readiness	7

Total # of programs: 26

Total # of youth participants: 263

Total # of registrations: 289

Total # of volunteers: 4

F. Special Events

1. Grade 7 & 8 Dances

We held our last official Grade Seven and Eight Dance on February 17, 2012. Dances were cancelled in 2012 due to restructuring. 375 youth and 25 volunteers attended this dance.

2. Bullying Awareness Rally

On February 29th we held events at MRC & ARC to support the annual “Take a Stand against Bullying” initiative. A rally was held at ARC where youth and adults marched through the ARC building raising awareness to prevent bullying. A smaller event was held at MRC in the youth centre. 73 youth and 22 adults participated at both centres.

3. FVCAT Rally

On March 6th the AYC partnered with the Fraser Valley Community Action Team to host a rally to acknowledge Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. The event was covered in both newspapers and more than 75 people attended.

4. “Let Youth Belong” Coffeehouse

On March 23rd we partnered with the DEARS program from Abbotsford Community Services to offer their music and coffee event at the ARC.

5. Hawkey at Hockey

On April 19th the Abbotsford Heat Mascot joined the APD at the regular Floor Hockey program. Hawkey gave away a signed Abby Heat hockey stick to one very lucky young man.

6. Youth Week 2012

Youth Week is held annually during the first week of May, and is a celebration of youth in our community! Following is an outline of the activities that were offered in 2012:

Monday, April 30th – City Council Collaboration

In early 2012, Youth Council members were paired up with City Councillors. The paired matches set up meetings where Youth Council members had the opportunity to interview their Councillor and get to know



them. In the months leading up to Youth Week, each youth attended an event with their matched Councillor and finally, on the first day of Youth Week 2012, the youth had the great opportunity to sit beside their Councillor at a City Council meeting. This was a wonderful experience for all involved.

Tuesday, May 1nd – Random Acts of Kindness

Youth Council members and youth from the community got together to hand out balloons and flowers to people and businesses in the community. It was a nice way for youth to show Abbotsford that they care! Seven youth and five youth workers participated; approximately 100 people were affected by the acts of kindness!



Wednesday, May 2nd – Spring BBQ & Water Games
On May 2nd thirty eight youth participated in our free BBQ and Water Games event. It was a little early in the year for this event but the youth were really excited about it and were happy to jump right in to the activities.

Thursday, May 3rd – Floor Hockey with Abbotsford Police Department

This year we held our Sixth Annual Youth Week Hockey game. The APD and youth workers came out to challenge our youth at this very popular event. This year's event was held at the Ag Rec. 37 youth and 15 police officers attended. A Vancouver Canucks jersey was given away to one very happy youth!

Friday, May 6th - Grade 7 & 8 Neon Dance

During youth week we had a special dance for grade 7 & 8's. We had 375 youth attend the Neon Dance event. What a great way to end Youth Week!

7. Annual U Roc Awards

On May 30th we had our Annual U Roc Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social. It was a great event and it was a chance to thank all of our current volunteers, board members and youth council members. There was a great turnout with 72 people attending.

2012 winners were:

Amanda Layton (youth)

Nicole Provost (youth)

WJ Mouat Character Council (youth)

Jeff McLean (adult)

John Kuipers (adult)

Dr.Schrieffers (adult)

Seven Oaks Mall (business)

8. Summer Kick off BBQ

At the end of the school year we held a summer kick off BBQ at ARC with free hotdogs, pop and chips for all youth. During the BBQ staff promoted our summer programs and summer youth centre hours and activities. 72 youth were in attendance.

9. Back to School BBQ

On September 28th we held a BBQ at both youth centres to celebrate the new school year and get the youth excited about our programs. ARC had 63 youth attend and MRC had 34 youth attend.

10. Abbotsford City of Character Youth Forum

On October 19th we worked with the Abbotsford City of Character Society to provide a forum for youth where they learned about the City of Character values. All schools in Abbotsford were invited to this event and 141 youth attended.

11. Halloween Events

This year the youth focus groups planned a fun and exciting Halloween activity for each youth centre. Both centres held their events on October 31st. ARC had 43 youth attend and MRC had 29 youth attend.

12. Media Literacy Week

During the week of November 5th to 9th both ARC and MRC held daily events to recognize Media Literacy and Crime Prevention Week. Five separate events were held at each centre. This week long calendar of events included a presentation from the Abbotsford Police Department around internet safety, a showing of the Operation X video, deconstruction of magazine covers, a censorship vs. freedom of speech debate and a violence in the media group discussion.

13. FVCAT Girls Day

On November 21st we worked together with the Fraser Valley Community Action Team against the sexual exploitation of children and youth to offer a very successful prevention day for girls at risk of sexual exploitation. The 44 girls and 26 youth workers who attended this event all expressed appreciation for the amazing presentations by TCO2 and Safeteen. Huge thanks to the Abbotsford Police Foundation who granted the funds for this program.

14. West Coast Christmas Show

From November 29th – December 2nd we had a tree at the West Coast Christmas Show. The youth, staff and volunteers did an excellent job creating the ornaments representing our social media theme. Although we did not win the 'best tree' competition, it was a great opportunity to promote our programs in the community.

15. Christmas Celebrations

On December 21st the ARC youth focus group planned a fun and festive kick off to Winter Break with 28 youth participating. MRC also held a holiday pizza party on December 21st with 23 youth participating.

G. Community Involvement

In addition to the many programs, events and presentations that we offer, we also spend countless hours working to be the voice of Abbotsford's youth and to advocate on their behalf. We chair, host and attend numerous committee meetings every month that work to improve the lives of Abbotsford's youth. These community collaborations help to ensure that at-risk youth in our city are not falling through the cracks.

1. Committees

The Executive Director and Supervisor of Recreation sit on many committees in Abbotsford to provide a youth perspective, raise awareness of youth issues, assist in the development of a positive profile for youth, and to act as a resource for youth, parents and the community. The committees that we participated in this past year are:

Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee
Abbotsford City of Character Society (Executive Member / Treasurer)
Abbotsford Social Development Advisory Committee
Abbotsford Youth Health Centre Advisory Committee
Abbotsford Youth Inclusion Advisory Committee
Canadian Tire Jump Start Committee
Community Assessment and Action Network
Fraser Valley Community Action Team (Chair/hosted by AYC)
Fraser Valley Human Dignity Coalition
Regional Youth Week Committee
South Asian Community Consultative Group
Steering Committee for the Immigrant Youth and Young Adult Program
Suicide Prevention and Resource Committee
UFV - ECE / CYC External Advisory Committee
Youth Workers Networking Meeting (Chair/hosted by AYC)

All of these committees consider their AYC representative to be an invaluable asset to the committee. More community groups and committees approach the AYC for support each year; however, this is the extent of our ability to provide service at this time.

In 2012, the AYC became a champion of the City of Character movement with Bev Olfert being elected to the executive committee in the position of Treasurer. In the fall of 2012 Bev headed up the ACC Youth Forum which saw more than 140 youth and teachers representing all of the public and many independent schools come together and make plans for how they will bring the message of character into their school communities. This has been a significant commitment of time and energy that we feel is a valuable contribution to our city. The AYC has been a champion of this initiative for more than a year now bringing the language into our programming and teaching the youth about living out the values of respect, responsibility, integrity, empathy, courage and service in their lives. It has been exciting to watch the concepts ignite with the youth and with the staff.

The AYC was also pleased to facilitate a workshop for girls at risk of sexual exploitation in partnership with the Fraser Valley Community Action Team funded by a grant from the Abbotsford Police Foundation. Forty-four girls and 26 youth workers participated in this poignant and informative day.

2. Partnerships

The AYC is a hub for youth programs and services and provides a place for youth and parents to come in and seek advice. We provide a safe place as well as referrals and support for youth who find themselves in difficult circumstances such as having no place to sleep, needing drug or alcohol treatment, or police and ministry referrals for youth who have been abused.

The AYC also partners with other organizations working to improve the lives of youth in our community.

Abbotsford Addictions Centre
Abbotsford Community Services
Abbotsford Parks, Recreation & Culture
Abbotsford Police Department

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Mission Community Services
MRC Senior Centre
New Beginnings

ARC Senior Centre
Abbotsford Restorative Justice
Abby Dads
Big Brothers Big Sisters Fraser Valley
Central Abbotsford Community School
Child and Youth Mental Health
Chilliwack Society for Community Living
City of Abbotsford
Cyrus Centre
Fraser Valley Regional Library
IMPACT

Parks Recreation and Culture
School District #34
School District #75 Mission
The Reach
United Way of the Fraser Valley
West Abbotsford Community School
Xyolhemeylh
YMCA
Youth Resource Centre
Youth Unlimited

A new partnership in 2012 is with the Abby Dads program who use our youth centre at ARC on Monday Nights for their Dads and Kids Night. This partnership is going very well with the dads and children being very excited about all that the space has to offer. Another new partnership is with the Chilliwack Society for Community Living. Their staff members frequent the ARC youth centre with some of their youth with special needs on Friday nights.

3. Resources

One of the goals of the Abbotsford Youth Commission is to share youth information and resources with the community. We do this through:

- Youth Workers Resource Guide – hard copy and at www.abbyyouth.com/resources/referral-guide.html
- Our newsletter the Whatz-Up
- Our Resource Library
- Referrals over the phone and in person

4. Promotion

To let people know about the resources, programs and services available at the Abbotsford Youth Commission we promote the AYC throughout the year. We do this through:

- Hosting our information booth at various community events. This year we put up our information booth at the Operation Lodestar presentation, Suicide Prevention and Awareness for Parents Night, Family Literacy Day at the Reach, Tree House Hub Open House, Canada Day, Sevenoaks Mall, Suicide Prevention Training Day, Girls Day, Community Corner at a Heat Game and the West Coast Christmas Show
- Advertising in the Abbotsford Program Guide put out by Parks, Recreation and Culture three times a year
- Advertising in the local newspapers 4 times a year
- Sending press releases to the local newspapers
- Offering presentations to Parent Advisory Council's
- Updating our website which is a great resource for youth and parents
- Promotion to youth in Abbotsford Schools
- Twitter and Facebook
- Delivering flyers to homes near our youth centres and businesses for their staff rooms
- This year we also had three full-page editorials donated by The Abby Times to provide bullying awareness information and to promote our programs and services
- In 2012 we completely revamped our website and created a new logo to update our look online
- We were finalists in the Save on Foods – Abby Heat Community Challenge

- Our Recreation Leads at both youth centres go to their closest Middle School after school two days a week to remind youth and parents about our youth centres
- We introduced noon hour activities at Howe and Fraser Middles as leadership programs but also as ways to promote our programs to the staff and students

In 2012, we concentrated our promotion efforts in developing new ways to reach our target audiences of youth and their parents. We thought outside the box and expanded our efforts with inexpensive photocopied flyers, social media, increasing our presence in the schools, encouraging staff to cross-promote programs, and calling youth who have not attended in a while.

Abbotsford Youth Commission – Board of Directors 2012

Les Stagg	President
Rick Lucy	Past President / APD Representative
Stan Petersen	Vice President / School Board Representative
Karl Olfert	Secretary/Treasurer
Bailey Roberts	Director/Youth Council Representative
Balbir Gill	Director
Cheryl Unger	Director
Chris Luff	Director
Jasica Grewal	Director
Jenny Thornton	Director/City of Abbotsford Representative
Les Barkman	Director/City Council Representative
Louanne Carlton	Director
Luke Weins	Director/Youth Council Representative
Teresa Pippus	Director

Thank You to Our Volunteers and Donors

Our Volunteers

Finally, we would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations that assist us in providing programs and services for youth in Abbotsford. A special thank you to our Board of Directors and to our volunteers; without their help our programs and events would not be possible. Thank you so very much!

Our Donors and Supporters

Abbotsford Community Foundation	International Internet Advertising Services
Abbotsford News	Kiwanis Club of Clearbrook
Abbotsford Parks, Recreation & Culture	Province of British Columbia
Abbotsford Police Department	Royal Bank
Abbotsford Social Activity Association	School District #34
Abbotsford Times	Service Canada
Canadian Tire	Soroptomist International of Abbotsford/Mission
Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program	True Sport
City of Abbotsford	United Way of the Fraser Valley
HSBC Bank Canada	