

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

International Day of Older Persons – October 1

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.coscobc.org

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.

World Cerebral Palsy Day – October 5

World Cerebral Palsy Day is an international effort to raise awareness and affect change for people living with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood and is a non-progressive neuro-motor condition affecting 17 million people worldwide, including some 50,000 Canadians. In British Columbia, there are 10,000 people closely connected to someone living with cerebral palsy.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia joins hundreds of organizations in more than 50 countries to build a global community committed to creating a better world for people with cerebral palsy. The campaign aims to help eliminate physical and attitudinal barriers so all people living with cerebral palsy can enjoy life without limits.

National Teen Driver Safety Week – October 16-22

National Teen Driver Safety Week is intended to focus on driver safety challenges faced across Canada, including distracted driving and drug impaired driving. While young people make up only 12% of the licensed drivers, they account for about one-fifth 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 that everyone has a role to play in creating change amongst their peers and hopes National Teen Driver Safety Week will raise awareness and seek solutions to preventable teen deaths on the roads across Canada. <http://parachutecanada.org>

Community Living Month

October 2016 is "Community Living Month" in Parksville which celebrates the achievements of people with developmental disabilities, including independent living, workplace accomplishments as well as community and social participation. Inclusion Parksville is planning many events including a kick-off barbeque on September 22, charity golf and dinner fundraiser on October 1 and more to celebrate Community Living Month. Information on local events may be found at www.inclusionpv.org.

Community Living 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. More information is available at www.communitylivingbc.ca.

United Way Month – October 1-31

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/>.

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