

# Archery Tag suggested for REC Centre

## Popular new sport would generate revenue

WENDY FRASER

The popular new sport of Archery Tag could be coming to the Lillooet REC Centre.

In a report for District Councils Feb. 16 meeting, Director of Recreation Wayne Robinson said REC Centre staff is looking for ways to secure funding to bring Archery Tag to Lillooet. He said the program will generate revenue for the REC Centre and could potentially draw visitors to the community for tournaments and special events.

Archery Tag is a game with elements of paintball and dodgeball, but uses bows and safe arrows with foam tips and no paint is involved. The sport is suitable for ages 12 and older and involves teams playing games such as Capture the Flag, King of the Hill, etc.

Robinson said Archery Tag could be played during the summer months in the REC Centre arena, which is under-utilized during that time. It can also be moved outdoors to Conway Park and other sites for tournaments.

REC Centre staff looked into the program last year and inquired about available funding from the Interior Savings Credit Union's Community Investment Fund. Staff was told the Credit Union would like to fund the purchase of the equipment (face masks, bows, arrows, bunkers, targets, etc.) but the funds need to be received by a local service club since funds cannot be given directly to the municipality. The Lillooet Lions Club has indicated it would like to pursue the Credit Union funding to bring the Archery Tag program to the REC Centre.

If Archery Tag is offered at the REC Centre, it will not be included in facility passes and the program will charge fees as a premium program similar to other existing instructed programs.

During Public Question Period, Jim Upton asked if the District had checked with nearby



Teams battle each other by shooting foam-tipped arrows from bunkers, and trying to avoid being hit, in Archery Tag.

Aboriginal communities to see if they would support the program. He suggested it would show a lack of cultural sensitivity if a program using bows and arrows is introduced in Lillooet.

Acting Mayor Kevin Aitken replied that he looked upon it as a game of laser tag played with

bows and arrows.

Councillor Barb Wieve told Upton council had already discussed his concern, and Mayor Marg Lampman had undertaken to speak with local Aboriginal leaders about the proposed program.

# Forum on Healthy Aging all ready for next week

WENDY FRASER

"Every minute that we are alive, we are all aging," says Gail Madrigga, organizer of next week's Thriving Community Partnerships for Healthy Aging Forum. "And the demographics for Lillooet show that we have a large seniors population."

The day-long Forum – the first of its kind for Lillooet – will be held at the REC Centre Friday, Mar. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Madrigga says the Forum is an opportunity for seniors, their families, those approaching their senior years and seniors' service providers to learn about seniors' health issues and engage in conversations about how to best support the physical, mental and social

well-being of Lillooet and area seniors as they age.

She hopes the benefit of the Forum will be that people will leave the event feeling they are informed.

"For example, one of our presentations is on home and community care," Madrigga explained. "People will meet someone from home and community care, they will know where to go, who that person is and what to do to obtain that service. What I'm really hoping we're going to get out of this is the information that so many of us don't have that will make us feel better and able to make better decisions."

The Keynote Address will be delivered by Dr. Patrick McGowan from the University

of Victoria's Centre on Aging.

There will be additional presentations on topics such as elder abuse, preventative medicine, nutrition and the B.C. government's "My Voice" document on expressing wishes for future health care treatment.

Admission is free, although advance registration is appreciated. Lunch and snacks will be served and Madrigga promises there will be plenty of breaks during the busy day.

She told the News she does not expect the Forum to be the end of local initiatives on healthy aging. Instead, she sees it as a beginning, with prospects for new partnerships.

"When we came up with this idea, it wasn't just about caring for our elders," explained

Madrigga. "Through this whole planning process, we've been developing partnerships in the community. It's always been a struggle for Lillooet to create those partnerships, but in my conversations with people about the Forum, it tweaks people's interest and it shows the path to the partnership we need, which isn't really very complicated. So I'm very excited about that potential, as well as the forum itself."

She suggested one of those partnership opportunities may be in the area of in-town transportation for elders and

seniors.

"The partnerships that I thought were potential are real. It's just a matter of taking that step forward, putting out your hand and saying, 'Hey, what can we do together?'"

She added that there need to be more opportunities for a broad variety of community leaders to exchange ideas by asking, "What is lacking in Lillooet? What can we do? How can we create those partnerships? What is it that people are afraid to do? What's stopping you? What are you afraid of? Let's talk about those

things, because once you talk about them and push that fear away, once we feel more positive, then we can make progress."

Madrigga gave credit to SLRD Area B Director Mickey Macri for the initial Forum idea. "He is the reason this all developed."

She said Macri saw an opportunity to obtain funding for a forum on aging, put her in touch with the SLRD office in Pemberton and – after a lot of planning and hard work – next week's event is the result.

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## Winterfest 2015 Thank You!

The 6th annual Bridge River Valley Winterfest celebration was moved to the Gun Lake Fire Protection Hall after the rain flooded the ice rinks. The kids enjoyed tubing on the last remaining patch of snow & good times were had by all. Lots of prizes were given out in the winter trivia contest & a big prize draw.

Thank you to everyone who attended, your support & donations will go towards making next years event even better!

[www.bridgerivervalley.ca/winterfest](http://www.bridgerivervalley.ca/winterfest)

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