

# Project Overview

## Fanny Bay Canine Companionship Park



### 1. Funder Overview: New Horizons for Seniors Program



Government  
of Canada

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHFSP) Provides organizations that want to help seniors make a difference in the lives of others and in their communities with federal grants for projects that are led or inspired by seniors and address one or more of the following five program objectives:

- **promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations;**
- **engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others;**
- expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
- **supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors;** and
- **providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.**

Community-based projects are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per year. The FBCA received **\$22,950.00** for the project Fanny Bay Canine Companionship Park that was applied for.

### 2. The Community: Fanny Bay

The 2016 Census list Fanny Bay's population has been 893. Of that, the Census lists over 50% of the population as 55 years or older, 33% as 65 years or older, and the average age of the residence as 53.9. Clearly, Fanny Bay has a strong contingent of senior residents.

The vision for Fanny Bay is to be an inclusive and accessible community that also provides its senior residents the community amenities that will support their needs and thus enable them to live a healthy and happy life and allow them to age in place. Further, because Fanny Bay is already a decentralized rural community (approx. 30kms from Courtenay and approx. 25kms from Qualicum), resident seniors are already at risk of feeling isolated. Therefore, it is necessary for the seniors, and their community, to create programs and services that will attract, retain, and enable them to age in place.

### **3. The Sponsor: Fanny Bay Community Hall Association**

The Fanny Bay Community Association (FBCA) is a non-profit community association governed by an elected volunteer Board which maintains the Fanny Bay community hall and grounds and to support programming for the community of Fanny Bay. The FBCA Mission Statement: The Fanny Bay Community Association Board of Directors will promote activities and enhance the quality of life for Fanny Bay Residents. The board seeks community input, invite's participation, encourages the use of the Fanny Bay Hall as a place to gather, share, foster and deepen the sense of community and to maintain the existing structure in good condition.

### **4. The Project:**

#### **4a. Fanny Bay Canine Companionship Park**

The Fanny Bay Canine Companionship Park provides a much needed space in our community where seniors and “man’s best friend” can benefit from, and contribute to, a higher quality of life in the Fanny Bay community through active living and participation in social activities.

The Fanny Bay Canine Companionship Park (FBCCP) will support social participation and inclusion of seniors by providing a safe and structured environment for seniors to bring their canine companions and socialize with other seniors. As seniors age, elements of their social, emotional and physical being diminish. It is common for seniors to bring a dog into their life as a companion; someone the senior can create an emotional bond with, and be social and exercise with. Fanny Bay has a large population of seniors just like this! However, there is no safe place for seniors to gather with their canine companions, where the dogs can play with each other while the senior share stories about their respective dogs. The FBCCP will be fenced, have posted rules, a shelter, benches for the dog owners to sit and visit with other seniors, and dog waste bag station.

#### **4b. Adopt a Dog Buddy Program**

The FBCCP itself is only one aspect of this project. Once the FBCCP is built, the FBCA will be creating an *Adopt a Dog Buddy Program*. Here, dog owners in our community will bring their dogs to the FBCCP and make them available for visits with seniors who cannot own a dog for one reason or another, but truly love dogs and see them as an important way to give/receive love, prevent loneliness and create friendships with. The *Adopt a Dog Buddy Program* will provide mentoring, leadership and skill matching opportunities for seniors; from the perspective of giving and receiving.

#### **4c. Canine Speakers Series**

The FBCCP project will also create a “*Canine Speakers Series*”. This *Series* will see a number of representatives from various organizations, such health and nutrition providers, SPCA, animal licensing officer, dog trainers, veterinarians, etc. provide canine-related information to FBCCP users.

## 5. Sample Project Schedule

### Phase One (ex. March)

- Update Fanny Bay Community Association Board about project
- Advertise call for FBCCP Steering Committee members
- Select Steering Committee
- Hold initial and possibly more Steering Committee meeting(s)

### Phase Two (Ex. April/May)

- Steering Committee considers options and selects design for FBCCP
- Steering Committee reports back to FBCA with preferred design
- Steering Committee, in conjunction with FBCA advertises tender for the FBCCPC 'general contractor' (who will coordinate construction of the Canine Companionship Park).
- Steering Committee selects sign design and narrative
- Steering Committee select and order the benches, dog waste bags station and 'Canine Companionship Park Rules and Best Practices' sign.

### Phase Three (ex. June)

- Contractor installs the sign, benches and dog waste bag station
- Steering Committee to begin developing promotional material for the Fanny Bay Flyer and Facebook page
  - o the W's (what, why, who, where, when...)
  - o construction update
  - o news about the *Canine Companionship Park Grand Opening event*
  - o information about the *Adopt a Dog Buddy Program*
  - o initial *Canine Speaker Series* workshop
  - o Thank You's

### Phase Four (Ex. July 1?)

- Grand Opening
- Operations & maintenance begins
- *Adopt a Dog Buddy Program* continues
- *Canine Speaker Series* continues

❖ ***The existing tasks listed in each phase are only some of what will be required to complete this project. Other tasks will be added to all of the phases; for the FBCA Board, FBCCP Steering Committee, contractor, etc.***

## 6. Capital Components of the FBCCP

The capital assets include:

- fencing and gates (3)
- benches (2)
- 100% recycled plastic waste bag dispenser/garbage can (1)
- shelter (1)
- signage (1)

Each of these components are essential to the concept of providing a safe and enjoyable Dog Park for seniors to enjoy.

## 7. Project Co-Coordinators

Tammy Mercer-Gervais is a current FBCA Board Member, and is the person who led the application-writing process for the New Horizons for Seniors Program grant. Her ability to lead the application-writing process was greatly aided by the fact she previously served in *Buildings & Grounds* role, she has been an owner of dogs since in her teens and still does, she is the co-operator of a 5-acre hobby ranch, is familiar with and passionate about the needs of Fanny Bay seniors, and is a senior.

Keir Gervais has a professional background in community development - including countless age-friendly initiatives, community engagement and facilitation, municipal operations, and project management. Keir is also a dog owner, co-operator of a 5-acre hobby ranch, and is passionate about community engagement – youth through to seniors.

Tammy and Keir plan on coordinating a *'by the seniors, for the seniors'* project, in keeping with the New Horizons for Seniors Program, that will balance the wants and needs of Fanny Bay seniors and other FBCCP stakeholders, along with the capacity of the FBCA.

