

GIFTS *for* LIFE



Available in cooperation with the
Parks and Recreation Foundation of Victoria

Foundation seeks partners

Residents can give a gift to their fellow citizens through the Parks and Recreation Foundation of Victoria's Gifts for Life program.

"All too often city councils have limited budgets. This is a way for the public to leave a legacy," says Alan Lowe, foundation president.

The idea for the program is to fund recreation opportunities and enhance greenspaces and leisure facilities in the community, through public donations.

Contributions can vary from \$35 to help fund a section of the Galloping Goose trail to \$30,000 for equipment for playgrounds or the Bamfield Park Waterpark.

Other gifts needed for parks include picnic tables, park benches, bicycle racks, park lighting and drinking fountains.

A \$6,600 start-up grant from the City of Victoria helped establish the foundation in 1994. To date, 79 benches have been funded and located in parks throughout the city, through the

Gifts For Life program.

The foundation has raised more than \$100,000 in donations since it was established four years ago.

Lowe says the foundation will also participate in funding major projects in the city, such as the Johnson Street pedestrian and bicycle lane (which could cost up to \$75,000) and the Mile Zero Trans-Canada Highway Trail development, which is priced at \$500,000. Funding for these projects would be matched by other agencies.

The Parks and Recreation Foundation recently held a reception to launch its Gifts For Life catalog, show its display boards and announce its new fundraiser, a Father's Day bike trek.

The June biking event will help to raise funds for the Johnson Street Bridge bike path.

Copies of the Gifts for Life catalog may be obtained by contacting Diane Walsh, Gifts for Life program coordinator, at 383-7285.

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