

The CBSC Summer of 2020 “That Almost Didn’t Happen”

In lieu of our Summer AGM, over the past few weeks I have been thinking of how to best pen this final letter of communication to our CBSC community this Summer.

Initially, I thought:

A poem - with the wonderful verses and rhyming words that usually brings a smile to our faces. A great way to capture ideas and feelings, the immense pressure of working through how we were going to bring the Pandemic summer of 2020 to our community and the seriousness of the situation would probably not be captured! This would have been the never-ending poem!

A song - although fun and enjoyable with lyrics and story-telling, I felt it could not capture the intense and fast-moving communication and protocols that were so important. We were overcoming many different daily scenarios that were coming from many different directions. We had to ensure the utmost safety and enjoyable summer. Our CBSC community was counting on us to salvage our CBSC summer. It would have been the longest song - ever! Plus, singing requires something that I do not have, talent!

So, I decided to just “speak from my heart.”

We began with the summer 2020 planning thinking that there is a good possibility that it would not happen. Slowly, and with

determination from our Board we brought the “what if’s” into our meetings. The majority of us have grown up with summers at Crescent or been involved with the Crescent Beach community for many years. We are “Crescent Beach Kids” with a history of building memories and we have learned amazing life lessons and skills such as teamwork, confidence, friendship, respect, commitment, encouragement and determination to succeed under many different circumstances. Those many “skills kicked in” and planning begun, giving us the “Let’s do this, and make CBSC summer of 2020 work!”

We knew that the programs would look a little different and some of our treasured events such as PNO, Friday night Foot Races and Bingo might not happen but, we would find creative ways to make what programs we can work. This was the summer for us to come together, build on the foundation of those skills we were taught as kids over the many CBSC summers that taught us nothing is impossible to achieve! Similar to those CBSC classes that we all took and secretly thought “I can’t do this”... Guess what? by the end of the summer we swam in that race that we didn’t think we could, learned how to play tennis, sail or took a lifesaving course, ran a Triathlon, Water Polo or Synchro show ...and did it!” Despite rainy and cold days, strong water currents and many early morning extra practices, we did it.

We did not have a manual to guide us through the Covid-19 Pandemic. We began with daily (sometimes hourly) news updates from Dr. Bonnie. Communication and direction from Fraser Health and City of Surrey kept us busy planning and on our toes. We had

to be flexible and ready to change plans at a moment's notice. The board formally decided to move forward with a summer program on May 25th knowing we still had significant work to do. Coaches and staff began Covid- 19 training, protocols and manuals were put into place, visits from Fraser Health, more training and updates. The imagination and ingenuity of many people helped to build programs that would be fun and enjoyable but, above all, "safe" for all our CBSC community to participate in.

HIGHLIGHTS

There were 1630 people walking around with pink wristbands:
or

- 66 staff members
- 88 social members
- 90 senior members
- 1355 family members

Swim:

We shifted our thinking from "do more, fit more in!" to become "do less!". Many of our programs were full before registration week was complete, therefore we pivoted in the last days before the pool opened and found more pool time, more triathlon time, more volleyball time and shifted water polo times to try to alleviate some of the waitlists. We even added lights to extend the evening adult swims!

Our swim coaches took on these challenges with great enthusiasm. They worked the extra days and more classes with a smile on their faces. They were so happy to see the CBSC kids come through the gates each day. Coaches did a great job managing to physically distance the young seahorses in their lessons. There was a certain calmness with the smaller numbers, but coaches created fun by including music and challenges throughout the season.

Our Masters swims were almost full for the 6:30am classes six days a week, Masters running (also at 6:30am) was lots of fun- every year this group expands, the more the merrier!

While we were not able to host Galas, competitions, live for spectators artistic swimming shows or the triathlon event this summer, the CBSC seahorses did the tank swims, timed trials in competitive swim, did scoring challenges in water polo, filmed physically distanced artistic swimming shows and completed 5 mini triathlons and we were still able to receive COVID safe candy bags!

All in all, we were happy to have a pool to swim in and be safe with friends this summer!

Office:

For the office team, the highlights definitely related to the fact that things went relatively smoothly in a summer when everything was dramatically different. Two things specifically come to mind:

- Successfully navigated through a long and complicated registration process, including the complicated follow up in the first couple of weeks as classes were added and changed.
- Managed the whole summer with no (or very limited) physical presence in the office. Everything was done remotely, and it went well!

Sailing:

Our beautiful Bay was a very popular, (and naturally socially distant) place with more first time participants being introduced to Sailing and SUP than ever before. In fact, even a beautiful gray whale came by on a magical Sunday afternoon Free Sail session to check things out! Covid officers spent a lot of time asking people not to come onto the tank while ensuring that paddleboards and sailboats were cleaned and sanitized. Smaller class sizes and the challenge of not having a coach in the boat made for a huge learning curve for our beginner sailors.

Most sailing programs filled up quickly this year and we loved meeting the new students. We ran six Sail Green classes - all at full capacity, which is a record breaking year for Sailing. Also more Family Sailing classes were added on the weekends and during the weekdays to meet the demand!

Friday nights at the tank were full of dancing and 'tik tok'ing teens participating in the Teen SUP classes. We also launched SUP Yoga on 3 Saturday mornings to "get your Zen on".

Finally, we were thrilled when our Laser Bugs arrived the last week! It was great to see so many sailors sign up and give the

Laser Bugs a try, with excellent feedback. Watch out for our new sailing program for younger sailors in 2021!

Tennis:

Tennis 2020 was definitely the year of scaling! We started slow and cautiously ramped up in most areas.

Apparently, swinging rackets encourages a 2 meter social distancing - who knew!

Our Junior & Adult Tennis programs offered each member the opportunity for one lesson, then we doubled it. We started with 11 coaches, added one more, and started with two leaders, then grew to five. We quickly learned that social distancing on a tennis court was more than doable, easy even, which made growth relatively painless.

Our popular Bubble Lesson concept made for simple booking of privates and we even managed one Play Day where adults could play competitive games against other bubbles. Our play at your own pace tournament, Ladder, was a huge success and I expect it to return. Lastly Castle!! It was so great to discover that our favourite game could also be played while social distancing, our only regret was we didn't discover that sooner!

Registration:

A highlight for me was that our registration team got to be on the front end of speaking to all of our grateful members. I spoke with many, many members who genuinely seemed so thankful that CBSC was open for business.

Crescent Beach Lifeguarding:

This summer was another successful one for the CB lifeguards (so far!) All the lifeguards adjusted well to the new protocols for COVID-19.

There were no pull outs from the designated swim areas this summer. Many minor first aid situations were attended to successfully. Also, there were many boat assists, primarily paddleboarders swept away by the current. There were two incidents where paramedics were called, both of which had good outcomes. Our guard team performed their duties excellently in both cases.

At the beginning of the summer we had mechanical issues with our outboard motor. CBSC came to the rescue and purchased a new one, which Surrey is renting back. Unfortunately, this motor flipped off the back of the guard boat into the water. Quick action by Sailing Coach Logan, myself as well as the mechanics at the CB Marina got the engine back in operation in a very timely manner.

So although this was the summer that “Almost Didn’t Happen”, in times of crisis comes opportunity. With positive attitudes, teamwork and creative mindsets, this summer has allowed us to do many new and innovative program ideas in a safe way that may bring some new ideas carrying over to next year. Your CBSC Board will be reviewing the many wonderful events that took place this summer.

Although a very challenging summer, I want to take this opportunity to thank our CBSC community for coming together this summer. Your support and encouragement made CBSC stronger. We are the club “That did make it happen.”

This will be another notable and exciting year ahead in our club history. August 30th marks the beginning of construction for our CBSC 2021 facility upgrade. A new Clubhouse and pool will be ready for us next Summer. ‘Til then.

Oh, wait a second, I forgot, we did do a song. Enjoy.

(Featuring: lyrics and singing by John Edworthy, vocals by Kate Montgomerie, guitar by Morgan Brewster, background vocals by Jamie Watson)

Jamie Watson
CBSC President