

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2015

Mayor of Richmond Proclaims Sunday May 24, 2015 as ‘SOS Children’s Village Run and Walk Day’

Richmond, British Columbia The Mayor of the City of Richmond, Malcolm D. Brodie, has released an official proclamation declaring Sunday May 24, 2015 as ‘SOS Children’s Village Run and Walk Day’ in support of SOS Children’s Village B.C.’s major annual fundraising event for foster kids at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

The proclamation states that “9,200 British Columbia children and youth are in foster care and ... **children who have been removed from their biological families often undergo life-shattering upheaval affecting their health, education and well-being** and ... these young people deserve and need the concern, love and support of the community if they are to take their rightful place in society and ... SOS Children’s Village B.C. is providing homes, a supportive community and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.”

“The City of Richmond supports, challenges, and encourages everyone to participate in the SOS Children’s Village B.C. Day, giving kids the chance to become contributing members of society.”

The 7th Annual SOS Children’s Village Run and Walk is a community-based, fun-filled day alive with music, food, prize draws, entertainment, awards ceremonies and trophy presentations and the chance to help children whose lives have been impacted by family crisis.

And, when SOS B.C. says community, they mean community. Many of Richmond’s finest organizations have stepped up to make the run/walk a success, including the **Richmond Firefighters, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Richmond Rotary, Richmond Cares Richmond Gives, the Richmond Food Bank, and B.C. Hydro** among others. The charity especially thanks the **Richmond RCMP** for offering to provide a traffic safety demonstration right on the plaza.

SOS B.C. co-founder Lois Bouchard espouses the cause and draw of the event: “We help fund five SOS homes in Surrey where foster kids grow up in a family with a mother’s care and programs and therapies for their healing and development.”

The Run & Walk, she added, is now one of Richmond’s most anticipated community events. “It’s a joy to see the athletes and their families having fun on the Oval plaza. With the great riverside location and the spectacular mountain views and so much spirit and camaraderie, how can you lose?”

This year the charity welcomes the reigning **Miss British Columbia**, Taylor Scott of Richmond, to grace the centre stage. For the first time, there be a 50-50 draw, and attendees will not want to miss the grand choices available in the silent auction.

There's still time to register for this year's SOS Children's Village 10K, 5K, and 2K Run and Family Walk at the Richmond Olympic Oval on Sunday May 24. Online registration closes on Saturday May 23 at noon, and event day registrations are accepted at 8:30 am before official proceedings begin at 9 o'clock.

So don't delay. Go to www.sosbc.org/run to register for a wonderful day filled with fun, fresh air, spectacular B.C. scenery and helping B.C.'s foster kids.

About SOS Children's Village BC

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization for orphaned and abandoned children. It has existed for over 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 553 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides stable homes, a supportive and healing Village environment, and community-based family care programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

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