

# **Monthly Report Recreation / Culture / Active Living / Communications December 2018**

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## **Parks and Green Spaces**

Parks have been winterized but remain in operation. The off-leash dog park is open from sunrise to sunset. Dickey Park washroom remains open from 9:00am to sunset. All trails are open and accessible for walkers and runners. All parks that have swing sets in them are still in full operation.

## **Stadium**

In November we hosted Skate Canada Sectionals. They used 18.5 hours under the no fee ice program. In total there was 65 participants, 15 coaches and 20 officials from PEI and NS. Skaters required 80 room nights during the event. In November 2018 CCMHA used 63 hours of ice time compared to 44.5 in 2017. Amherst Figure Skating used 48.75 hours of ice time in 2018 compared to 52.75 in 2017. Total public skating hours for November 2018 is 77.75 compared to 86.5 in 2017. The ice was used for a total of 281.25 compared to 289.25 in 2017.

## **Robb Complex**

Robb Complex has been winterized for the season and closed for use.

## **Culture, Events and Marketing**

Coordinated the Mural Unveiling, Remembrance Day, the Christmas Parade, the Holiday Light up and Band Concert and the Tree for Boston Send off. This included internal meetings as well as meetings with community partners, Public Works / APD for set up requirements, booking entertainment, coordinating volunteers etc. Great overall turnout for all of the events with positive feedback from the community. Record number of Float Participation for Parade this year.

Meetings with local media to go over upcoming events. Attended AYTC Meeting with discussions had on upcoming ideas and opportunities for the group. Collection and organization of marketing materials for the Strategic Priorities Marketing Program. Meetings and Discussions with internal departments on requirements and information needed for Audit. Initial planning stages and coordination of the upcoming New Years Eve celebration. Updated and maintained social media account and community calendar.

## **Active Living**

The Adult/Senior indoor walking club at the Amherst Stadium is successful with almost 30 participants signing up. The participants walk Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30-10:30am. They are enjoying recording their laps and the healthy fruit when provided. Discussions were had with Vanessa Jones from the Community Rehab Department who would like to start a Walking program during the winter months

at the Stadium. This program would assist participants with their overall health, by maintaining their mobility, and independence. Health care professionals will be on site to offer support and answer questions. Transportation cost is a barrier for this program and they are asking for assistance. The After the Bell funding application was approved by the Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage for \$3,400. The after-school skating program includes skating, shiny hockey, shiny ringette and walking. It will run for 10 weeks starting in January. Multisport participants completed the third sport, curling with the Amherst Curling club including on ice and gym sessions. The active living coordinator attended the Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia PAPE session in Truro. The new action plan for increasing physical activity in Nova Scotia by encouraging communities to move more and sit less was discussed. The Let's Get Moving plan supports healthy, active living for all ages by improving and increasing opportunities for citizens to be active in their communities, workplaces, and schools.

### **Horticulturist**

During the month of November, the horticulture division was busy cleaning up and prepping for winter. Maintenance was continually carried out within all of our flowerbeds, seeing spring and summer flowering bulbs being planted and beds prepped for the winter months. Park maintenance continually took place involving the removal of diseased fallen leaves and crab apples, as well as the removal of downed/ broken branches caused primarily due to high winds. Daily checks and cleaning within the dog park occurred and also the monitoring, replenishment, and waste disposal for the dog waste systems was carried out on a biweekly basis rather than a weekly basis due to the decline in usage, likely caused by the arrival of winter like weather conditions.

Decorative lighting was enhanced once again throughout the town with the addition of the new snow crystals being hung along Albion & South Albion Street, along with seasonal decorative lighting added to highlight a few key areas throughout town. Preparations for the winter season, the Light-Up and the Christmas Parade saw our horticulture elves quite busy.

November saw the unveiling of the Skateboard bench at the skateboard park which was later moved to inside the stadium for the winter months. The mounting of the North Nova Highlanders Mural by Hansen's signs in Moncton took place in early November on the side of Town Hall and was dedicated in a ceremony on November 10.

Preparations for Remembrance Day ceremonies and the mural dedication were carried out seeing parks tidied and entrances enhanced by the addition of Canada Flags

A Co-op Student joined us for 3 weeks where he learned all aspects of our daily operations, having an active hand in planting bulbs, moving mural panels, cleaning up parks, working in the dog park, inside the stadium and more. A Communities in Bloom committee meeting took place in November to discuss the results of this year's judge's evaluations. The committee will reconvene in the New Year to discuss goals and priorities for the 2019 season.

The month wrapped up with the Town Horticulturist attending the Hort East Conference & Trade Show in Truro at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre where several speakers from the industry and academia spoke regarding several factors affecting the green industry from climate change to pests and diseases. Networking among exhibitors and participants was seen as both valuable and informative.