

# **Monthly Report Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications**

## **January 2019**

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### **Active Living/Healthy Community**

The Holiday activity and skating schedule was delivered to schools and local businesses. Included in the schedule were 5 holiday public skates, and 2 free Town sponsored swims at the YMCA. Activities were well attended. The Active Living Coordinator has met and assisted in the planning of the Steady Stride Rehab Walking Program at the Amherst Stadium lead by the Community Rehab Department. This program is for citizens with mobility issues. The program will start in January, one day a week at the stadium. A grant will cover the transportation costs of the program. Funding has also been confirmed from the Community Health Board supporting healthy eating at 'A Fest and also a Smoke Free Spaces grant for new signage along the Amherst Trail System and parks. The Active Living Coordinator has organized an Adult Learn to Skate program offered free of charge starting in January with 2 volunteer instructors. The Active Living Coordinator has also met with and assisted a community volunteer that is starting an Adult Multisport program in the new year. The annual Family First New Year's Eve celebration at the Amherst Stadium was a huge success once again with many getting out and being active enjoying skating, photo booth, wagon rides, the walking track, trivia, and of course the roof top fireworks show!

### **Culture/Events & Marketing Coordinator**

Meetings and collaborations with the Mayor and First Responders on Upcoming First Responders Week in April. Research and contacts made on designing and ordering mementos for the group.

December was a busy month with planning the Family First New Year's Eve Event. This included the coordination of volunteers, working with APD and AFD and Public Works on road closures, fireworks and logistics for the event, booking all entertainment, food, beverages and decorations for the evening, set up and tear down as well as letters drafted and distributed to Stadium neighbors on road closure and firework safety.

Initial planning has begun for Amherst Volunteer Appreciation. 2019 applications have been completed and promoted via mail, website, and social media.

Much time was also spent updating and maintaining social media postings and the community calendar.

### **Horticulture/Green Spaces**

Daily monitoring of parks and reporting of deficiencies. Hazard tree observation/ documentation/ call to service as needed to local tree removal companies. Weekly meetings with the Operations department to work together and get projects done. Replacement tractor RFP closed with the successful bidder being Fort Equipment.

Work was carried out within the Stadium to help enhance the atmosphere for events such as our Family First New Year's celebration, as well as for the winter season. Budget preparations, research, and documentation for finance was prepared and submitted. Preparations for the upcoming growing season involving plant and tree species selection, and research into a tree protection policy also occurred.

## **Facilities**

### **'A' Place to Play**

The outdoor skating surface is open at our downtown location. It is equipped with bleachers, benches for people to tie their skates, garbage cans, portable toilet, decorative lighting and signage. The facility is open daily until 10:00pm weather permitting. Our staff do daily checks and we are able to give an estimate based on the people who are using the facility when they check. In December 102 people used the facility during our checks only.

### **Amherst Stadium**

The holiday spirit was in full gear and families enjoyed our holiday public skates. In December we hosted a Skate Canada Skills Camp that included the Nova Scotia Canada Games team, Ringette Jamboree and our Annual Family First New Year's Eve Event. For the Skate Canada Event Skaters from across Atlantic Canada gathered at the Amherst Stadium on Dec. 28 and 29 and participated in a spin and jump clinic. This event was supported by the no fee ice program and each participant saved \$95.00 off their registration fee. The Ringette Jamboree took place on Dec. 30 and ten teams from across the Maritimes participated in a series of games. This was a great event to promote activity in Amherst, and they are looking at coming back again in the spring. The New Year's Eve event was another successful event at the Amherst Stadium. Citizens took advantage of many family events such as horse & wagon rides, face painting, photo booth, skating, colouring, movies and delicious chili. The finale to our event was fireworks which wowed people once again.

In December 2018 CCMHA used 78.5 compared to 60.5 hours in 2017. Amherst Skating Club used 37.25 hours in December 2018 compared to 39.75 in 2017. Total program skating for December 2018 is 67.25 hours compared to 81 hours in 2017. The total number of hours used at the Amherst Stadium is 262.25 in December 2018 compared to 271.25 in December 2017.

Ongoing maintenance and cleanliness is a high priority at the Amherst Stadium.

### **Parks and Dog Park**

All parks remain open but are winterized. Parks and trails are still accessible but weather may cause some issues. Parks that have swing sets are still in full operation. Dickey Park washrooms are still open daily.

The Dog Park at Dickey Park remains open from sunrise to sunset. This facility is equipped with waste receptacles, garbage cans, benches and a holding area.