

# Amherst Youth Town Council January Monthly Report

This month, the Amherst Youth Town Council had two meetings. The first on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the second on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. These meetings were focused on our plans for the upcoming Mental Health Week, the Nuisance Bylaw, and some other miscellaneous youth issues. In regard to Mental Health Week, the AYTC has decided on an alternative series of dates in May, to avoid scheduling conflicts with exam week at ARHS. Our planning is continuing to expand on last year's survey. We've booked a speaker to speak at ARHS about mental health, and we're going to offer information sessions and literature to bring awareness to mental health and mental illness in Amherst, in hopes to reduce some of the stigma around it.

Our conversations around the Smoke-Free Recreational Places Bylaw, and, more recently, the Nuisance Bylaw, have also continued to be in regards to last year's survey. We met with Police Chief Pike at our most recent meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Police Department's proposed bylaw, and shared our thoughts, opinions, and concerns.

In addition to these two main topics of conversation, we've also had a number of other miscellaneous items that we've discussed at our meetings this month, including providing feedback to the Recreation Department about the Cookie Crawl last month, and some ideas about how we can make Amherst a safer place for all young people, that we plan to expand on in the next couple of months.

Finally, we've also had a couple of community functions recently where Youth Town Councillors have been involved, including the New Year's event at the stadium, and we're planning to do the same with the town's Valentine's Run next month, where we're going to have as many Youth Town Councillors as possible present.

