

Monthly Report Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

February 2019

'A Place To Play

The outdoor skating surface remains a popular location for people to be active. 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. Staff do daily checks and provide random estimates based on people who are using the facility. In January close to 200 skaters used the facility during these checks.

Stadium

In January CCMHA used 64.25 hours compared to 64.5 hours in 2018. Amherst Skating Club used 48.5 hours in January 2019 compared to 55 hours in 2018. Total public skating hours for January 2019 was 84.74 compared to 88 hours in 2018. The breakdown for these public skating hours are as follows (Adults and Seniors skating – 14), (Parents and Tots Skating – 14), (Open Public Skating – 34.75), (After School Skating/Shinny– 13 and After School Skating/Ringette - 5) The total number of hours used at the Amherst Stadium is 298.50 in January 2019 compared to 298.25 in January 2018.

A highlight for January at the Stadium was hosting a live regional broadcast by Eastlink TV. The Amherst Ramblers played the Pictou Crushers. The night was themed Community Service Appreciation Night and attracted one of the larger crowds of the season.

Parks and Off-leash Dog Park

All parks remain open and use is based on conditions. Parks that have swing sets are still in full operation. Dickey Park washrooms are remain open daily. The Off-leash Dog Park at Dickey Park remains open from sunrise to sunset and is highly used even with the cold winter weather we are experiencing. It is equipped with waste receptacles, garbage cans, benches and a holding area.

Culture, Events and Marketing

Planning for 5th Annual Winter Carnival. Meetings and collaboration with community groups and partners on events and activities to be hosted. Organization of schedule, details, bookings, etc for all upcoming events. Brochure was finalized and sent to print as an insert with the Amherst Daily News, Signs/ Buttons and Winter Carnival hats ordered and distributed. Planning also finalized on the Winter Carnival Kick off for our community partners.

A few events coordinated internally included the Town of Amherst Athletic Achievers Awards, a Valentines Comedy Night, Indoor Walking Challenge, Adult/Senior Tea & Talk, Maritime Story Telling and Flag Day. Staff also met with the Cumberland EISSTOCK Club on a new initiative added to winter carnival "Alpine Curling ". Posters, promotion and marketing materials created and distributed for TOA Events, also collaboration with partners on materials and distribution, full schedule updated on community calendar, added to website, and uploaded into Fundy connect.

Collection of Amherst Volunteer Appreciation applications for 2019 were completed and promoted via mail, website, and social media. Internal collaboration and work on the Eastlink Live Broadcasted Jr A Rambler Game held on Saturday January 26th, 2019. Details and communication on the Town of Amherst's Upcoming First Responders Week in April. Research and contacts made around coin and flag design. Updated, maintained social media posting and community calendar.

Active Living:

There are many new programs kicking off the new year! The Adult Learn to Skate Program started in January taking place on Tuesdays at 12:15pm with over 20 people registered. 2 Volunteers attend each week and teach the session. Participants are loving the program and are improving each week. Inquiries have been made regarding offering another session in the evening. The Active Living Coordinator aided the volunteer in getting the Adult Multisport program going. This 8 week program takes place on Wednesdays at West Highlands Elementary School and has had up to 45 participants at one session. Local sport partners have reached out to be involved as well. The Steady Stride Rehab Walking Program takes place at the stadium on Thursdays, led by the Community Rehab Department staff with 8-10 volunteers on hand. They have 12 clients partaking at the moment with hopes to expand within the community taking on more participants possible over the next few months. The Adult/Senior Adult Walking program is continuing with 15 new participants signing in. Simply for Life set up an information table during one of their sessions and offered free protein bar testers. The After the Bell Skating Program is running for 10 weeks where youth enjoy skating, shinny hockey, shinny Ringette at the stadium after school along with free healthy snacks. Ringette equipment, helmets and skating aids were purchased with the program funding and are available for participants to use each day. Snow shoe lending has been a bit slow due to the lack of snow but the Four Father Library, YMCA and Stadium all have a supply of snow shoes available for lending free of charge. The province launched Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia with a vision of increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living, supporting active living and daily movement for all ages. The Youth on the Move has started the 2 Sessions with an average of 7 youth attending each week. Friday Night Fun attendance for January was 110 for ages 5-8 year old's with an average of 28 each night and 93 for ages 9-14 year old's with an average of 23 each night. Out of the total of 203 participants, 23 of them were from the County.

Horticulturalist

With the 2019 growing season quickly upon us, research and development into the annual hanging basket and bedding plant RFPs has resulted in the upcoming release for welcoming bids by local businesses to help beautify the streets of Amherst. Additional RFPs will soon be circulated for improvements to the parks and greenspaces throughout town to create more usable public spaces. Continual daily monitoring throughout our parks as well as our streets has helped to ensure tidy public spaces, dealt with hazardous trees, and any issues that have been present throughout the month of January. The development of the draft tree protection policy and terms of reference for the Community In Bloom Committee continues.