

Monthly Report Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

September 2018

Culture, Events & Marketing Coordinator

'A' Fest was held on September 13th -16th. The event went over well and there was a lot of positive feedback from the community and from organizations that were involved. A departmental meeting and debriefing were held to go over strengths and opportunities for improvement for next year. Coordinated the Flag Raising for The Zonta Club. Worked with Senior Contacts to coordinate some upcoming opportunities for information sessions and promotion. Attended Cumberland North Academy and West Highlands school Community Nights to promote the Town and Recreation Department. Worked on and completed advertising for Water Bills. Worked internally and externally to gather marketing materials used to promote the Town, to organize for review. Reviewed applications for AYTC, recommendations were accepted by Council. The first meeting was held to go over policy and expectations, and information was collected to update website. Maintained the recreation social media account and community calendar.

Active Living:

The 2018/19 season of the Amherst Cumberland Multisport program started in September with a Welcome session for participants and parents followed by the Basketball sessions with Amherst Minor Basketball. 10 community sport organizations are on board for the program including the Aerials Gymnastics club new this year. The program is full with 30 participants in grades primary and one from Amherst and surrounding area. Sport NS attended the welcome session and made a presentation to parents on the benefits of multisport in youth. The next sport on the schedule is skating with the Amherst Skating Club.

The active living coordinator planned activities for all ages during 'A' Fest throughout the weekend keeping citizens active including a trail walk with the Amherst & area trail society, All Levels Yoga class with Hatha Yoga room, public skate with the Ramblers, free swim at the YMCA, road hockey, an outdoor movie, a family parade, a walking challenge around Dickey park track, laser tag and more! The family first festival was very well attended with a lot of positive feedback on the amount of activities offered at no cost! Offering free healthy food choices is a suggestion during next years 'A' Fest if funding permits.

Information regarding the Amherst Stadium Helmet Policy was promoted on social media as well as our equipment lending program. During the first public skate, there were no issues with youth or adults wearing helmets on the ice. Helmets will be made available during public skates for lending if needed.

Horticulture/Green Spaces

September was yet another busy month for the horticulture division, it saw 2 new seasonal Park Attendant positions come on board to help with the maintenance and beautification of the town. Several hours were devoted to the mowing and overall maintenance of our parks, greenspaces and downtown. An early heavy frost led to the demise of some annual plantings however most were left intact and looking spry at month's end. The end of the month sadly saw our hanging baskets being taken down for another year. This year brought about its challenges for all growers due to the shortened growing season caused by the late frost in June however Amherst was able to continue to flourish once again.

Communities in Bloom judge, Judith Cabrita, visited Amherst on September 12-14. Her visit included tours of the industrial park, parks and greenspaces, historical places throughout the town and the downtown mystery walking tour. She met with Committee members at CCUBIC for a luncheon and also had a carriage ride with local tour guide, Leslie Childs and committee members, Denise Allen and Chelsea Baird. We look forward to Judith's evaluation and suggestions on ways to enhance our community.

TD Tree Day took place on Saturday, September 15 and saw over 25 volunteers come out to help build upon Amherst's urban forest by planting 30 native tree species and 20 native shrubs in areas such as along one of our well used walking trails adjacent EB Chandler and replacement of dead/vandalized trees from previous plantings being planted in Beacon St. Park as well as Lions Park.

Facilities

Parks and Green Spaces

All parks and trails are accessible and open. Dickey Park, Beacon Park and Rotary Park washrooms are open daily by 9:00am to sunset. Lions Park tennis court was open daily by 9:00am to sunset. The Splash Pad at Dickey Park is closed for the season. Trail and park maintenance is ongoing. A mowing schedule has been established for all greenspaces and will be followed as best we can without interruptions caused by inclement weather or other factors. Work at the Dickey Park Dog Park is complete. Fencing was installed and landscaping done. The dog park is equipped with dog waste receptacles, garbage, signage, hole repair buckets, waste scoops and a water station. The dog park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Amherst Stadium

All capital work projects are complete at the Amherst Stadium. Amherst Skating Club used the ice 27.25 hours in Sept 2018. CCMHA used the ice 29.75 hours in Sept 2018. The Roy Maltby Fundy Hockey School held its 35th Annual Hockey School at the Amherst Stadium and were recipients of the no fee ice. Each participant received a \$40.00 savings off their registration cost. There were 100 participants in the hockey school. They used 30 hours of ice time. We were very fortunate to also host Rothesay Netherwood School who were also approved for the no fee ice time. They played Kings Edge Hill in a two game series. They used 5 hours of ice time. The meeting space on second level was used for 8 hours. Finishing off the month we hosted Mount Alison Girls Varsity hockey team as they played the Saint Mary's Huskies.

Robb Complex

The usage for Robb Complex is as follows: Dwight Jones Field was used for 30.75 hours in Sept 2018. Cecil Small Field was used 28.75 hours in Sept 2018. Baseball Field was used 23.5 hours in Sept 2018. We were very proud to host the U15 Bantam Atlantics at Robb Complex from Sept. 14 to 16. Teams from Atlantic Canada participated in the event. Prior to the U15 Bantam AA Atlantics dugouts were painting, roofs were replaced and/or repaired and field maintenance done.