

Internal Committee Report

Amherst Youth Town Council

February 2019

In the last month, AYTC has been working with the Amherst Police Department to discuss a new smoking bylaw that covers tobacco products, marijuana, and electronic vapes/ cigarettes.

We volunteered our time at the Valentines' Day Run where we had many first-time runners as well as high numbers of youth involved in the fun. AYTC will again be sitting on the Cumberland Pride Board and helping to create safer spaces for LGBTQ+ persons living in Cumberland County. We as a Committee applied for a Community Health Board grant and have been awarded \$1, 250; we will be putting this money towards supporting a Mental Health Awareness Week held sometime during late spring and we will have more details around this in the coming months.

AYTC has also been looking into how we can make the town a more accessible place for youth, and one idea we have come up with is implementing reflective crosswalk flags for children outside of school zones crossing busy intersections, elderly or disabled adults with slower walking speeds, or pedestrians crossing streets after dark. Along with the crosswalk flags we have also overheard and received many complaints about the number of crosswalks removed from the town, youth are finding this discouraging from walking to and from school or running in the morning or after school. We are hearing that this is viewed as a safety hazard and makes youth feel very unsafe when crossing, some having almost been involved in accidents because of this. The opinions we are getting from this is most would like to see crosswalks brought back to busier or popular intersections.

AYTC has accomplished a lot in this last month, we are all looking forward to our future endeavors with the Town and are hopeful that we will be making Amherst a better place for youth to grow and prosper.