

MONTHLY REPORT

Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

March 2019

Horticulturalist

Parks and trails were routinely monitored throughout the month of February for safety issues and tidiness. Town trees were monitored for any hazards that may be present resulting in the removal of a hazardous tree by Ratchford St parking lot, which will be replaced with a new tree in the spring. The finalization of the draft Tree Protection Policy has been submitted and aims to set guidelines for the safe removal and replacement of trees that are damaged or diseased. The intent of such a policy is to identify the need for healthy trees and aims to help rebuild Amherst's urban forest. Preparations are well underway for the 2019 growing season. Careful consideration and planning went into compiling Request for Proposals for the purchase of this year's hanging baskets, as well as this year's bedding plants.

Culture, Events and Marketing

February was a busy month with our 5th Annual Winter Carnival. Events that were organized included: Winter Carnival Kick off Celebration Ceremony, Athletic Achievers Awards, Alpine Curling, Community Big Block Walk, Flag Day Ceremony, Wellness Expo, A Valentines Comedy Night, Senior Tea & Talk, Annual Chili Challenge, Outdoor Play Day, Family Bowling, and Maritime Story Telling Circle. Planning, organizing, set up, logistics, gathering volunteers, community engagement, meetings, marketing and promoting, and follow ups on all events hosted. Also attending many community partner events throughout the month. Volunteer Applications for Town and Provincial nominees were completed and submitted. Town of Amherst Volunteer Event was booked and preliminary stages of organizing the event were completed. Staff met with John Warner on the upcoming Home and Garden Show where the Recreation Department will attend and promote Town Activities. Staff also met with Ray Bristol on the Seniors Strategy to discuss feedback from senior sessions and to look at opportunities for future sessions as well as collaboration for contact information on important partners in the senior community. Community Support Grants have been collected and organized. Work has also been done on the organization of the upcoming First Responders Week including designing coin options as well as the coordination of a Flag design in process.

Active Living

The Adult Learn to Skate Program's last day was scheduled for February 26. The volunteers and skating group have decided to extend the program and keep going until the end of March. The After-School Skating program which is offered 4 days a week from 2:45pm- 3:45pm has had an average attendance of 20-25 participants. Healthy snacks are provided weekly. The Steady Stride Rehab Walking Program continues at the stadium on Thursdays, led by the Community Rehab Department staff. The Adult/Senior Walking program has wrapped up this month. A new Indoor walking challenge will be starting in March. Walkers participated and enjoyed the Winter Carnival Walking Challenge, walking to Amherst, Ohio. In just over a week we reached our goal with over 10,000 laps walked which is equal to 2,024 km. Goal to Amherst, Ohio was 1,935 km.

The Athletic Achievers ceremony was part of Winter Carnival this year honouring over 90 local athletes that won a provincial award or higher. Also during Winter Carnival the Recreation Department hosted

an Adult/Senior Tea & Talk inviting citizens to learn about different active living opportunities in Town and hear their feedback on facilities, infrastructure and programs. 12 participants attended the Senior Tea & Talk. The 2019 Amherst Winter Carnival 7 day schedule featured over 100 activities and events offered for all ages. Daily skating, pickleball, walking challenge, curling, bowling, yoga, Taoist Tai Chi, running, swimming and more were all offered promoting active, healthy Amherst! Most events were well attended with lots of positive feedback. Some activities including snow sculptures and Outdoor Play were affected due to the lack of snow. 36 entries were received from the online outdoor activity photo challenge showing how the community stays busy and active during the winter months. Snow shoe equipment is available for lending at the Amherst Stadium, Four Fathers Library and YMCA free of charge. Friday night fun attendance for February was 110 for ages 5-8 year old's with an average of 36 each night and 71 for ages 9-14 year old's with an average of 23 each night. Out of the total of 181 participants, 18 of them were from the County.

'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. 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 February 142 people used the facility during our checks only.

Amherst Stadium

In February 2019 CCMHA used 107.25 hours compared to 62.25 hours in 2018. Amherst Skating Club used 36 hours in February 2019 compared to 31.75 hours in 2018. Total public skating hours for February 2019 was 85.75 compared to 85.5 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– 18 and After School Skating/Ringette - 5) The total number of hours used at the Amherst Stadium is 271 hours in February 2019 compared to 259.50 in February 2018. A highlight for February at the Amherst Stadium was hosting a Novice Jamboree under the no fee ice program. 9 teams from NS participated in the 3 day tournament and each team saved \$150.00 off their registration. CCMHA used 21.75 hours for this tournament.

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 remains open from sunrise to sunset and is highly used even in the cold winter weather we are experiencing. This facility is equipped with waste receptacles, garbage cans, benches and a holding area.