

Monthly Report

Recreation / Culture / Active Living / Marketing

November 2018

Parks and Green Spaces

Although mowing was ongoing the early part of October there was an effort put forth to winterize some parks. Dickey Park, Beacon Park, Rotary Park, and Lions Park were open daily from 9:00am to sunset. Splash Pad at Dickey Park closed for the season on October 15th, while Beacon Street and Rotary Park washrooms were closed for the season on October 23rd. Dickey Park washroom remains open from 9:00am to sunset.

Stadium

The Amherst Stadium was in full swing during the month of October. We were very proud to host the 53rd Annual Carter's Cresting Bluenose Hockey Tournament. During both weekends of play CCMHA blocked a total of 54.50 hours of ice time as a part of the no fee youth ice time program saving each team \$150.00 off their registration. This tournament attracted many out-of-town teams with an estimated 90 room nights being required. The Amherst Jr. Ramblers played 5 regular season games at home. CCMHA used a total of 102 hours in October 2018 (which includes the Bluenose), compared to 96.5 hours in October 2017. Amherst Skating Club used a total of 43 hours in October 2018, compared to 38.5 hours in October 2017. The ice was used for a total of 265.25 hours in October 2018, compared to 255.75 hours in October 2017. The meeting space on the second level was used for a total of 34 hours in October 2018, compared to 40 hours in October 2017.

Robb Complex

Robb Complex for the month of October was used for a total of 28 hours. The ARHS Boys varsity Baseball team hosted regionals at the complex on October 1st and 2nd. Dwight Jones field was used for a total of 17 hours while the baseball field was used for a total of 11 hours. In October 2017 Robb Complex was used for a total of 5 hours. On October 15th Robb Complex was closed for use while maintenance and winterizing were ongoing. As a part of our maintenance program for Robb Complex this season, we've added 36 tons of new surface material to the infield on Cecil Small Field and Dwight Jones Field. This new surface is deemed to be a better surface to play on and will help with dust and blowing dirt challenges.

Culture, Events & Marketing Coordinator

Attended Spring Street Academy Family Community Night where materials and information were offered to families about our Recreation Department's events and facilities. Coordinated and attended the first AYTC meeting where votes were taken to establish candidates for Jr Mayor, secretary, etc. Updated information on AYTC internal files and website. Meetings had with the Legion to start coordinating Remembrance Day Ceremony and mural unveiling. As well as meetings and coordination on the Amherst Light up, Christmas Parade and Tree for Boston Send Off. Met with John Warner from Amherst Centre Mall on coordination for the Amherst Christmas Parade activities being held following the parade, with the Amherst Superstore to partner for Tree for Boston Send-Off. Coordination with the Fibre Arts Committee for set up and marketing partnership for the Fibre Arts Festival that took place from October 9th to the 13th.

Partnered with Pumpkins for Poverty to help set up the event at Victoria Square. The 'A' Fresh Start Community Grant Presentation took place on October 25th, where we worked with applicants and internally with staff to arrange the event. Participated in the Senior Safety Program where a presentation was prepared and delivered on senior-focused available activities and initiatives. Attended the Senior Rebate Expo where our Tax Reduction Policy for Low Income was presented. Coordinated the bench dedication ceremony for Christopher Baxter. Coordinated the installation of the Veterans street banners which remained until mid-November. Maintained the recreation social media account, the weekly skinny and community calendar.

Active Living

The Amherst Cumberland Multisport participants completed the first two sports of the program with Amherst Minor Basketball and the Amherst Skating Club. The regular fall/winter recreational skating schedule started October 9th offering free skating 6-7 days a week, with some exceptions. Skates include adult/senior, parents & tots, open skate, after school skate, and public skates. The Helmet policy is in effect and are available to sign out in the stadium administration office. 238 youth attended the Maggie's Place Thursday Night Youth Drop-In in October. During the Friday Night Fun evening at the YMCA, youth have been participating in gym games, art activities and swimming. In the 5-8 years old age group the total number of youths that attended in October was 169 with an average of 42 each night. Out of the 169 participants, 136 were Town residents. In the 9-14 years old age group total number of participants that attended in October was 138 with an average of 34 each night. Out of the 138 participants, 127 were Town residents. An application for After the Bell funding was submitted to the Province and approved for \$3400. This will allow for the addition of healthy snacks to the after-school program at the Stadium.

Horticulturist

Turf maintenance was finished up for the season with the final mow and tidy taking place within our parks, on our sports fields, and throughout our greenspaces. Fall maintenance was carried out within all our flowerbeds, which saw the removal of the remaining annual plantings, removal of weeds, pruning of our later flowering shrubs, cutting back of perennials and planting of spring flowering bulbs. Ornamental grasses were left standing once again to add winter interest displays along Victoria St as well as in Victoria Square. Park maintenance involving the removal of diseased fallen leaves and crab apples, removal of downed branches from high winds, daily checks, and cleaning within the dog park, as well as tree pruning and removal of potentially hazardous tree limbs. Preparations for the winter season also began which saw the decorative lighting tender be awarded to Classic Displays for decorative lighting enhancements from the intersection of Church St. and Albion, up to Canadian Tire on South Albion St. Ongoing work on the North Nova Highlanders Mural saw the painting portion of the project by Jennifer Morris Cormier conclude. The mural is to be mounted on the side of Town Hall for early November.