

# Monthly Report

## Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

April 2019

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### Active Living

A second session of the Adult Learn to Skate Program was added Monday evenings for 5 weeks from March 18 to April 15. 12 participants have signed up so far. The After-School Skating program has finished had an average attendance of 20-25 participants each day. The Steady Stride Rehab Walking Program continues at the stadium on Thursdays, led by the Community Rehab Department staff with currently 12 members. Walkers have completed the March Indoor Walking Challenge to Mexico in just under 4 weeks. The goal to Mexico was 5,020 km. Laps walked was 26,376 laps which equals 5,275 km. 50-80 walkers were signing in daily and tracking their laps. The Amherst Cumberland Multisport group completed their 7<sup>th</sup> sport, Athletics with the Cumberland Sporting Club, and are now onto Soccer with Fundy Youth Soccer. Friday night fun attendance for March 1-15 was 108 for ages 5-8 year old's with an average of 36 each night and 64 for ages 9-14 year old's with an average of 21 each night. Out of the total of 172 participants, 28 of them were from the County. The Friday Night Fun program finished for the year on March 15 and will start back up again in October. By collaborating with the local organizations including YMCA, Maggie's Place and the Four Father's Library, a March Break activity schedule was produced and the brochure was delivered to local schools as well as businesses and facilities in the area. This March Break activity schedule included daily free recreational skates at the stadium and 2 free Town sponsored swims.

### Culture, Events and Marketing

Provided assistance to the Fred Page Cup host committee. Participated in the Women' Day Luncheon on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Worked with community organizations on March Break activities, design and distribution of March Break Flyers, also design of promotion material for Tax Bills. Fred Page Cup marketing initiatives with Eastlink – Weekly Conference calls regarding marketing strategies and leveraging Town of Amherst brand for the upcoming Fred Page Cup. Internal meetings and collaboration on opening ceremonies, set up etc. Attended Home Garden and Recreation Show and provided a Promotional Table on March 15-17. Nominations and Coordination on Provincial Volunteer Dinner – Recommendation letters, invitations, tickets. Final planning on upcoming Amherst Volunteer Nominations Ceremony. Attending the Rotary Park Meeting. Collection of information and organized a Power Point presentation for the Public Meeting. Captured feedback from community to provide to Rotary Park Committee. Posters, promotion and marketing materials created and distributed for TOA Events, also collaboration with partners on materials and distribution. Updated and maintained social media posting and community calendar.

## **Horticulturist**

In March the tender for our Bedding Plant was awarded to Norwood Gardens of Lake Echo, NS, and the RFP for our Hanging Baskets was awarded to Blomidon Nurseries of Wolfville, NS. We very much look forward to see what the 2019 growing season has in store with us as we welcome these new vendors. Weekly monitoring of parks, greenspaces, and ongoing street and park tree evaluations. Gardening advice and tips were offered to residents through What's Up Rec Column. Active participation in meeting with local groups concerning our parks and greenspaces - Communities in Bloom Committee, Rotary Park Public Meeting, as well as met with local youth group to address their concerns on the presence of litter throughout our town. Attended and successfully completed Lean Six Sigma training. Spring preparation and planning for the work to be carried out throughout the 2019 growing season also took place throughout the month of March.

## **A Place To Play**

The Outdoor Skating surface closed on Friday, March 15 due to inconsistent weather. Users had a great season at the surface. The surface was dismantled and materials put away on Friday, March. 29. Thank you to Public Works and other departments who helped make another season at 'A' Place to Play a success.

## **Amherst Stadium**

March was a busy month at the Amherst Stadium. We were very proud to host two tournaments which fell under the no fee ice. First we hosted the Atom A Regionals which attracted 7 teams from Northern Nova Scotia. As a result of the no fee ice each teams saved \$350.00 off their registration cost. For this tournament they used 24.75 hours. The second tournament we hosted was the Annual Bates/Merrill Friendship Hockey Tournament. This tournament attracted 29 teams with each team saving between \$100 and \$150 off their registration. For this tournament they used 25 hours. Both tournaments were a huge success which saw hotels and restaurants in the community busy. In March 2019 CCMHA used 63.5 hours compared to 63.5 hours in 2018. Amherst Skating Club used 42 hours in March 2019 compared to 39.5 hours in 2018. Total public skating hours for March 2019 was 90 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 – 28), (After School Skating/Shinny– 18, After School Skating/Ringette – 5 and 11 hours for March Break Skating. Total hours used at the Amherst Stadium for March 2019 was 297 compared to 295.5 in 2018.

## **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 have experienced. This facility is equipped with waste receptacles, garbage cans, benches and a holding area