

Monthly Report

Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

May 2019

Active Living

The Active Living Coordinator has collaborated with Tennis Nova Scotia and local schools to offer an in-school Tennis program in May. Tennis N.S. has agreed to host a Rogers Rally Youth Tennis Rookie Tour as well. The Amherst Cumberland Multisport program completed soccer with Fundy Youth Soccer and are starting their 9th sport, cheer with Cumberland Cheer and Tumble Club. Events have been registered for the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge. Summer student interviews were conducted and the planning of the Summer Program has started. The YMCA's Summer Swim plan was received and will be reviewed. A walkability project to increase physical activity in Amherst through walking opportunities to encourage citizens to include movement into their daily routines is a go through partnership with Recreation NS. The project will include walking brochures, posters, promotions, and a community wide walking challenge.

Horticulture

April was a busy month cleaning up after winter's end. Spring maintenance was carried out in many of our parks and greenspaces. Litter was picked up, sods were flipped back over, winter damage repaired, and flowerbeds were tidied. Our 3 seasonal parks and horticulture workers returned back to work in late April. A Communities in Bloom Committee meeting was held to gather members who were interested in learning more and joining in support to continue on with the enhancements throughout the town, it was decided by the committee that there was need to share information and create awareness to the general public through a public meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at the Cumberland Credit Union Business Innovation Centre at 7:00p.m. Our Earth Day event was once again a great success despite the weather. This year saw more schools, businesses, and community members come on board to help tidy up Amherst. A presentation on Container Gardening was given by the Town Horticulturist, Chelsea Baird, to the Tantramar Seniors College to help spread information and advice as to how they too can have beautiful and bountiful containers and raised beds.

Culture, Marketing and Events Coordinator

Promotion for upcoming Fred Page Cup included ordering of posters, flyers, finalization of schedule, distribution of marketing materials throughout the community, meetings and coordination on Fred Page Cup Ceremonies, met with Color Guard to go over details of opening ceremonies, and booked all anthem singers for games and for the banquet. Also participated in weekly conference calls with Eastlink on marketing initiatives and strategies for the event. Worked with the Volunteer committee throughout the month to organize the Fred Page Cup Banquet to be held on May 4th. Arrangements made for all décor for the event, table placements, settings, meeting with our IT department for set up, met with the caterer, coordinated a highlight reel with Eastlink, as well as prepared a photo presentation for the event. Maintained and updated all material for the Fred Page Cup website.

Coordinated the Flag Raising Ceremony for the First Responders on April 4th. Worked with Mayor Kogon on details for First Responders week. Ordered more coins for group. Planned the Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony held on April 9th. Coordinated with the Baha'i junior youth group to meet with AYTC to do a presentation on concerns they have about their school and community on April 12th. Prepared a Senior Presentation that was delivered to The First Baptist Men's Group on April 15th. Attended the first Aging Well Committee meeting on April 17th where we went over the Terms of Reference, discussed the frequency of meetings and new business. Coordinated packages for the YMCA YReach Program for Newcomers Baskets. Maintained Community Calendar, Weekly Skinny, and posts on social media throughout the month on upcoming events and community activities.

Amherst Stadium

April was a busy month at the Amherst Stadium. Preparations were ongoing for the Fred Page Cup. Some of the changes made to the facility include; numbered seats and lettered isles, removed seating in section C (top row), installed extra power by Dressing Room 1, 2 and 5, installed new signage in the front entrance.

Amherst Skating Club used 35.5 hours in April 2019 compared to 31.5 hours in 2018. Total public skating hours for April 2019 was 70.25 compared to 58.5.5 hours in 2018. The breakdown for these public skating hours are as follows: Adults and Seniors skating – 12, Parents and Tots Skating – 12, Open Public Skating – 30.25, After School Skating/Shinny– 8, After School Skating/Ringette – 8. Note that CCMHA didn't use any ice time in April 2019, but in 2018 they used 36 hours due to hosting Bantam provincials in April 2018.

During April we hosted once again the Atlantic Hockey Group. They played a series of game here using 15.5 hours. There were player and parents here from all 3 maritime provinces. We also hosted a weekend of ringette games with teams competing from NB, PEI and NS. They used a total of 16.75

Parks and Dog Park

All parks remain open. 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. Cleanup in some parks and green spaces has started.