

Monthly Report Recreation / Culture / Programming / Communications

June 2019

Horticulturist

May was a very busy month within the parks and public lands throughout the town. May saw the Recreation Department grow in numbers, with the addition of our summer grounds maintenance students starting to make their impact on Amherst throughout the summer months. Safety training was carried out with the students by Chief Greg Jones, as well as safety training on all equipment and tools with Chelsea Baird. A monthly toolbox meeting was held with all horticulture staff in attendance to discuss sun safety, proper mulching techniques, and working safely. The What's Up Rec Column was written with an emphasis on spring gardening tip, our involvement in Communities in Bloom and the work being carried out within the Town by our staff. Communities in Bloom held a public meeting mid-month with the intention of helping to improve awareness and involvement within the Amherst community, however attendance numbers were low. The Communities in Bloom Amherst met at the end of the month as well to discuss the future and helping to get businesses and residents on board.

Spring turf management practices were carried out on our turf playing facilities, seeing our playing fields be rolled and then followed up by aeration to help improve the playing surfaces. Overseeding and fertilization also took place at this time. Removal and repair of winter damage continued to take place with overturned sods being righted and bare spots being repaired with topsoil, seed, and fertilizer. Tree pruning took place throughout our parks removing any broken, damaged, and diseased branches. Flower beds were cleaned and amended to eliminate soil compaction from the winter months and to help rebuild the soil profile to ensure a healthy growing environment for this year's plantings. Perennial flowerbeds began to be mulched to help retain moisture, reduce the presence of weeds and to help keep the soil temperature cool for the upcoming summer months. Mowing and trimming of town properties took place on a weekly rotation.

Culture, Events & Marketing Coordinator

May 1-5 Fred Page Cup – May 5th Coordinated and worked the Awards Banquet. Details for preparation included in April report. preparation for promotional table, prizes, coordinating Council for the Highland Fling which was held May 12th. A Fresh Start Community Support Grant applications were collected, organized and a meeting held to determine top 5. Contacted all participants with details on presentations requirements. Liaison for event set up to be held June 13th. Police Week was held on May 14th at the Amherst Centre Mall. A promotional booth was set up for the event. VON Flag raising was coordinated for May 17th. Meeting with Business Developer Rebecca Taylor on communication and marketing strategies for upcoming events. Pride Committee meetings attended Thursday evenings on upcoming Pride Events in the community. Posters, promotion and marketing materials created and distributed for TOA Events, also collaboration with community partners on materials and distribution on upcoming community activities and events. Maintained Community Calendar, Weekly Skinny, and posts on social media throughout the month on upcoming events and community activities.

Amherst Stadium

The Amherst Stadium was host to the 2019 Fred Page Cup May 1 to 5. The event was a huge success and there were no operational issues regarding the stadium. The ice was taken out on Tuesday, May 7 with the help of public works, thank you!!! Full facility cleaning and preparing the stadium for summer events took place immediately. Daily cleaning is still ongoing because the facility is open to walkers Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Our first event of the off season took place on May 3 with the Rotary Club hosting their Beer, Wine, Spirits tasting event attracting many vendors from all over the Maritimes. This event grew from last year with tickets sales reaching 400.

Parks

All park washrooms (Dickey Park, Beacon Park, Rotary Park) are open. They will be open daily 9:00am to 8:00pm. Lions Church Tennis Courts are open daily from 9:00am to 9:00pm. Mowing has started in the parks and green spaces. We have a list of 68 green spaces that we work through based on priority.

Robb Complex

Robb Complex was officially opened on Monday, May 13 for users. Dwight Jones was used 30.5 hours, Robb 3 was used 21 hours and Cecil Small was used for 17 hours. We were very honoured to host another provincial championship at the Complex. ARHS hosted the Boys D1 provincials and were victorious capturing the title. Ongoing maintenance and cleaning is a priority at Robb Complex. We have hired 3 students as a part of the Robb Complex A' Team. Chris Juricina (returning) and new employees Graden Chitty and Kyle McCarthy will work the summer at this facility.