

Recreation Coordinator's Report – February 20 – March 30th, 2015

Greetings from the Recreation office

I have now moved out of the Mayor's space, my new door is installed and renovations are almost finished. I am now connected with the gym and the main Town Hall office. You are invited to visit me in my new space!

Public Awareness

- Westville Skate Park committee's fundraiser teen dance received good media coverage in The News, and on ECFM.
- Recreation Open House and March Break Camp were also advertised on radio, social media, via Active Pictou County and sent home to all parents of local school children.
- Advertising and invitation campaign underway for Volunteer Week reception, April 16th. Guest speaker will be PCHA's Volunteer and Community Health Board Coordinator Martin Fisher. **Please do all you can to encourage nominations for Volunteer of the Year.** Martin manages over 450 happy volunteers and is a true success story!
- Lots of activity on the Town of Westville Facebook page. Updates have been posted this week and activity has attracted **105** new people to like the page this month. New likes are incremental each time something interesting is posted, and we continue to promote the page.
 - Increased to 332 as of March 25th, 2015.



Facilitated a group discussion on Aging Actively, and led a teambuilding activity at the Highland Region Recreation Summit, held March 25, 26th at the Holiday Inn, Stellarton.

Participants learned to sing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" in 3 parts to demonstrate the power and beauty of harmonious teamwork.

Social Environment

- Summer staff members are being contacted for the 2015 season. 2 from 2014 express interest in returning.
- March Break Camp, March 16-20th - 15 campers attended. Highlights included daily skating, learning to use Sledge Hockey equipment, making ice cream with the abundant snow and a party at the end of the week. Campers performed a variety show at the Friday party and impressed each other with hidden talents!



- Teen Dance Fundraiser for Westville Skate Park attracted approximately 63 people. The group is now planning presentations to schools and corporate sponsors.
- Attended AMANS regional wellness meeting. Lillian Myles and I are now co-champions for workplace wellness
- An open house and community conversation on recreation was held Tuesday March 10th. The crowd was small, but demographically diverse, and produced an excellent starting point for the direction of recreation efforts in the coming year. A document is being prepared to circulate to the public. Effort is now being made to reach out to the broader community and groups that were not represented at the event.



Physical Environment

- Prepared year-end report for Nova Scotia Moves funding for Trans Canada Trail project. Requests to retain funds past the closing date have been approved.
- Westville was one of only 10 communities in Nova Scotia to receive funding for a 15-week Aboriginal Leadership Intern through Clean Nova Scotia's Youth Conservation Corp. We were one of three non-aboriginal applicants chosen for this summer internship. The intern will be working with the Recreation Coordinator, focused on developing trails and active transportation potential in our community. We have also applied for 2, 9-week placements and are waiting for notice of an award. The Leadership intern will supervise these students and lead the summer project, *Westville's Active Transportation Acceleration!*



Professional development

- Attended Pictou County Recreation Coordinators meeting
- Attended Highland Regional Recreation Coordinators meeting
- Participated in workshop, "Effective Communication Skills", by Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS)

Evaluation & Monitoring

- Submitted monthly coordinator's report
- Preparing an online survey to gain insight into what the community needs and wants from the recreation department

Respectfully Submitted, Sally O'Neill, Recreation Coordinator sally.oneill@westville.ca