

PART 2:

Conclusion of Colchester Community Workshops Presentation

Continued from page 27

pality. The municipality would send out passes to that school or group for that facility or facilities that they had chosen. The manager of that facility would receive a letter and a spread sheet to record the school/ groups that used, and they would submit the invoice to the municipality.

Facilities that the program offers access to for schools and communities to use: RECC, Colchester Legion Stadium, Cougar Dome, Deuville's Rink, Scotia Pool, Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, West Colchester United Arena, North Shore Recreation Centre and Five Island Fire Hall.

On average, Colchester has received about 28-30 schools and organizations taking part in the program each year out of a total of 38 schools and special needs groups. In addition, part of the arena funding that is included in the Recreation budget does help support the following: Try it sessions, open skates, family skates through-out the year, and other physical activity initiatives held in just those 3 arenas.

United Way Application - Pilot Transportation Project
In 2017, the inclusion and access committee felt they would like to try and get people from the outline areas of the county and bring them into the central core. We applied to the United Way of Colchester grant fund with the following information in the application:

Program: The program is being developed to allow members with transportation and financial barriers the freedom to travel into the Town of Truro for recreation, medical or leisure purposes. Funding dollars would be used to pay for the transportation as well as the marketing and promotion of the program.

Goal: Colchester County is a large, rural area with a network of small communities. Although a dial-a-ride transportation service is operated by the community-based Colchester Transportation Cooperative Limited (CTCL), a non-profit agency, the service is limited. Our goal is to implement a partial transit service that would see three different routes throughout the County.

Focus area Identified: Transportation pilot project with CTCL will offer strategically chosen to pick up and drop off locations at no charge to residents around the county. This will be offered to help improve access to social, recreational and health-related support services and support community engagement and integration.

Benefits of Program: There are many communities that will benefit from the pilot project. Our plan is to develop strategic transit routes that stop in the multiple communities, bringing riders into and around Truro.

Route 1: Bass River, Great Village, Debert, and bring to Truro/Bible Hill and return.

Route 2: Stewiacke, Brookfield, Hilden, Millbrook, Truro and return.

Route 3: Colchester East Hants Public Library (Truro), Rath-East-link Community Centre and return.

Result: The cost of this program would cost \$19,500 for the pilot project. Having Route 1 and 2 for 26 weeks (once per week) and Route 3 once a week for 52 weeks. The committee did not receive funding from the program, and reached out to the province as well. The positive outcome of this pilot initiative would be that CTCL are interested in the program and are willing to work in the future.

Possible Options for Consideration: In this section we are looking for Council input. During budget discussions this year Council was discussing the possibility to look at having residents picked up and taken to some facilities within the municipality. At this point the recreation department would like to get a better understanding of what ideas council would like to see in a program of access to facilities. Getting some more information can help map out a plan and get some better direction as we discuss this project with our partners in the facilities and the transportation sector.

Questions: Some things to consider: What age range are you looking for: seniors, families, youth? What district(s) would Council like to see a program of this nature? Knowing this is a big county and it will be tough to reach all areas of the region. How often would you like to see a program of this happen? Once a week for a certain district. 52 weeks of the year? 26 weeks per year? Etc.

Recreation Services

The recreation department is continuing to try and get more people using and supporting programs in various facilities in our region. Through support from the province and local partners, the municipality can plan ahead with more information.

Recreation Nova Scotia

Recreation of Nova Scotia have developed a Shared Strategy for advancing Recreation. This document has five goals. Most of which include getting people active and using what we currently have to offer.

The Five Goals of the Shared Strategy include:

Goal 1: Active Living

- To foster active, healthy living through recreation.

Goal 2: Inclusion and Access

- To Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.

Goal 3: Connecting People and Nature

- To help people connect to nature through recreation.

Goal 4: Supportive Environments

- To ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.

Goal 5: Recreation Capacity

- To ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

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