

## 2019 Annual Recreation Department Report

When we look back at what was accomplished during the previous year, I am grateful for all the support we received to accomplish what we did. Whether that be from individual volunteers and staff stepping up and helping others when needed or outside groups who lent a helping hand, it all contributed towards another productive year for the PRD. 2019 was far from a normal year, yet we excelled on so many levels because of those who stepped up to help. This enabled us to continue following our mission statement of being “committed to providing the best possible recreation experience for all children, teens, adults, and senior citizens in the Town of Peterborough”.

From a programming perspective, our attendance in most programs grew in 2019. The programs for seniors, held at the Peterborough Community Center (PCC) on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, continues to grow – attendance as well as offering wise. The definition of seniors, for our programs, is anyone 50 years of age and older. Gloria Schultz continues as our Senior Program Specialist and does a great job. Most programs are offered on a walk in, pay as you go, basis. Mahjong, Cribbage, Kraft Korner and Bingo are just a few examples of these types of programs.



The senior programming also includes other programs that require pre-registration. Examples of this would be the Friday Senior Lunches, Explore New England Trips as well as Ethnic Food Trips and special events. As always, one can call Gloria at the PCC office at 784-5032 or see a description and pertinent information on line at [www.peterboroughrec.com](http://www.peterboroughrec.com) (this pertains to all PRD programs, old and young alike). We are always open to new ideas. If you have one, please share it with Gloria or the office staff!

The Peterborough Rec adult programs also saw an increase in overall attendance. Pickleball, a year-round program, is one of our largest programs. The group plays indoors at the PCC during the winter and outdoors during the other seasons of the year. We offer several times one can play on either a competitive level, a recreational level or “open play” where any level can feel welcome. This is one of the programs that could not run without volunteers! Many hands make light work, so they say, and the pickleball program is a good example of this. Thank you. Adult Co-Ed Softball saw three more teams versus what we had in 2018. They played at Adams Playground. Adult Co-ed Volleyball is played inside at the South Meadow School during the

colder months. Attendance in the volleyball program remained about the same as does African Drumming and Portable Crafts. And yes, the Men's 35+ year old winter futsal program continues strong on Sunday mornings. Attendance on trips have dwindled over the years but the trip to Fenway Park continues to be a hit. The Red Sox trip was again full in 2019 and we have one more trip booked for May 2020.

Regarding teens, the Summer Teen Challenge (STC) program had more interest than available spots in 2019. In 2018, we had openings. The program is broken into 2 sessions, the first 4-week block is for kids entering grades 7 through 10 in the fall and the second 4-week block is for 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders for the upcoming school year. This 40+ hour/week program keeps the teens busy with adventure and fun days, community service days and good choices days. Space is filling up for the 2020 summer so if your child is interested, now is the time to register.



Youth programming utilizes most of our time in the summer. Besides STC, the Playground Program - for kids entering grades 1 through 6 in the fall - is an 8 week, all day program where the child may be signed up for all 8 weeks or a week at a time. This past summer, we had 74 full time playground program participants signed up versus 58 in 2018. On average, we have about 20 more children signed up each week in addition to the 74. One of the bonuses of the playground program – outside of keeping the kids busy and having fun – is that the kids can be signed up for additional on-site programs such as swimming lessons, a soccer and/or tennis program. The counselors get the children to where they need to be and pick them up. This way, children can learn lifesaving skills through swimming lessons, say, and the parents do not need to shuttle them around to different programs. The Playground Program kids also can go on weekly field trips and a few camp outs. These are optional. Again, if you are interested in this or other PRD programs, please go to [www.peterboroughrec.com](http://www.peterboroughrec.com) to check it out or to register on-line. Lisa, Lauren or Linda can answer any questions you might have by calling 924-8080. Currently, we are proceeding with registrations but will offer refunds if the COVID-19 precautions remain in place.

Summertime is when Adams Playground comes alive! The pool opened on the last day of school for the CV kids and closed mid/late August. During the day, you will see kids playing basketball, tennis, kids playing on the playground, the playground program kids engaged in various activities or others swimming in the pool during open swim in the afternoons.



During the evening, the property is hoppin' with outdoor basketball, adult co-ed softball, playground play and kids/teens socializing. The pickleballers are also out playing during decent weather, sometimes at night under the lights!

The pool was busy. Our pool memberships increased from 695 in 2018 to 739 in 2019. The Peterborough Wave Swim Team practiced bright and early in the morning then came back in the evening when the pool closed. Adult lap swim was well attended after the swim team left, between morning practice and group swimming lessons. The PRD offers 4 sessions of swimming lessons covering a wide variety of levels. Most classes were full in 2019. We taught 209 individuals over the course of the summer. Open swim occurs in the early afternoon to evening time. In the Spring of 2020, it is our hope the pool will be sandblasted and painted before the 2020 pool season begins. This would also include some concrete repair work.

Cunningham Pond is a beautiful facility that is also widely used in the summer. The pond is a swim at your own risk facility. It was staffed on weekends that started Memorial Day – ending on Labor Day. Once school was out, we staffed it 7 days/week until the lifeguards went back to school.



The rental kayak and stand up paddleboards are always popular. This year, we need to start replacing some of the kayaks for they have developed some microcracks over the years and some are now leaking. There are some monies earmarked in this coming budget to start replacing a few a year.

We sold 117 of the 125 appropriated non-resident Cunningham Pond stickers in 2019. The recreation committee increased the price by \$5/sticker, keeping the max number of issued stickers at 125. The blue, 2020 stickers are in and can be picked up at the PRD when this COVID-19 State of Emergency is over, and folks are allowed back into the town buildings. Pond stickers are necessary so residents do not get parking tickets! For residents, the first sticker per

household is free, after that the cost is \$10/additional vehicle/residential household.

During the fall of 2019, the PRD spent \$5,000 towards the development of a bike park behind the tennis courts. This bike park is like a BMX (bicycle motocross) park where one rides their bike on dirt – with the creation of the hills specifically developed to propel the bikes forward with little peddling. Work was not completed before winter so the park's development will hopefully resume in the Spring. The Friends of the Bike Park will be developing the site and raising additional funds for maintenance purposes.

In the winter, we offered a skiing program for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The ice-skating rink was laid out this year, but maintaining it was exceptionally hard due to the weather we received. Lacrosse, softball and baseball (new in 2020) are offered in the Spring. Our Peterborough Lacrosse program offers kids – 8<sup>th</sup> grade and younger – a chance to learn and play the game in the Spring. We had 25 girls between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade play in 2019 and had 40 registered boys, in the same age span. Both are travel teams. The recreation department also chartered the Boy Scouts in 2019, going into 2020. The Boy Scouts program offers variety of experiences for all school age boys, allowing girls to join at the younger levels. Right now, these spring programs are tentatively on hold.

In 2019, we have some large-scale events like the Daddy/Daughter Dance, Easter Egg Extravaganza, Loran Hanson Fishing Derby, The Boo Event and Truck or Treat and the Holiday Trees in Peterborough event.

The recreation specific maintenance staff, led by Ray, does the bulk of their work and spend most of the building and grounds funds during the summer; regulating and maintaining the pool, maintaining, mowing and marking the fields, laying down bark mulch on the playground, repairing or replacing damaged structures etc. In 2020, we would like to replace the roof on three of the PRD structures. The maintenance staff has multiple properties that they look after; the pool complex and all the amenities on that side of the street as well as the maintenance shed, field specific buildings, skateboard park, office and the four fields on the other side of Union Street. They are also responsible for the care of the Peterborough Community Center as well as maintenance needs at Cunningham Pond.

Again, a BIG thank you to all who contributed their time and energy in making 2019 another successful year for the Recreation Department. Right now, in March 2020, we are facing the COVID-19 pandemic that is constantly changing the way we can provide recreational opportunities. We will do our best to provide what we can and be back up to speed as soon as it is allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A Koziell-Betz  
Recreation Director