
PETERBOROUGH RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2018 REPORT

Due to a lack of help, the PRD was, for the second year in a row, unable to install the ice rink at Adams Playground for the winter of 2017 – 2018. As it turned out, the weather was too warm and snowy anyway, which would have severely limited the number of days of operation, but was still a disappointment.

Not having the ice rink did free-up our maintenance crew to undertake another needed winter project, however. Thanks to the construction and relocation of our local GFA Federal Credit Union, the PRD was able to obtain some donated office furniture. We acquired a great new desk for our Administrative Assistant, Lauren Martin, which makes the front office much more efficient and flows much better. The problem, however, was that it was too big! We no longer had enough space at the front door, so we moved the door! Roland Patten and Ray Eaton reconstructed our airlock to accommodate the new desk and it came out great. Everyone loves the new look. We had many positive comments from our one-visit-a-year-beach sticker folks who would come in and say, “hmm, something looks different since the last time I came in!”

You may have also noticed some new blue traveler services signs on Route 101 near the Elm Street intersection. The PRD had signs installed for Adams Pool & Playground as well as the Peterborough Community Center. Up to three signs are allowed by the State of NH on each set of poles, so there are now opportunities for some local businesses to add signs if they choose. Just another small way the PRD tries to help support our local businesses and economy.

Twenty-one children participated in our annual Voyager Ski Program at Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride in Bennington, NH. The five-week program has been the first skiing/riding experience for many children in the area over the years, creating life-long skiers and riders who will continue to contribute to the local economy as well as that of the State as they continue to ski and ride at NH mountains throughout their lives.

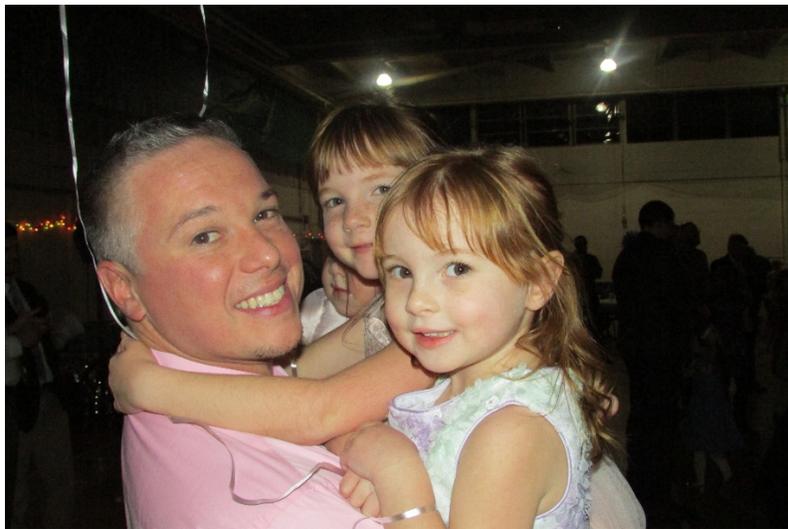


In February, with a great deal of help from local business, Sterling Business Corporation and its owner, George Sterling, we published our first spring program brochure since 2015! It was great to be able to add-in another season to our publication schedule. It's true that many people obtain their information online now, and the PRD does a lot of online marketing, but a lot of folks, including us, still think there's no substitute for a good ol' fashioned hard-copy brochure you can hold in your hands and read. We very much appreciate all the advice and help that George provided to streamline our bulk mailing process. That said, we do also make the brochures available online for those who prefer to read them that way.

Here's the link to our [2018 Spring Brochure](#) if you'd like to look back at what we offered.

Another popular program for the PRD is Stroll & Bowl offered in partnership with local business, Bowling Acres. In 2018 we had 33 kids participate in the early spring. Thanks to owners Tony & Shannon Reagan and Manager Ryan Jevne for their help with keeping this program going!

One of the highlights of each year, as it has become a tradition, was our 13th annual Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 10th. The theme for this year's dance was "Winter Wonderland."



PRC Vice-Chairman, Ryan Griffiths with his hands full at the Daddy-Daughter Dance!

On January 8th, Cub Scout Pack 8, chartered by the PRD, held its annual Arrow of Light Ceremony. Five Webelos including Bishop Benham, Jacob Carter, Raiden Gray, Kiernan King, and Maxx Telofski all earned the Arrow of Light, Cub Scouting's highest award, and crossed-over into Scout Troop 8. That same evening, our Director, Jeff King, who had served as Cubmaster of Pack 8 for six years, stepped down and handed over the reins to new Cubmaster, Tim Theberge. Jeff is very grateful to all of the Den Leaders and Pack Committee members who helped make the Pack go over the years. One of Tim's first accomplishments was to have all of the adult leaders of the Pack participate in a position-specific training that allowed Pack 8 to be one of only six Packs in NH to take part in the BSA's pilot program to allow girls into Cub Scouts! Peterborough's history

with Scouting dates back to 1911 and we're proud to say our units continue to thrive and lead the way at yet another historic moment!

On February 10th, Scout Troop 8, chartered by the PRD, hosted the Mt Monadnock District Klondike Derby with an "Empire Strikes Back" theme from Hoth. The Webelos Den, from Pack 8, cleaned-up winning four awards on the day! Congratulations to Scoutmaster, Toby Gray, for planning a great event!

Pack 8 held its annual Pinewood Derby on Sat. Feb. 17th at the Peterborough Community Center and had almost 100% participation from the Pack, which was awesome!

All of our Scouting units work with American Legion Post #5 to participate in the annual Memorial Day and Veterans' Day parades to say thank you to our Veterans and serve the community.



Pack 8 mustering at the PCC for the Memorial Day Parade!



Troop 8 ready to march in the Memorial Day Parade!

As the spring progressed, our spring sports season picks-up even before the snow melts with indoor practices for both softball and lacrosse taking place in the PCC. This is hugely helpful since we were not able to open our fields until April 30th this year. In 2018, Peterborough fielded two 8U softball teams, sponsored by local businesses, Bellows-Nichols and Davis Construction. We were also able to field a 10U team sponsored by Manhattan East Design Studio. We thank our sponsors for their continued support. We didn't have enough girls to put together a 12U team, but since we participate in the Monadnock Youth Softball League, the few girls we had were able to play for another team in the league. We want to thank long-time Coach and League Treasurer, C.J. Sullivan, for all of his efforts in recent years to provide a great program for the girls. We extend that also to League President, Chris Spingola. Both C.J. and Chris as well as some others stepped-down from the MYSL Board this year as their daughters moved-on to the next level in their softball experience. We wish them well! Additionally, we want to thank our volunteer Peterborough Coaches: Greg Moore, Erin Moore, Chris Borges, Luke Bergeron, and Kenny Laughters.



A trophy, a tiger, and a big smile – looks like a good day!



Here comes the pitch! What's it gonna be, Ambro?

The Youth Lacrosse program, started by the PRD in 2004, has been a great way for our local young lacrosse players and coaches to develop. Our Boys Youth Lacrosse Coordinator, Terry McNamara, brought his love and enthusiasm for the game to our program in 2016 and the program continues to improve. In addition to his role as Boys' Coordinator, Terry also served as Head Coach of one of our 14U boys' teams. Youth Lacrosse remains one of our largest programs. Rich Comerford brought us a little more than half a team from Keene since they didn't have a program for the 14U's so we were able to add a second team.

We want to say a big thank you to Dublin School Athletic Director, Peter Imhoff, and the Dublin School for their support in providing home fields for our 14U and 12U teams. Additionally, we'd like to thank Heather Jenkins, Athletic Director of the Well School, for her support in providing a practice field for Terry's team. We're proud to say our 12U boys team was the only one in the state that volunteered to move UP to the B division to compete at a more appropriate level rather than whale on everyone in the C division. We're also very proud of our girls team who played at the 14U level, despite having girls as young as 9 on the team. They played hard and did very well. Thank you to all of our coaches for all their efforts. We also want to congratulate Peterborough Youth Lacrosse alumni, Lily Sheridan and Katie Moorehead, who after stellar careers at ConVal High School, signed National Letters of Intent to play for Central Connecticut State University and Keene State College, respectively!



LAX practice on Ecco Field



Ball Down! – 12U's vs. Keene

The PRD enjoys working with our downtown businesses to offer events and help the local economy. Our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held in Depot Park, was followed by a scavenger hunt 23 downtown businesses. It was a beautiful day with more than 1,300 eggs scattered by the Easter Bunny! Thank you to the ConVal Interact Club for their help with this event also. We followed-up in October with our 4th Annual Boo Night in Depot Square for Halloween where kids participated in Trunk or Treating, pumpkin bowling, and a costume contest! Thanks to Pelagia Vincent, the Depot Square and surrounding businesses for their support! Thanks also to Zoe Adkins, the Franklin Pierce University Community Service Coordinator, for facilitating help from the FPU Football team and Women's Crew team! It was great fun to have the students assist and we hope that will continue in the future!



Eggcited for the Easter Bunny!

In April, we published our annual Summer Program Brochure. Again, if you'd like to take a look at what we offered during the summer of 2018, here's the link:

https://www.townofpeterborough.com/vertical/sites/%7B792D537E-D69C-464A-80FB-790917F72F17%7D/uploads/Summer_brochure_2018_final.pdf

After the May Town elections, the Peterborough Recreation Committee re-organized itself as it does every year. Andrew Dunbar was re-elected as Chairman. Newcomer, Ryan Griffiths, was elected as Vice-Chairman. Chris Kotula was re-elected as Secretary. Kate Coon and Heather McClusky continue to serve on the PRC as well. Kate has been the driving force behind our strategic planning process for the past year and is doing a great job with it!

The 29th Annual Loran Hanson Fishing Derby took place on May 12th and was another great day of fishing! Thank you to the Peterborough Fly Fishing Club for their \$500 donation toward fish and the Monadnock Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their prize donations as well as their help in running the event! We had great participation from Cub Scout Pack 8 this year also!



Winner of the Don Rodenhiser Trophy at the 29th Annual Loran Hanson Fishing Derby, Cub Scout Quinn Boyd, along with Recreation Program Coordinator, Lisa Koziell-Betz, holding his prize, a brand-new rod & reel!

Due to some interesting weather over the winter, we encountered some tree damage to our power line mast and cable line to the Cunningham Pond cottage. Additionally, three large trees fell over the Seccombe Cemetery at the top of the hill behind Adams Playground. We hired local business, Andrew Grant's Tree Service to take care of that for us. He also ground up some stumps for us in Adams Playground. We received a \$200 donation from Pamela Abbott, a Seccombe family member, in appreciation for the work we had done to the trees at the cemetery. We deposited that into the scholarship fund. Thank you, Ms. Abbott!



Fallen trees over the Seccombe Cemetery. Amazing none of the stones were damaged!

Eventually, the weather began to warm and the Marshall-Thomas Cunningham Pond and Adams Playground began bursting with life and activity again. Our non-resident beach sticker program was so popular that we sold all 100 stickers @ \$100 each for an additional \$10,000 in revenue prior to the end of the Town's fiscal year, June 30th! Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals remain strong as well. This is good because our maintenance crew, unexpectedly, ended-up having to completely rebuild the dock at the pond in three days! What started out as some repairs led to the realization that after 16 years, the frame of the dock had finally rotted. The crew did a great job and had it back in service so quickly many folks didn't even know it had been gone!

Joining the maintenance crew for the summer, were the rest of our seasonal staff – 47 in all! Our summer management team consisted of Roland Patten on Maintenance, Julia Kneeland on Playground, Kiera Bell and Michelle Tourgee on Aquatics, Hannah Garfinkle on Bath House/Gate duties, and Jordan Mills, Maddy Perry, and Riana Bosk on Summer Teen Challenge.

Though they run all year long, we'd like to note that our Senior Programs don't slow-down in the summer! Gloria Schultz, our Senior Programs Specialist, was very excited to receive a donation of 150 free tickets from the Peterborough Players so our local seniors could attend a show. Additionally, our Senior Lunch program, which occurs on Fridays, had speakers once-a-month throughout the year. These included: Jamie Trowbridge (Yankee Magazine); Rodney Bartlett (Town Administrator); Nancy Caswell (Chimney Swifts Farm); Lynn Compton and the PES Singers; Serra Gouthier (Kitty Rescue); Scott Guinard (Chief of Police); Jesse Vargas (The Caterpillar Lab); Melissa Stephenson (The Honey Bee Initiative), Mike Beebe (Temple Mt. Ski Area); and Elizabeth Fortin and the SMS Select Chorus. Thank you to all those who volunteered to speak to our Seniors!



Senior Lunch participants fixin' their plates at their Annual BBQ!



Jesse Vargas of the Caterpillar Lab presenting to the Senior Lunch crowd.

We experienced an odd weather pattern in 2018 that brought us a heat wave and drought in June instead of August! In most years, we don't have to use the water cannon until maybe late July or early August, but this year we had it out there in June! Water temperatures in Adams Pool were as high as 81° early in the season! As the summer progressed, however, the weather began to change with frequent rainstorms making life interesting for our staff, participants, and

facilities. The rainy weather later in the summer did allow our Lifeguards and Maintenance staff to renovate the guard room in the Bath House. Shelves and cubbies were installed making it much easier to store equipment and keep everything organized.



Opening Day at Adams Pool!



Renovated guard room looks sharp!



2018 Lifeguard staff at Cunningham Pond (most of 'em anyway)

Perhaps the biggest news of the summer was the completion of the Bee Mural on the exterior of the Peterborough Community Center. This awesome project was brought to town by Melissa Stephenson and Kin Schilling of the NH Bee Initiative to create awareness of the importance of honeybees as well as using the hive as a metaphor for caring for each other. Artist Matt Willey plans to work his way around the world painting 50,000 bees on buildings. Matt spent most of the summer, in between the raindrops, creating a magnificent mural for all to enjoy. A summer rooftop concert by Winona and the Riders (who made a music video during the show) was a highlight of the project as well. After a wonderful dedication party in August, Matt moved on to the National Zoo to continue his murals. Those interested in following Matt's work can do so at www.thegoodofthehive.com. The project was also featured on *NH Chronicle* on WMUR. Thank

you to Melissa and Kin for all their work to put Peterborough on the Bee trail! Thanks also to the Peterborough Recreation Committee for allowing the project to happen on the PCC.

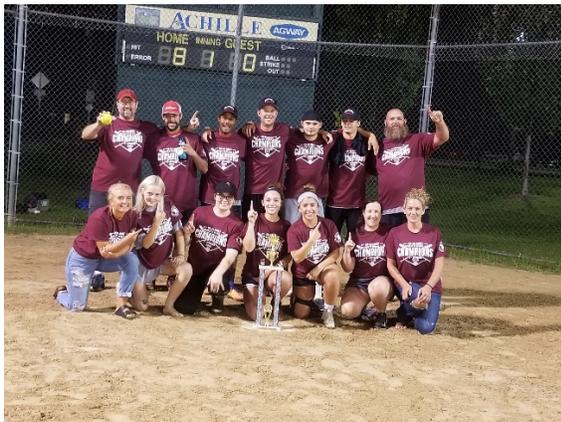


Artist Matt Willey sketching out more bees



The PCC will always be "buzzing" now...

Kathy Letourneau once again did a great job coordinating our Adult Softball League. Congratulations to Jomarc, our A Division Champs, and Battaglia Foundations, B Division Champs!



2018 B Division Champs – Battaglia Foundations!



2018 A Division Champs – Jomarc!

We added an extra staff person to our Summer Teen Challenge program in 2018 and we sent all three of our Counselors on an intense excursion with the Appalachian Mountain Club's Youth Opportunities Program Outdoor Leader Training in the White Mountains June 6th – 10th. This was a great experience and our staff learned a lot that was beneficial to them throughout the summer, especially on the overnights.



Summer Playground Program kids enjoying the new wood chip delivery!



STC session 1 around the campfire in Franconia Notch!

The overdue (due to a budget cut last year) roof replacement project for the PRD office was completed by local contractor, R.W. Clark Construction on October 1st. We also hired Associated Concrete Coatings to repair some of the pool seams as well as some of the starting block anchors and to seal a crack that runs the length of the pool deck.

You may have noticed that we didn't have any outdoor water fountains at the park in 2018. This was due to the fact that we had repaired the water fountains as much as we realistically could after years of abuse and vandalism. Public water fountains are very expensive and the Town has struggled with budget priorities over the past couple of years so we did not request funding for new ones. The PRC, however, did not want to go another season without them so in the fall we went ahead and ordered two brand new ones that will be installed in the spring of 2019. They cost approximately \$8,500 and are state-of-the-art. We hope you'll enjoy them.

On October 7th, we held a surprise (2nd) retirement party for Roland Patten. The PRC and Select Board were represented along with friends, family, current and former staff members. We got him good – he was completely surprised and very moved by a proclamation read by PRC Chairman Andy Dunbar and by the dedication of the Maintenance Garage in his honor. We congratulate him and thank him for his many years of service to the PRD.



Dedication of the Roland A. Patten Maintenance Building October 7, 2018

In the fall, we decided two years of not having an outdoor ice rink was enough, so with a commitment of help from our DPW, we were able to install a brand new 50' x 100' liner in the Adams Playground North parking lot after Thanksgiving. It took about two weeks to get a good solid freeze, but then we had pretty consistent ice skating through March of 2019 thanks to the effort of Ray Eaton, our new Maintenance Crew Supervisor. We received many positive comments throughout the winter, which were appreciated. Since we needed water from the pool filter room, we replaced the broken heaters and dehumidifier to keep it a nice, dry 50° in there over the winter. We also found time to send Ray to a playground inspection course which was great. Adams Playground continues to be a great playground 13 years after its construction because we are constantly working to keep it maintained.

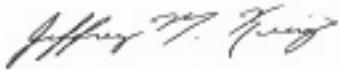
We finished up the year with our 5th Annual Holiday Trees Festival! This was a great event headed up by our Administrative Assistant, Lauren Martin, along with Stacey Kolk, Monica Riffle, Gloria Schultz, & Deb Heath-Rogers. We had our best participation ever with 60 decorated trees and our attendance was the largest it's ever been also! These ladies did an excellent job on a very cool program!



We're proud to report that the PRD employed 39 seasonal staff during the summer of 2018. Of those, 79% were Peterborough residents. We continue to be one of the leading employers of young people in the area. Returning employees accounted for 66% of our seasonal staff last year. I want to thank them for their support and dedication. I appreciate all that they do.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our volunteers who give of themselves to help us provide all of the quality programs we offer throughout the year. Without them, we simply could not function. As always, I'd also like to thank the Peterborough Recreation Committee, another group of volunteers, for all of their hard work and support. If you'd like to keep up with us more frequently, you can do so by visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughRec/> or our website: www.peterboroughrec.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. King". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Jeffrey M. King, CPRP
Recreation Director