

Parks and Recreation Report – Miltonvale Park

AGM March 25, 2008

The Parks and Recreation committee is comprised of Sheila MacKinnon (Chair), Don Aitken and resident Joannie MacKinnon.

The Community Park and summer recreation program were greatly enhanced by the completion of the park shelter. The shelter is available for residents to use, free of charge outside the recreation program hours. A damage deposit will be requested. Arrangements can be made through Joannie MacKinnon – 368-2365. The Parks and Recreation Committee developed a Park Use Policy which was adopted by council in 2007, and is at www.miltonvalepark.com.

An annual highlight at the park occurs on July 1st. The 2007 Canada Day Celebrations saw approximately 200 residents enjoy a BBQ, Canada Day cake, children's games and contests, and family entertainment. Gordon and Linda Crabbe planted a Red Oak tree to honour and recognize Canadian Military families. Thank you to Peter Lamont, Joyce Coles, Jessica MacKinnon, Danielle Stewart, John Coles, Ada Chinery and other residents and councillors who helped out. Did you notice the new Canada Day aprons our volunteers were wearing?

In 2007 the ball field was regularly used three nights weekly by the Cornwall and Area Minor Baseball Association, and one other evening by a group of local men. The shelter was the site of several family reunions and parties over the summer season.

The community received funding from the provincial "Jobs for Youth" and federal "Canada Summer Jobs" programs to hire students Jessica MacKinnon and Danielle Stewart from late June to the end of August, from 9:00 a.m. to dusk Monday-Friday and 9-5 on Saturdays. Jessica and Danielle did a fantastic job supervising children at the park throughout the summer, and they also organized an end-of-summer picnic. Council plans to again hire two summer students in 2008, and encourages Jessica, Danielle, and any other eligible youth to apply. Jessica and Danielle supervised crafts, movies, the playground, arts projects and many games of four-square and basketball. Residents are reminded that the community will gratefully accept donations of games, puzzles, craft items, books and toys that would enhance the summer recreation program.

Funds were used to add more gravel to the driveway, purchase tables, chairs, a fridge and a microwave and other small items for the shelter, and to provide safe drinking water. Unfortunately, a series of high coli form counts during water testing meant that a boil water order remained in place at the park for the summer of 2007. Council hopes to remedy this in 2008, and has included the cost of drilling a new well in the budget, if it is deemed necessary.

The Bursary Program for residents' children, which allows parents and guardians to be reimbursed for up to \$50 per child per year towards the costs of extracurricular lessons, classes or activities, saw another successful year with \$2759.80 granted to Miltonvale Park families.

Council is hoping to establish a community garden in the field between the Community Park and Meadowvale Park. Residents who are interested in this idea are invited to a meeting at the council office on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila MacKinnon, Chair - Parks and Recreation Committee