

## **Rural Municipality of Miltonvale Park - HIGHLIGHTS of 2023-24**

The 2023-24 New Horizons for Seniors Program, **PEI Through the Years** was very popular and included five Lunch and Learns to share PEI stories from the olden days (Dutch Thompson -in the fall and on March 7 and David Hooper, as well as Peggy Chen telling of moving to PEI and a representative from the Immigrant and Refugee Services Association on March 6). There were two bus tours – West to Lennox Island Mi'kmaq Cultural Centre & Green Park Shipbuilding Museum and East to Roma Historic Village & Basin Head Fisheries Museum. Home Economist Margaret Prouse presented eight popular food demonstrations featuring foods influenced by people as they moved to PEI. There was a Basket weaving workshop, and Julie Pelissier Lush spoke about the seven sacred teachings. The Monks from GEBIS taught a mindfulness session and there were four square dancing classes which are now continuing. Culturally sensitive books were purchased for three book club meetings, a "how to play cricket" session and a walk on a heritage road were organized. A concert celebrating Black culture will take place on the afternoon of March 23.

The PEI Seniors' Secretariat funded \$2100 for **Miltonvale Park – Senior Matters** for two Lunch & Learns, two Cooking for Seniors presentations and a Seniors Health Fair, taking place on March 8, 2024.

At the Park, the staff hosted special days and events. Two families used the community garden. Pickleball remained very popular (about 11 times weekly). Charlottetown Minor Ball rented the ball field regularly and there were a couple of cricket games held this summer. Twice-weekly exercise (fall-spring) and yoga (year-round) are offered, as well as line dancing at the Milton Community Hall.

**ParticipACTION's** Community Better Challenge included a virtual Walk to Milton, England, another Move More than the Mayor contest, Pickleball, Line Dancing, and disk golf, and several walks. Miltonvale Park finished second in PEI to Tignish who were the national champions. A grant of \$5000 allowed Miltonvale Park to also distribute National Park seasonal passes and monthly bus passes

**Community Events** - Family Violence Prevention Week was marked in May 2023, with the annual blanket making. This year the municipality received two grants from Innovation PEI, to celebrate 150 years of Confederation. This added a circus feel to the usual Canada Day BBQ at the park, with the purchase of tents and the addition of a fire dancer and four tarot card/runes and palm readers. CAWG gave out trees at Canada Day. A very successful Fathers of Confederation Car Show was held at CMP in June, with the other Innovation PEI Grant. Donations were accepted there for the Food Bank and the Winsloe Lions Club raised money for Guide Dogs. Council passed out treat bags at a Halloween drive thru at the Milton Community Hall. The NFRD brought Santa and the Grinch at Christmas. Council also marked 2024, the start of the year that Miltonvale Park turns 50, with a successful pancake breakfast on New Year's Day.

The little library at the park continues to be used. The two Level 2 EV chargers at the hall received limited use. The pasture lease was extended to the same farmer, due to the uncertainty of its future. The municipality was charged property tax on the land for the first time.

**Active Transportation (AT)** –The Glenn Group submitted a draft Active Transportation Plan, which Council is now reviewing before presenting it to the public. Three more speed sentry signs were purchased and installed in the municipality.

**Planning and Development** – Council's decision regarding the installation of solar panels on the Colville Road wad upheld by IRAC, and another appeal to IRAC to not allow an automobile shop in the Agricultural (A1) zone was abandoned by the developers. A consent order was issued by the courts to a property on the Lower Malpeque Road regarding placing fill without a permit and the developers were ordered to pay \$1500 to the Municipality. Enforcement and appeals contribute significantly to legal fees. A public meeting was held to consider rezoning PID 283325 and a 1,8-acre portion of PID 658799 to Light Industrial. Another public meeting is scheduled for March 19 to address other changes in the Development Bylaw and the Official Plan, including the redesignation of these properties in the Future Land Use Map. These changes involved the planner, therefore, will add to planning costs. Delays in the final approval of the new subdivision in the Sleepy Hollow area have resulted in lower development fees

than were expected for this past year; however, construction is likely to begin on new homes in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Bylaws** -Two new Bylaws were approved: #2023-09, a new Code of Conduct Bylaw and **#2023 – 15, an Inter-Municipal Agreement Bylaw.**

**Support for individuals and groups** – The Council continues to offer an annual \$75 child bursary, and a \$200 grant to the North Milton WI for a project. This year the municipality purchased an AED for the hall. It also offers rebates for HE washers, low-flow replacement toilets and showerheads. The municipality received \$10,000 to provide six meals (for 125 people each) and 100 food boxes to people to increase food security.

**Communication** – One paper newsletter, printed at the office, was distributed in 23-24, with regular e-news updates, emailed and circulated online.

**Environment-** Toilet leakage strips were purchased to be distributed to residents. The municipality continues to be charged a fire hydrant fee by Charlottetown, and expects to recoup the cost for three of the eleven hydrants from the Provincial Correctional Centre.

**EMO** – Council continues to consider the purchase of emergency radios, and is gathering estimates to apply for a new larger generator. Ten sets of bunk beds were donated to the municipality from the Canada Winter Games for use in an emergency situation.

**Capital Projects** -In the summer of 2023, the Milton Hall renovation project was revised to lower costs by including a lift, rather than an elevator, which also allowed for a pantry to be constructed. The project was re-tendered, and although an additional \$500,000 was granted from the province, Council decided to not accept either of the tenders. The \$100,000 grant from Enabling Accessibility Fund can be extended. The \$500,000 was returned to the Province. ACOA suggested they would consider funding an alternate project and agreed to partially fund a community garden (utility shed, greenhouse, parking area, picnic tables and benches), on land that the Hooper Family is making available to the community, playground equipment and fencing around the basketball court to allow for pickleball at the Miltonvale Community Park and a gazebo, signage, picnic table, benches, fencing and trees at a new municipal park to be established in a new subdivision off Royalty Road. The province is also contributing approximately \$42,000 to this project.

The Municipality remains a member of FCM, FPEIM, and Recreation PEI, and is providing office space to Warren Grove.

**Staff** - Tanner MacKinnon (Post Secondary Student Program), and Carline Mader (Canada Summer Jobs) and Joshua Shobunki (Jobs for Youth) worked for the municipality for the summer of 2023. No funding was received to hire a student for the watershed, so the funding that would have been spent on that position was given to the Cornwall and Area Watershed Group. Resident Ruth Awuja was a faithful volunteer at the Community Park for the summer. Joy MacIntyre has worked for the municipality in the spring of 2023 and through the fall and winter of 2024, through a Skills PEI grant, as an assistant to CAO Shari MacDonald. Development Officer, Mirko Terrazas, is contracted through the Rural Municipality of North Shore.

**Plans for 2024-25** include continuing with most of the same programs, including the car show and pancake breakfast, applying to a provincial fund to install two Level 2 EV charges at the Community Park, installing the playground, greenhouse, gazebo, picnic tables, benches and fence, and drilling a well for the garden, and coating the tennis court and basketball court with a coating and re-lining them. The community garden will be organized. It is hoped that a larger generator will be purchased. A seniors project -Miltonvale Park -Life in the Movies will begin in April. The municipality received an EDI grant to host events friendly to the 2SLGBTQQIA community -drag brunch and story time, OUTrageous bingo, and workshop. The CAO will receive 6% towards RSP and a cell phone allowance.