

## **Rural Municipality of Miltonvale Park - HIGHLIGHTS of 2024-25**

**Seniors Events** - The 2024-25 New Horizons for Seniors Program, **Miltonvale Park in the Movies (\$9180)** was very popular and included many movie nights and activities connected to them – eleven food demonstration/ presentations, a 55 Drive Alive Education Course, a car maintenance education session and, four free exercise classes, a session on arthritis, and elder abuse/safety. Cooking presentation, armchair travel, car rally, online security, line dancing, a seniors dance, wedding dress display with the North Milton WI, budgeting, cookie making, card making, mental health session, wills and estate planning, seniors brunch, financial implications of housing choices for seniors (March 6)

The PEI Seniors' Secretariat funded \$3000 for **Gardens, Gallivanting, and Gosh Darn Technology** for a very popular bus trip to western PEI, a lunch and learn, garden tea, tech talks and a preserving workshop.

**ParticipACTION's** Community Better Challenge in June included a virtual Walk, more than the mayor contest, yoga, walks, and other opportunities for people to get active. More exercise classes were held this year, with classes varying between 1-3 weekly. Yoga is offered, year-round, as well as fall to spring line dancing at the Milton Community Hall.

At the community park, the municipality installed two new large pieces of playground equipment, and a smaller digging toy purchased in 2023 at the community park. Both the tennis/pickleball court and the basketball court were coated and re-lined. One family used the community garden at the park. 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. The staff hosted special days and events, and painted the exterior of the shelter. In 2025, the municipality intends to install the old generator at the park, and add solar panels, and a propane stove, water heater, and tank as well as a heat pump, with support of the Canada Community Building Fund.

**Community Events** - Family Violence Prevention Week was marked in May 2024, with the annual blanket making activity. With the support of CMP, Council organized its second car show on the Father's Day weekend. Proceeds of \$2400 were donated to the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry. Celebrate Canada Funding was received for a Canada Day celebration. Council passed out treat bags at a Halloween drive thru at the Milton Community Hall. The NRRFD brought Santa and the Grinch at Christmas. Council also marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a community party on July 17, 2024. Council received a GEDI grant for The Art of Drag project, as well as a Health Care Retention grant for a community supper, art project and two food presentations. In 2025 a letter of intent was submitted to the PEI Community Foundation for a Youth Mental Wellness project.

The little library at the park continues to be used. The two Level 2 EV chargers at the hall received limited use and two more EV Chargers were added to the Community Park.

2024 was the first summer for the new Community Garden, located on land that was provided by the Hooper Family. Summer students at the hall and volunteers worked hard, and the garden had a very successful first year. Produce was available for pick up at the hall, and about seven families took advantage of the space provided to have their own garden. Funding from the Island Community Food Security Fund allowed for the purchase of many tools and some equipment. A dedicated coordinator would improve the garden, and Council hopes to contract someone for this year. Past the Salt PEI organized a fundraising gourmet supper for the Community Garden in August of 2024, and another on February 23, where funds were being shared between the Food Forest at the garden and Gifts from the Heart.

A park is also being created in the new Strathrae Estates, located off the Royalty Road. A wooden fence was installed, trees and shrubs have been planted and a gravel walkway installed. A 2 Billion Trees grant funded the planting of trees as well as mature spruce for the entrance of the subdivision. A gazebo is planned to be erected this summer. Sheila Curtis continues to represent Miltonvale Park on the board of the APM Center, which is hoping to add a second ice surface in the near future.

The Province cancelled the pasture lease at the end of the summer, as they plan to use the land to create affordable housing.

**Active Transportation (AT)** –The Glenn Group’s Active Transportation Plan, was presented to the public at two open houses, and an application was made to the Provincial AT Fund for benches, bicycle repair stations, and a washroom/outhouse facility for the Confederation Trail areas.

**Planning and Development** –Appeals contribute significantly to legal fees. A second public meeting was held to consider including the redesignation of PID 283325 and a 1.8-acre portion of PID 658799 to Light Industrial properties in the Future Land Use Map, as well as text changes to the Development Bylaw and Official Plan. The properties had been under consideration from Miltonvale Park for rezoning in 2023. The municipality approved all the amendments to the maps, Official Plan and Bylaw. The Minister approved the text changes July 31, 2024, and is still considering the map amendments. An appeal of Council’s decision was filed with IRAC.

Delays in the final approval for the second and third phases of the new Strathrae 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. As well, a subdivision application has been received for the first two of five planned phases for affordable housing in the former community pasture, with work planning to begin as soon as possible.

**Bylaws** -Two new Bylaws were approved: #2024-07, a new Procedural Bylaw and #2024-14, a Bylaw to Repeal Shared Services Bylaw 2021-14. The municipal Abuse Policy was also updated.

**Support for individuals and groups** – The Council continues to offer an annual \$75 child bursary, a \$200 grant to the North Milton WI for a project, and a \$1500 annual grant to the Milton Community Hall (Solar panels- 2024). It also offers rebates for HE washers, low-flow replacement toilets and showerheads.

**Communication** – One paper newsletter, printed at the office, was distributed in 24-25, with regular e-news updates, emailed and circulated online. Facebook and miltonvalepark.com are also used.

**Environment-** Toilet leakage strips were distributed to residents. The municipality continues to be charged a fire hydrant fee by Charlottetown, and recoups the cost for three of the eleven hydrants from the Provincial Correctional Centre. Councillor Jamie Taylor is the liaison between the Cornwall and Area Watershed Group (CAWG) and Miltonvale Park.

**EMO** – Funding from the Rural Growth Initiative allowed Council to install a new 50 kw generator, a commercial fridge and freezer for the hall, as well as a new electric stove and air purifier. Council is considering the purchase of emergency radios.

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

**Staff** – 2024 summer staff included Hazel Truong at the office (Post Secondary Student Program), and at the park Nathalie Antoun (PSSP), Kessie Kama (Jobs for Youth) and resident Jason Blaisdell (Canada Summer Jobs). 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 again this summer. Norm Birt was funded through a Skills PEI grant over the spring and summer, as an assistant to CAO Shari MacDonald. Development Officer, Mirko Terrazas, had been contracted through the Rural Municipality of North Shore; however, in the fall of 2024, returned to being a part-time employee of Miltonvale Park, as well of Kingston, and West River. These three municipalities are applying for Shared Service funding from Municipal Affairs to enhance the Development Officer’s position.

2024-25 has been very busy and successful.