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Item No. 2
Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee
May 17, 2018

TO: Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation
Original Signed

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Fall 2017 & Winter 2018 Youth Engagement Report

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Motion of Regional Council – May 14, 2013:

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Craig that Regional Council:

1. Dissolve the Youth Advisory Committee established in 2006 but no longer officially functioning, in order to adopt a more effective way of engaging with Youth across HRM.
2. Direct staff of Community Recreation Services to continue to engage youth, both in their communities and online, to better understand the current trends and issues of youth across HRM; and further direct staff to provide semi-annual reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding trends and issues, best practices, and actions taken.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Charter, Section 79 (k) recreational programs; (m) ...the expansion of employment opportunities and the economic development of the Municipality; and (d) police services.

BACKGROUND

In May 2013, Regional Council directed the Community & Recreation Services (now Parks and Recreation) business unit to continue to engage youth, both in their communities and online, to better understand the current trends and issues of youth across Halifax.

Staff was further directed to provide semi-annual reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding trends, issues, best practices, and actions taken with respect to youth programming.

This report also provides an update on the Youth Services Plan.

DISCUSSION

The attached Youth Engagement Report (Attachment 1) outlines youth activity over the Fall of 2017 and Winter of 2018, in relation to Recreation Programming, Halifax Public Libraries, Fire and Emergency Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Halifax Regional Police youth programs.

Current data on youth activity is largely confined to Community Centres operated by HRM staff. Discussions are ongoing with Multi-District Facilities to develop a common process to collect data from those facilities.

A Municipal Youth Services Committee has been established to coordinate the Youth Services Plan implementation. Future updates on the Youth Services Plan will be provided through the Youth Engagement Report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth engagement on the Youth Services Plan is ongoing, and now includes the collection of Most Significant Change Stories.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Fall 2017 & Winter 2018 Youth Engagement Report

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Amanda Reddick, Community Developer for Youth. 902.817.3923

Attachment 1

Youth Engagement Report

Update for Fall 2017 & Winter 2018

Prepared by:

Amanda Reddick, Community Developer
Parks & Recreation
March 2018



HALIFAX

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Purpose

In May 2013, Regional Council directed the Community & Recreation Services (now Parks and Recreation) business unit to continue to engage youth, both in their communities and online, to better understand the current trends and issues of youth across Halifax. Staff was further directed to provide semi-annual reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding trends, issues, best practices, and actions taken with respect to youth programming. This semi-annual Youth Engagement Report is an outcome of this request.

The information presented in this report provides an overview of the services and programs offered to youth over the Fall of 2017 and Winter 2018.



Youth Leadership Program

Youth Services Plan Update

The objective of the Youth Services Plan (YSP) is to ensure that municipal programs and services are meeting the expressed needs of the youth. The YSP will continue to serve as the resource that will guide program and service delivery for youth, over the next three to five years.

The Municipal Youth Services Committee (MYSC) was established to oversee the roll-out of the Youth Services Plan, and was charged with developing the process for collecting feedback from youth, on an ongoing basis, on how they feel the implementation of the YSP is proceeding, and if it is meeting their expectations. The MYSC membership includes:

- 1 representative from the Halifax Public Libraries
- 1 Community Recreation Coordinator from each Area Coordinator's region, including Aquatics
- 1 Area Coordinator
- 1 Administrative Support person
- 1 Community Developer (Youth)
- 1 Civic Events Coordinator
- 1 representative each from Youth Live, Adventure Earth Centre, Youth Advocate Program
- 1 Multi-District Facility Manager

Key Collaborations

Over the Fall and Winter months, an information workshop was developed on the Youth Services Plan. The workshop will be delivered by the Community Developer for Youth, to the leadership of the Multi-District Facilities and to those with Facility Lease Agreements with HRM, as well as to leaders in the Halifax Public Libraries.

Work has been initiated to establish a more robust collaborative working relationship with key HRM stakeholders for the purposes of operationalizing and to report on some of the aspects of the YSP. The HRM stakeholder group includes the Halifax Public Libraries, HRM's Human Resources Department's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Municipal Clerks Office, as well as Corporate Communications.

A working group of Parks and Recreation staff was established to develop, and will deliver, a workshop curriculum on welcoming youth called "Friendly Spaces – Friendly Faces™". The workshop will be delivered to all levels of Parks and Recreation staff, as well as other business units, as required.

Youth Action Plans

The Recreation Programming Division is brought together each Fall and Spring, to review the implementation of the YSP. All front-line staff within Recreation Programming contribute to the implementation of the YSP by sharing ideas and best practices, networking and collaborating on creative recreation program initiatives, and adjusting the implementation of the Plan as necessary according to the communities being served.

Strategic Visions

The Youth Services Plan has five strategic visions. Following are some examples of goals that were achieved for each of the visions.

Strategic vision 1: Our services positively impact the mental health and physical well-being of youth

St. Andrew's Community Centre

Provided program opportunities for a family of newcomers who are hearing impaired. An American Sign Language interpreter was hired to assist the three children in participating in the Centre's programs for Winter 2018 – very successful.

Most Recreation Centres

Increasing staff capacity by offering training around mental health – Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

Strategic vision 2: All youth can access our services

Adventure Earth Centre - Fall 2017

The Adventure Earth Centre youth staff in charge of the HEAT Youth Action Team participated in a strategic planning process for the program. They collaboratively created a vision, mission, and values and identified goals for 1, 5, and 10 years for the program. This process gave them experience in strategic planning, it set the stage to create services that are more inclusive of youth, and helped to clarify the benefits of the AEC leadership programs. The AEC is now in the process of surveying youth participants to further improve youth programs.

Souls Strong - Winter 2018

The Souls Strong Program arranged several drop-in programs for the youth of North Preston. Youth were engaged in discussion sessions, drop-in basketball programs and intergenerational basketball tournaments.

Youth Advocate Program - Fall 2017

The Youth Advocate Program provides support and access services for 30 youth ages, 9 to 15 years, at a time. Youth in the program encounter many barriers; access to reliable transportation being one. Youth Advocate Workers provide bus tickets, cabs when appropriate, and work with parents/guardians to organize car pools, all to support youth in achieving their goals.

Emera Oval/Bedford Pool

English and Arabic "rules" signs have been installed. Over the winter months, two multi-lingual staff were hired. As well, the Emera Oval continues to hire youth that are reflective of the racial and cultural diversity of the municipality.

Citadel Community Centre

The Citadel Community Centre now offers a drop-in program after school for high school youth.

Strategic vision 3: The municipality offers friendly and welcoming environments for youth

Youth Live - Fall 2017

Youth Live staff asked youth in the program what they thought would make the lunch room at both Youth Live facilities more youth friendly. Their feedback resulted in the purchase of indoor basketball nets as well as board games. The youth now spend their breaks interacting with each other. It has created a more positive and friendly environment for youth to unwind after time spent gaining job experience.

Youth Live - Winter 2018

To meet the Plan's goal to employ friendly staff that are trained in youth engagement, all Youth Live staff have been trained in "Mental Health First Aid for Staff who work with Youth". This training is the first step to ensure the youth in the program are being provided advice from fully trained staff.

Musquodoboit Valley

A summer staff person was added to the staff compliment. Their role is to mentor new summer staff.

Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea and Tantallon & Hubbards

Continue to highlight the positive contributions that youth make within the community. More genuine moments for youth and staff to interact were created. Staff are provided with an atmosphere in which they can be better role models for youth. Staff are encouraged to nominate youth for the Youth Volunteer Awards.

Strategic vision 4: Services are diverse and geared towards youth interests

Adventure Earth Centre - Winter 2018

A survey was conducted by the Adventure Earth Centre to gain input from youth around outdoor recreation activities. The survey found that youth are most interested in camping and survival skills, rock climbing, surfing, canoeing, and kayaking. It was found that during the summer youth wanted programs on weekdays and in the fall, winter, and spring months, preferred programs to happen on weekends. To expand outdoor skill opportunities, the AEC will be offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program to further support youth learning camping and survival skills, while being recognized at an international level. The AEC will continue to look at ways to expand opportunities to better meet these interests and needs.

Youth Advocate Program - Winter 2018

The Youth Advocate Program team organized a half day event at the Halifax Central Library for program youth. Youth had the opportunity to create their own music in the sound recording studio, learn tips and tricks from library staff, take home their finished musical pieces, and meet new friends from communities across HRM.

Sackville Sports Stadium

Introduction of Aquatic Junior Leadership – Wave Runners program. Wave Runners is traditionally a 9-week summer program; the program is now offered for 10 weeks during the school year.

Inclusion and Accessibility:

The Inclusion and Accessibility Section continues to encourage and to support Community Recreation Coordinators & Aquatic Specialists as they develop programs that target youth of all abilities & cultural backgrounds using the “Choice Model” of programming. A learn to sledge program was delivered to 14 youth in 2017/18.

Strategic vision 5: All youth are aware of the services offered by the municipality

Souls Strong - Fall 2017

On October 5, 2017, the Souls Strong Program hosted a community Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of North Preston. Community youth took on key roles throughout the event, including assisting with cooking, plating and serving food. The event also included draws for door prizes. This event featured youth leaders in prominent roles, and was well received by the approximately 160 community members in attendance.

Dartmouth North

A youth staff began volunteering, along with other residents in Dartmouth North, to develop and operate a Facebook page which promotes free and low-cost programs, events, and services to residents in Dartmouth North.

Needham Community Centre

A review is underway to assess the potential of having a Youth Leadership Group, as well as a Youth Leadership Coordinator position, for Fall, Winter and Spring seasons

For more detailed information on the progress being made on the implementation of the Youth Services Plan at specific Recreation Centres, please link to the following site: www.halifax.ca/youth.

Halifax Public Libraries Youth Report

Halifax Public Libraries is committed to serving youth. The Library's Strategic Plan outlines a vision and priorities that support many of the directions set in Halifax Recreation's *Youth Services Plan*. Conversations with Recreation Programming are beginning to explore how Library and Recreation can collaborate on a youth services strategy.

The Halifax Public Libraries offered 883 teen specific programs between March 2017 and February 2018 for youth ages 12-18 with 18,168 participants.

542 youth volunteer positions were filled with teens contributing 8052 hours of time to their community in a variety of roles (annual statistics - June 2017).

The Halifax Public Libraries provides a variety of free services and programs to young adults in the community including:

- Welcoming spaces to hang out, connect with others, study, play, create and learn during all open hours.
- Open access to computers, wifi, a media studio, and other technologies.
- Staff with skill in youth engagement and the ability to connect teens with information and the wider network of community support.
- Supportive adults who build relationships with youth and are often relied upon as allies and mentors for young adults experiencing challenges or in transition.
- Opportunities to contribute to the community, develop skills, connect with other youth, and lead through volunteering. Library experience is often a springboard to scholarships, school applications and future employment.
- Diverse resources for recreation and learning – from traditional collections to e-books, technology to board games, art materials to cooking equipment.
- A wide range of programs providing opportunities for discussion, hands-on learning, skill development, creativity, self-expression, and social interaction.
- Extensive partnerships with community experts and service providers help the Library support youth development and reach out to diverse teens. Examples of partners include: the YMCA Newcomer Centre, Homebridge, Phoenix Youth, Halifax Recreation, Autism Nova Scotia, the Youth Project, Capital Health, CEED's Youth Employability Project, IWK's Adolescent Mental Services, and Restorative Justice.

Regional Highlights

Eastern Shore/Dartmouth

Fall 2017

Friday Nights at the Findlay Community Centre is a dedicated youth night from 6 pm – 9 pm. This is an opportunity for youth from all areas of Dartmouth to use the facility. Friday Nights at Findlay provide youth with a safe and youth friendly space to hang out with friends. The expansion of the program on Fridays, to provide engaging guest speaking events for youth, is being explored. Recreation will offer a drop-in “breaking program” like the one offered at the Dartmouth North Community Centre.

Winter 2018

Over the last fall and winter, the Dartmouth North Community Centre launched a youth “Road Trip” initiative. Using public transit, staff leaders take 10-20 youth, every two weeks to participate in free recreational and cultural events and activities throughout HRM. Where money and transportation are significant barriers for families and youth in Dartmouth North, residents often don’t have fair access to these types of recreational opportunities. For the cost of a bus ticket, youth travel beyond their Dartmouth North neighbourhood, with a caring adult, to experience other communities and the diverse culture of HRM. Staff have observed improvements in relationships between staff and youth, and have noticed that youth behaviour has shifted from a crisis state of having to be frequently barred from the facility, to behaving respectfully while in the Centre, with many now actively engaged in or seeking opportunities to volunteer in the Centre.

Bedford/Hammonds Plains/Sackville/Fall River

Fall 2017

In October, the D2Y youth team hosted their annual Harvest Hullabaloo at the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre. Several families from the area participated in games and activities celebrating the fall and Halloween. The event was wholly planned and carried out by the youth in the D2Y program with voluntary donations collected and forwarded to Adsum House.

Winter 2017

In late January, Recreation staff at the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre met with interested youth and parents to discuss a revamp of the D2Y youth program into a more leadership development opportunity. The revitalized program has begun with 5-10 youth taking part. The youth participate in leadership, recreation and community service activities similar to those offered in the summer program.

Peninsula Halifax

Fall 2017

Needham Recreation Centre hosted a Hallowe’en 8:00 pm to 8:00 am Sleepover, with 31 children and youth in attendance. Six youth volunteers assisted staff with pumpkin carving, gym games, swim activities, and with the evenings feature attraction, the *haunted house*. Youth volunteers set up the haunted house, dressed in costumes and scared all of the children and youth that were brave enough to enter! Adults who participated in the Hallowe’en Sleepover when they were children, reminisced about the fun that they had, especially in the haunted house.

Fall 2017 – Winter 2018

The George Dixon HYPE (Halifax, Youth, Physical, Education) program had various activities throughout the fall and winter. Key highlights of the program were: youth volunteered at Alderney Landing Haunted House where they assisted in the evenings running the event. They were then given the opportunity to attend the Haunted House appreciation celebration at Kart Bahn. Throughout the season youth were given the opportunity to attend fitness training, both cross fit and circuit training, as many of them are involved in organized sports teams. A smaller youth group was initiated with the youth attending training sessions, and then organized the youth room at the George Dixon Centre. The HYPE program youth were also involved in a partnership with the Nova Scotia Sea School during March Break for a 3 - night program learning outdoor skills at the Fun Forest Camp in Sackville.

Regional Aquatics

Fall 2017 and Winter 2018

Over the fall and winter seasons, Aquatic Services mentored two students who will be working with staff in the Adapted Aquatics Program. One of the students is a graduate of the Angelfish Program. The Angelfish Program is designed to work with children and youth with special needs in an aquatic environment. The second student will be completing the Angelfish course/program within the next two weeks. For interested staff, Aquatic Services will provide training to one staff member per season who have demonstrated excellence when teaching children and youth with special needs.

Mainland North & Mainland South

Fall 2017

"Coffee House"

Youth from the Adventure Earth Centre, St. Andrew's Community Centre, Chocolate Lake Community Centre, and Lakeside Community Centre, gathered for an evening of artistic performances. Some as performers, some as audience members, it was a memorable night for all in attendance. Family members were also invited, and were provided with a chance to view the abundance of talent, in the form of singing, dancing, and comedy.

Winter 2018

Youth at the Lakeside Community Centre completed the bi-annual bake sale for the women and children of Adsum House. These events take place in the summer and then again just before Christmas. On December 22, 2017, youth were invited to do some Christmas baking. They made sugar cookies and short bread cookies which they delivered to Adsum House, complete with icing and sprinkles, so the children could have fun decorating their own cookies.

New Initiatives

Youth Advisory Council

On January 16, 2018, Regional Council approved a two-year pilot project to establish a Youth Advisory Committee for HRM. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), through the Executive Standing Committee, will advise Council on municipal matters that impact youth. The Municipal Clerks Office will provide administrative support, while a Community Leadership Team (CLT), made up of key HRM staff and representatives from community stakeholder groups, will provide overall guidance to the YAC.

The CLT is integral to the completion of Phase 1 of the two-year pilot. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in September 2018. The Community Developer for Youth facilitated a half day orientation and planning session for the CLT on March 19, 2018. The CLT membership reflects the diversity of HRM and the youth that will make up the YAC. Over the next several months, the CLT will work on the following objectives:

- *The development of foundational materials* – resources, communication strategies, relevant content for promotional materials.
- *The development of a youth outreach plan and program* – in conjunction with HRM's nomination process for committees of council, developing a nomination process that is “youth friendly” and inviting.
- *The development of resource materials for Municipal Leaders Workshops* – expectations of YAC and the role of YAC in municipal decision making.
- *Establishment of “space(s)” for youth to meet* with particular attention to what constitutes a “safe space”.

Multi Services Centre for Youth Pilot in Sackville

On March 6, 2018, Regional Council approved a one-year pilot project to establish a collaborative multi agency, multi service youth centre (MSCY) at Acadia School in Sackville. At the end of the pilot, staff will return to Council with a report evaluating the project, allowing Regional Council to decide whether to continue with the MSCY at Acadia School and/or whether the program should be expanded to other communities within the municipality.

The MSCY Pilot project will have three phases;7 they include:

- Phase One (first 3 months) - Development & building of the program, will involve the following:
 - Develop the terms of reference for the Youth Centre Stakeholder Group. The organizations interested in participating in this initiative include: the IWK Community Health Team, the Boys and Girls Club, Sackville Library, Laing House, the YMCA, and HRM Parks and Recreation
 - Complete renovations and fit up costs for expanded kitchen area, painting and floor repairs.
 - Outline the expectations of the Stakeholders group as well as the role that the group will play in the
 - decision-making process
 - Recruit youth to advise the Stakeholder group
 - Develop the program materials, resources, communication strategy and promotional materials for the Youth Centre
 - Develop a youth outreach program
 - Establish key performance indicators, refine and confirm evaluation protocol, including the collection process for quantitative and qualitative information
 - Develop the program schedule for the pilot year

- Phase Two (over 9 months) - Implementation Phase, which will include the following:
 - Involve the youth in creating a youth friendly space, as well as a youth led-staff supported program
 - to supplement / enhance programs and services offered through the stakeholder group
 - Stakeholders to deliver core programs and services
- Phase Three (last 3 months) Evaluation and Report
 - Evaluation and data collection
 - Report findings

The first meeting for the Stakeholder group occurred on March 29, 2018.

Youth Programming Statistics

RecKids / Access Pass Program Summary

Delivered through Parks and Recreation, Rec Kids and the Access Pass Program assist families experiencing financial difficulties, by providing reduced fees for recreational programs for children and youth under the age of 18 years.

For the fall and winter seasons, Access Passes supported 565 children and youth, for a value of \$38,324.00.

Newcomer's Access to Recreation Programs

Parks & Recreation offers newcomer families a 100% discount on fees for programs and memberships, offered through recreation facilities. From April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, the dollar value of distributed passes was \$7,355.00 and primarily targeting Halifax Peninsula. The majority of passes were used by youth and adults (16+) for sports and fitness programs and membership, with the remainder used by adults and children for various arts & crafts, music, and general interest programs.

Youth Employment stats for HRM (ages 16-24)

October 1, 2017 to March 15, 2018

Business Unit	Number of Active employees
Corporate & Customer Services	1
Finance & Asset Management	3
Fire & Emergency Services	97
Halifax Forum	19
Halifax Regional Police	18
Halifax Transit	14
Human Resources / Office of Diversity & Inclusion	3
Office of the Auditor General	1
Parks & Recreation	862
Planning & Development	4
Transportation & Public Works	18
Total	1040

Parks & Recreation Youth Employment Information

Youth employment opportunities are offered at all Recreation Centres throughout the year, with the highest number of youth hired during the summer months.

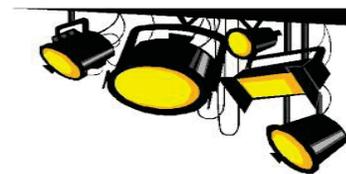


Parks and Recreation offered a variety of programs for youth over the Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 seasons. The number of youth registered in programs over the two seasons totaled 5,443. The table below offers a breakdown of where youth were participating.

2017/2018	Total Number of Registered Youth
Adventure Earth	445 (FALL 295 / WINTER 150)
Bedford – Hammonds Plains	56 (FALL 28 / WINTER 28)
Captain Spry/Dryland	122 (FALL 2 / WINTER 120)
Chocolate Lake	78 (FALL 20 / WINTER 58)
Citadel	76 (FALL 36 / WINTER 40)
Cole Harbour	212 (FALL 197 / WINTER 15)
Dartmouth North	63 (FALL 33 / WINTER 30)
Findlay	44 (FALL 23 / WINTER 21)
George Dixon	2540 (FALL 1358 / WINTER 1182)
Gordon R. Snow / Fall River	337 (FALL 319 / WINTER 18)
Halifax Regional Police	91 (FALL 50 / WINTER 41)
Lakeside	64 (FALL 37 / WINTER 27)
Musq. Harbour	58 (FALL 4 / 54)
Needham	265 (FALL 73 / WINTER 192)
North Preston	40 (FALL 0 / WINTER 40)
Sackville	492 (FALL 480 / WINTER 12)
Sheet Harbour	85 (FALL 50 / WINTER 35)
Saint Andrews	198 (FALL 80 / WINTER 118)
Tallahassee	97 (FALL 90 / WINTER 7)
Youth Advocate Program	80 (FALL 47 / WINTER 33)
Totals	5443



Youth Events & Engagements



Teens Now Talk

Over 3000 youth attended the Teens Now Talk Youth Expo in November 2017. Parks & Recreation staff set up the button maker and surveyed youth during this event. The youth were asked to answer the following questions:

- I feel welcomed into a space when...
- I am more likely to try new things when...

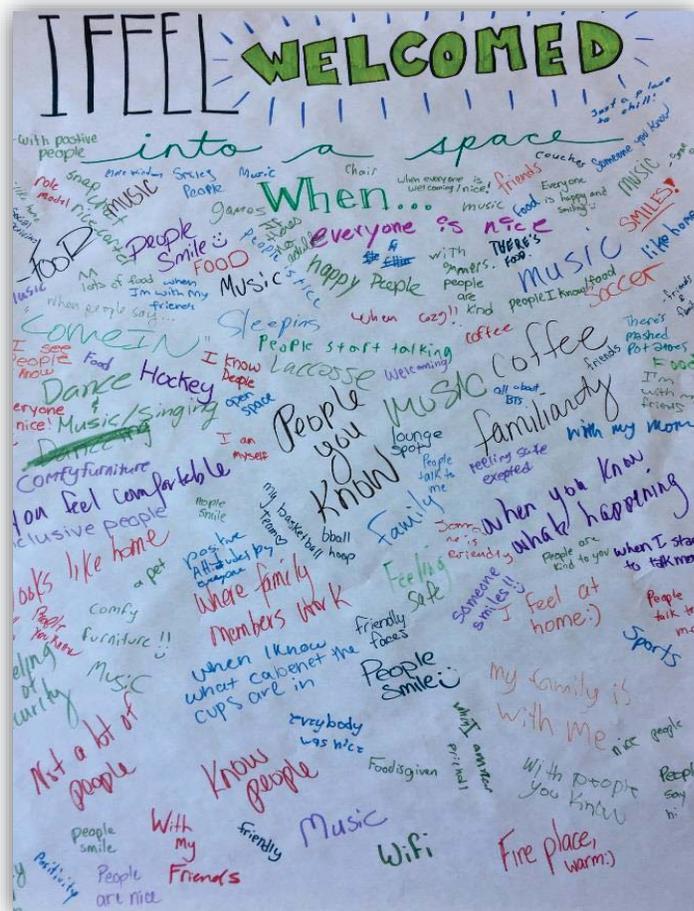
Below is the summary of answers.

I feel welcomed into a space when:

- There is music
- Everyone is nice
- Coffee is available
- Food is available
- When you know what is happening
- There are friendly faces
- When people smile when you enter
- I know someone
- There is free Wi-Fi
- It is cozy and fun
- It is inclusive of everyone
- There is comfy furniture
- There is a lounge spot
- When I feel safe
- I feel at home

I am more likely to try new things when...

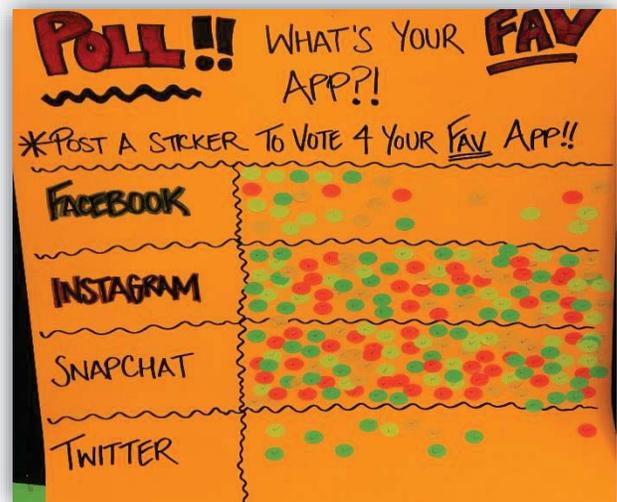
- I'm with my friends
- I know someone
- If it is on a bus route
- If it is afterschool
- If there is free food





Social Media Update

Teens Now Talk conducted a social media survey with the youth at the Youth Expo. The results indicated that the youth prefer Instagram and Snapchat over Facebook and Twitter. This trend is worth noting for future marketing to youth in the municipality.



The Municipality hosted **WE Day Atlantic** on November 30, 2018.

Parks and Recreation staff at the infamous “HALIFAX Button Maker Booth”

WE Day is a celebration of youth making a difference in their local and global communities. WE Schools is a year long program that nurtures compassion in young people and gives them the tools to create transformational social change. Almost 8000 students and educators from more than 300 schools across the province attended this event.



#keepinitreal

On March 8th, the Souls Strong Program organized an event in North Preston called #keepinitreal. The aim of the event was to bring youth from North Preston and from across the municipality together for meaningful dialogue focused on youth.

Local artists, including Quake Matthews, Jody Upshaw, Corey Writes, provided entertainment. Community leaders such as Rajeane Boudreau-Willis and representatives from The Youth Project spoke about issues important to youth.

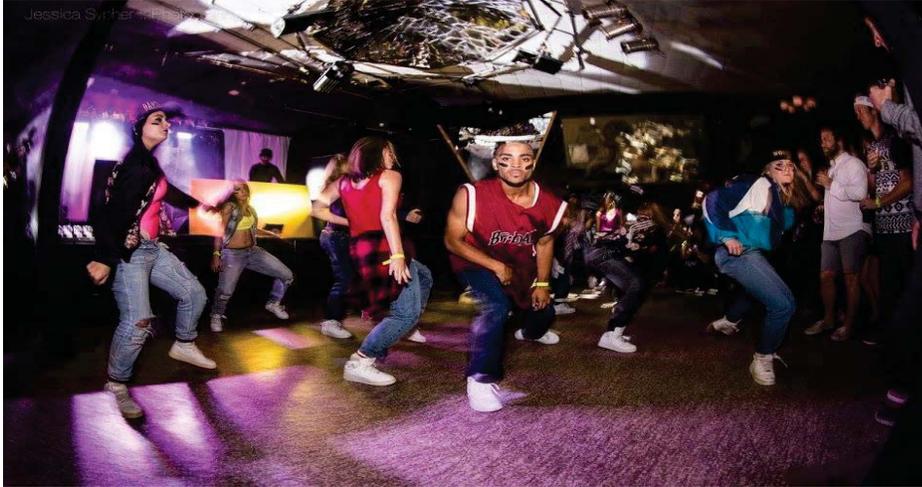
Youth and community members had the opportunity to meet and talk with service providers, including the YMCA, the Halifax Learning Centre and the Cole Harbour Foundation.



The main event for the day was the panel discussion. The *panel* included people who have lived challenging lives and at some-point in their life engaged in "street" culture and lifestyle. The five-person panel included residents of North Preston. Those in attendance were respectful and supportive when panelist share intimate details of their lives. Some panelists talked about their experience with incarceration and others shared their history in the sex trade and with drug addiction. It was an emotional and inspiring event. 200 youth were expected to attend; however, due to weather and the cancellation of school buses, approximately 75 people were able to attend.

Hopscotch 2017

Hopscotch's vision is to unite, energize, support and celebrate the Municipality's diverse music and youth community, and find innovative ways of working together towards common goals. Hopscotch has been the Municipality's premier festival celebrating youth for eight years. It has grown from a local community event into a nationally recognized festival in the hip hop and youth community. Workshops, Events and



Showcases have featured international educators, label owners and artists in the music industry. 10,000 people attend over 3-4 days each year. Dance, music and art elements are merged together to celebrate the latest in youth trends. Hopscotch celebrates diversity and prides itself on celebrating multicultural headliners for every major concert. Local artists work directly with HRM staff to help curate talent and event concepts annually.



Pathways to Friendship Camp – P2F



The Pathways to Friendship Camp Initiative was developed out of a long-standing relationship between the RCMP Preston Detachment and the Tim Horton Children's Foundation. The RCMP partnered with the Community Developer for Youth, community agencies, stakeholders and schools to host a weekend long camp at the Tim Horton Camp in Tatamagouche, NS, at no cost to participating students and families. This year's camp was held over the weekend of September 29th to October 1st. The camp was designed to provide a relationship building space for junior high students who were just starting the school year in a new school and those who were leaving the school to attend senior high. Activities focussed on preparing youth to cope with different and

new faces, cultures and pressures. Through various camp and relationship building activities, youth met new friends, and police members, in a fun, relaxed and structured weekend.



This year 90 youth attended the camp; 70 of whom comprised of the entire grade 7 class from Graham Creighton Junior High. Ten youth in grades 8 and 9 took on leadership roles at the camp. Ten college and university students, as well as other young adults, had leadership and chaperone responsibilities.

Youth Section

The municipality operates several major youth programs dedicated to at-risk youth. These programs are the Youth Live Program, Youth Advocate Program, Souls Strong, Girls United and Halifax Fire's Emergency Services Achievement Program. More information on these programs can be found at www.halifax.ca/youth.



Youth Section Staff In-Service (2017)

Youth At-Risk Program Overview

September 16 2017 – March 15, 2018				
Program Name	# of Youth in program since Sept.16/17	# Youth Graduated	# of referrals/ inquiries to program	Program Capacity (<i>space available</i>)
Youth Advocate Program	30	7	41	30
Girls United	14	1	0	N/A
Youth Live Program	50	35	101	18
Emergency Services Achievement Program	12	12	-	6

Youth Advocate Program Expansion

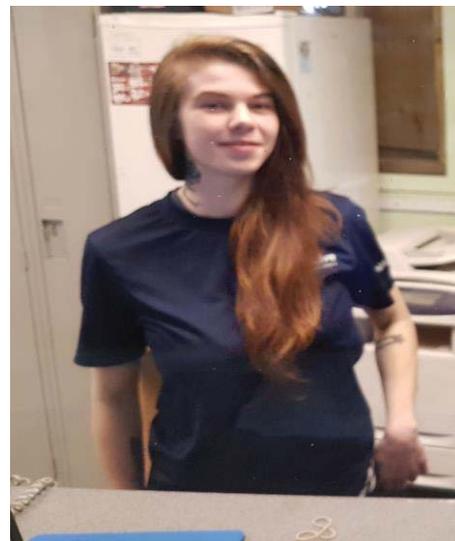
The Youth Advocate Program is a neighbourhood based intervention program for youth, ages 9 to 15 years old, who are engaged or at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and/or gang related activity. The Youth Advocate Program has been given the go-ahead to begin delivering the service to children and youth living in the communities of North Preston, Cole Harbour and Sackville. Three Youth Advocate Workers will be hired in the spring, and they will begin accepting referrals in September of 2018.

Souls Strong

Souls Strong is a five year federally funded pilot program, with a focus on young men between the ages of 15 to 20 years, living in the community of North Preston, and at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and/or gangs. The primary goal of the program is to prevent young men from engaging in anti-social and criminal behaviours leading to involvement in gang related activities. All Souls Strong participants are African Nova Scotian males, with an average age of 17 years.

Funding through Public Safety Canada ended on March 31, 2018. Beginning in April of 2018, Parks and Recreation will fund those parts of the program that were well received and well attended by the community at large, but most specifically by community youth ages 15 to 20 years. The programs will be delivered by the staff at the North Preston Community Centre; they include:

- After-school drop in program
- Basketball program (intergenerational)
- Community development initiatives & consultations
- Girls Circle
- Souls Sisters Women's Group
- Tutoring program in partnership with the Halifax Learning Centre and the Cole Harbour Foundation
- Daddy and Me Program
- Community garden
- Christmas lights contest
- Thanksgiving gathering and dinner



Youth Live Program

The Youth Live Program is a supportive work environment that offers up to 21 weeks of work place mentoring, as well as life and job skill development for youth between the ages of 16 to 24 years, who are not in school, and who are facing employment barriers. Youth participants receive a stipend while in the program. Youth Live has two main streams which include business operations and mentoring. Business operations comprise of on-the-job training at Youth Live's Enviro Depot bottle exchange and end-of-life electronic recycling site, and the Commercial Enviro Depot which focuses on sorting diverted recyclables from the Otter Lake Waste Facility, as well as paper and used library book recycling and green cart delivery and repair. The mentoring stream includes working along-side Youth Live staff who provide guidance and coaching. As well, youth receive modules on life skills and job skills designed to prepare them for their future.

Transition from the Youth Advocate Program to Youth Live

Shaila Gray successfully graduated from the Youth Advocate Program in 2014. That same year she applied to and was accepted into the Youth Live Program. Shaila excelled as a participant in Youth Live and graduated in 2015. In 2015, Shaila was a successful candidate for a summer position as a Youth Live Operations Assistant. As she did when she was a participant, Shaila excelled in her role as Operations Assistant. In the Fall and Winter, Shaila worked at the Emera Oval and did administrative

work with HRM's By-Law Enforcement office. During this time, Shaila returned to school to complete her GED, and she was able to balance both her school and work commitments quite well. In November 2017, Shaila was offered a 90 day Youth Operations Worker position - the term was extended for a second 90 day term.

Throughout her employment in the Youth Live Program, Shaila continues to excel and to learn. She consistently meets all of the bench marks staff have set for her. Shaila demonstrates excellent work ethic, including time management, adaptability, stress management and confidence. In the winter of 2018, Shaila transitioned into a 12 month developmental opportunity as a Youth Operations Worker with the program. In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of her new position, Shaila participates in HRM offered training to further develop her leadership skills, and with the assistance of HRM's Human Resources staff, she is working on her job interview skills. Shaila's goal has always been to gain as much experience as is needed to prepare herself to obtain full time employment with Youth Live.

Emergency Services Achievement Program

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency offers the Emergency Services Achievement Program (ESAP) that trains "at risk" young adults to overcome barriers so they may successfully enter the workforce and obtain meaningful employment. These young adults, ages 18-30, are trained in employability skills, and then are placed in an industry of their interest for hands-on mentorship with local businesses. The training takes place in Lower Sackville.

The program began in 1999, and has two intakes of six applicants each year. (12 youth total for the year)

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency works in partnership with Service Canada, the Sackville Volunteer Firefighters Association, Opportunity Place Resource Center, and the employers that hire the participants.

Related Municipal and Regional Leadership Programs

Halifax Regional Police Youth Program (HRPYP)

Halifax Regional Police Youth Program (HRPYP) is for youth ages 14-18 who are often aspiring to careers in policing and want to take a more active leadership role in their communities. The program takes place on Thursdays from 7-9 pm, and runs from September to June. The average number of youth attending is 25-30 with a capacity of 30. The program offers a structured learning environment and teaches citizenship with an emphasis on leadership and voluntary service to the community.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Stetsons and Spurs

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's youth Stetsons and Spurs program, is for youth ages 12 – 17 years. Stetsons and Spurs takes place in Cole Harbour & the Preston area and Lower Sackville. 24 youth attend these programs, which take place on various nights depending on the community. The program also serves to attract youth who often have taken an interest in policing. Youth participate in community events, various police trainings, and other educational community service related or recreational activities that encourages leadership and building positive relationships.

Youth Leadership Program

Happy 10th Birthday Youth Leadership Program!

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is offered through HRM's Recreation Centres. The Program is celebrating its 10th year of collaboration amongst municipal recreation centres. This flagship program offers youth programming, leadership development and employment opportunities. The YLP has three main pillars; they include Training Modules, Volunteering in HRM programs, and Community Action. Under the leadership of the Youth Section and Recreation Programming staff, the YLP is undergoing an evaluation with a view to re-fresh the program to better align with the strategic visions, as outlined in the Youth Services Plan. By the summer of 2018, the following guidelines will be implemented:

YLP General Program Guidelines

- Participants must register for and attend an information meeting. Applications will be distributed during the meeting, along with submission deadline and interview schedule.
- Interested candidates will go through a selection process consisting of a short oral interview. (see attached)
- Successful candidates will be contacted and then registered in the program.
- The number of youth accepted into the program is dependent upon resources available – based on one YL Coordinator + one additional staff person to meet ratios as needed.
- Program Duration - the program may be offered in a variety of ways depending on community needs and resources, i.e. 2-week sessions, one-month, full summer, etc. Regardless of format, participants will be provided with comparable opportunities for training, volunteering and socials at all locations.
- In alignment with Strategic Vision 2. Goal 2.1 of the Youth Services Plan - to provide low income to no cost services for youth, fees once associated with the Youth Leadership Program will be transitioned to low to no fee to ensure financial equitability. Changes in fee structure will be implemented in most Recreation Centres for the Summer 2018 YLP, and will be consistent in each Recreation Centre across the municipality by the Summer 2019.

Level I- For youth 13 years and up with no previous leadership experience. Most of the time is spent as a group participating in leadership skills, group activities, planning socials and working on a group event for the day camp program.

Level II- For youth 13+ who have previous leadership experience. Leadership skills are further enhanced to prepare for volunteering in our summer day camp programs and to plan a community give back event. Join in team-building activities, social events, games and fun.

Level III- For youth 14+ who have previous leadership experience and want to develop their employment skills, volunteer their time as a leader and role model to children in our day camp program, give back to the community and of course attend social events!

Performance Criteria per Level

- 1) Positive Attitude
- 2) Attend *mandatory* training sessions:
 - Community Action Pt 1 and Pt 2
 - Diversity and Accessibility/Inclusion
 - Safety

- Program planning/Leading Games

Optional training sessions: (YLC's are encouraged to attend)

- Public Speaking/Communication
- Job Readiness
- Team work and Participation
- Effective Listening
- Leadership Styles
- Goal Setting

3) Complete the following number of volunteer hours

Level 1 –20 hours

Level 2 –30 hours

Level 3 –50 hours

See appendix for *Most Significant Change* stories from youth who have voiced their appreciation in areas of skill development, and personal transformations because of participating in this program.

Action Items from Spring/Summer 2017 Youth Report

- Item 1:** Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice a year.
- Update:** Ongoing.
- Item 2:** Continue to integrate a new reporting structure that is inclusive of successes and opportunities in operationalizing the Youth Services Plan.
- Update:** Ongoing. Youth Services Plan update will become a main feature in future reports. Complete.
- Item 3:** Ongoing engagement of youth in the priority areas and identification of at-risk youth/communities. This will be necessary to ensure current youth programming is adequate and appropriate to meet the needs of youth.
- Update:** Ongoing. Priority areas and identified at-risk youth are increasingly included in leadership programming.
- Item 4:** Provide an update on the progression of the establishment of the Youth Advisory Council.
- Update:** Complete. The information is presented in this report. A comprehensive update will be included in all future Youth Engagement Reports.
- Item 5:** Provide an update on the Souls Strong Program.
- Update:** Complete. Information is provided in this report.
- Item 6:** Provide updates to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on the Youth Services Plan.
- Update:** Complete. The information is provided in this report

Next Steps

- Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice a year. To be revisited upon the establishment of the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Continue to integrate a new reporting structure that is inclusive of successes and opportunities in operationalizing the Youth Services Plan and Youth Plan updates.
- Ongoing engagement of youth in the priority areas and identification of at-risk youth/communities. This will be necessary to ensure current youth programming is adequate and appropriate to meet the needs of youth.
- Provide an update on the progression of the establishment of the Youth Advisory Council.
- Provide an update on the implementation of the changes to the Youth Leadership Program.

Appendix

Most Significant Change Stories

MSC Story

Title of Story: Building Blocks

Name of Storyteller: Ainsley Ballie - Counselor Development Program

Location: Adventure Earth Centre

Facility: Adventure Earth Centre

Date of Recording: August 10, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Ainsley: "I first got involved way back with swimming lessons. I have been involved with swimming lessons since I was in the young salamander level of lessons. But here [at the Adventure Earth Centre], I got involved when I was in the fifth grade through Mysterious Earth. It's a field trip where you come here, and your teacher gets kidnapped and you have to discover a secret to set her free. I loved it. It was kind of cool because normally you go on a field trip and you just go then it is over. This fieldtrip, Nimbus [one of the AEC staff] came to my classroom beforehand and we did a pre-fieldtrip activity. [Nimbus then] Came in a day afterwards and advertised the summer camp. I then went to every single summer camp and now I am here as a leader."

Meghan: "That's amazing, how long have you been involved [with the AEC]?"

Ainsley: "I am going into tenth grade now and it was fifth grade when I started, so four-ish."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.

Ainsley: "I definitely, have developed as a person. I have matured a lot, and not just that. I made a huge effort this year to become healthier and exercise more and become happier essentially by doing all of these things. Being here [at the AEC] has really helped that. I have noticed a change in what my interests are. Like I would rather be doing more 'older things' I guess that I would before. My sense of humor has changed also by being around different people - its kind of funning. The biggest thing is me maturing from an adolescent to a teenager. Also, in the last six months - I was a camper before and now I am a leader. So making that change to develop as a leader. I volunteered at a different centre, not through REC - and I did that for two years. It is my third year this week and I definitely noticed that I am way better this year. So volunteering has given me the experience I needed."

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Ainsley: "It's good for jobs - I did an interview a month ago. I didn't get the job, but I was like 'I feel confident going into this'. Cause they make an effort here, when you apply here they have a written application and an interview part. It is very much like 'for some people we know that this will be their first time doing this'. So it was very like, not exactly realistic to a real job interview, but it was nice because they would ask a question, then they would have pens and paper, so if you wanted to write out your thoughts [you could], which I really liked. So, [they have created] building blocks to get up to the standards that are out there in the real scary world. After my week of volunteer at day camp we would do check-ins and we would set goals about how you wanted to develop in six different areas. So we did an interview type thing on Monday, Wednesday and then again on Friday. So just getting that experience talking one-on-one with someone who is an employer [is valuable]."

MSC Story

Title of Story: Bring Others Up

Name of Storyteller: Dane Wilson

Location: Camp Mockingee (YES Camp)

Facility: Adventure Earth Centre - H.E.A.T Program Participant

Date of Recording: August 2, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Dane: "I started off by going to the camps at the Adventure Earth Centre with my school. Sometimes my school would take trips there and we would do really amazing and fun activities with all of the staff there. So I really got into that when I was little, then I decided that I wanted to start doing the camps with the Adventure Earth Centre, which happen here at Camp Mockingee. So I decided to do it about three years ago, it's called Sun ship; it's the first camp with the Adventure Earth Centre. I was ecstatic. It felt so good to feel welcome and secure in a place where no one discriminates. So I decided to come back last year, to Explorers, which is another camp with the Adventure Earth Centre, where we use team initiatives and everyone helps out and no one is excluded. If someone is [excluded] we get him or her into the mix of things. So then I decided to come back this year and go to their next program called LEAD, which is where you become a youth leader, and you learn how to lead a group, or how to be good at getting everything done. So now I have an official earth name, which is Leopard so that's what we get called by. So then I decided to come back and do more things with it [the Adventure Earth Centre] by going into the H.E.A.T program."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Dane: "The most significant change is that it has made me feel better about myself because I have always been accepted with the Adventure Earth Centre. Because there have been a lot of rude and negative people at my school who try to bring people down - but I try to bring people up instead of putting them down because I like positive things and not negative things. So I feel like everyone is so kind and it

makes me a better person to be around amazing people. I think it makes me kinder and better at having positive initiative.”

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Dane: “It makes me want to bring positivity to others. So in the future, like next year when I am fourteen, I am going to sign up as an official Youth Leader and volunteer cook for the Adventure Earth Centre so then I can non-stop help out with the AEC and Camp Mockingee. Then every summer or even throughout the whole year I will be doing programs and all sorts of different things with people involved with Adventure Earth Centre so then I can have a nice fulfilling job that makes me feel good and others feel good [when I’m older].”

MSC Story

Title of Story: Confidence

Name of Storyteller: Matthew Sophocleous

Location: Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre

Facility: Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre/Lebrun Centre

Date of Recording: August 16, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM’s services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Matthew: “So basically I was actually in a camp when I was a senior, and I always liked the way that the leaders were acting and that leadership role that they played. I always thought that I would love to be a part of that so in grade six I actually became a part of my school leadership team which helped me be more confident to actually join something like this, the Youth Leadership program. So this is my second year, and I started last year.”

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Matthew: “ I feel like I have become more confident speaking in front of children and in front of groups. Because before when I was speaking with children I was always like ‘Oh my goodness, what am I going to say? Am I going to make them happy, am I going to make them sad?’. So yeah, basically just getting more confident with speaking with children and even with groups in general. For example, I started in mid-July when I got put in my first camp as a youth leader and the first day was good, but I don’t think I was as involved as I could have been. One of the leaders suggested at the beginning of the day that I start off by leading an hour of the camp. It actually went really well, so one hour turned into two hours for the rest of the week. Eventually I was running them by myself and I felt really good. By the end of the week, I felt like I was very confident in explaining and just describing and speaking in front of groups.”

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Matthew: "When I am older, I think it [public speaking skills] will be important for situations where I have to speak in front of groups. Maybe for my job or in school. So yeah, basically that has taught me some leadership skills that will help me when I am an adult."

MSC Story

Title of Story: Job Skills

Name of Storyteller: Amy Schnare

Location: Captain William Spryfield

Facility: Captain William Spryfield

Date of Recording: August 16, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Amy: "I am currently a Youth Leader at the Captain William Spryfield Centre. [This is my] first time [in the Youth Leadership program]. [I first heard about the program because] someone came to our school and talked the different classes about the program. Our class didn't have the person come in to talk to us, but I saw the form for the Youth Leadership program and it looked really interesting and I wanted to volunteer with the program."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.

Amy: "I definitely got to meet a lot of new people through the program and I have had a lot of fun. I also gained leadership skills, and skills associated with working with kids, and getting to know the kids and stuff like that. [I like working with] the five to eight camp [the best]."

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Amy: "[With regards to making new friends] it's really good to have a lot of different relationships. [In relation to working with kids those skills gained] are good for [future] jobs and getting experience in general so [future jobs] are easier."

MSC Story

Title of Story: Leadership
Name of Storyteller: Program Participant #5
Location: YES Camp - Camp Mockingee
Facility: Citadel REC Centre
Date of Recording: August 3, 2017
Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Participant: "I went to REC Camp when I was ten. I thought it was really fun and noticed how helpful the junior leaders could be. So that is why I joined the Youth Leadership program. [I have been doing the Youth Leadership Program for] two years."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Participant: "I learned to be a better leader through the program."

Why is this story significant for you? *For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

Participant: "Well, I want to be a leader because in a lot of my school projects [that involved group work] we didn't really have a good leader because no one stepped up. [Because I have these leadership skills, when I am older] I might join the student council."

MSC Story

Title of Story: Comfort Zone
Name of Storyteller: Ian Paterson - Youth Leader Coordinator
Location: Cole Harbour REC Centre
Facility: Cole Harbour
Date of Recording: July 24, 2017
Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Ian: "So I started here as a youth leader around 6 years ago I guess, and I really liked it. And at first I guess I was hesitant about it, but then I really liked it. I don't know I guess I just really liked it, and I thought that I could get a job out of this eventually – I don't think that I would go further than that. But I guess as a youth I was like, yeah I can volunteer, it gets me good resume experience and I am all about

“go further, goal set, do things and that was a good way to do that and then I became staff and I really liked that. So I was youth leader, then I went to day camp staff and I did that for three years, then I applied for this (youth leadership coordinator) in spring and I got it. So now I am the youth leadership coordinator here. So I run the program that I originally started in. It’s really exciting, and I love it.”

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Ian: “I think just my comfort just talking to parents – like I did it as day camp staff but I find that the parents I deal with are more intense with youth then they are with day camp participants. So, with being a program instructor, you speak to parents and say like, your kid is doing so awesome with this, and with youth it’s more like you are trying to deal with the youth and their parents in one... I don’t know how to explain it. But I think just my comfort with talking to people in groups generally has improved a lot. And just how I am just speaking with people and my comfort level with public speaking and communication has really improved. And that is here and that is everywhere too. I mean calling people now; I am more comfortable with it because I am doing it all the time. And just talking with people”

Why is this story significant for you? *For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

Ian: “It’s huge for me really. Cause when I first started I was really quiet. Like I would talk to the kids then I would get to the parents I really wouldn’t know what to say. And as I became an instructor I became better and better at it and I began to like it because I could make the parents excited about sending their kids to camp, and that is what I really liked. You made the parents excited to send their kids to camp, and then the kids were excited. & I just loved that feeling that I was making them excited because I know that is a big part of us here. Like, how excited are you? So you can get the kids that excited. I really love that. And in my own personal life, like I was really quiet and I didn’t talk to a lot of people and with this job it has helped me so much with confidence and speaking with people and I just like it more now then I did”

MSC Story

Title of Story: New Skills

Name of Storyteller: Chelsea Fullerton

Location: Gordan R Snow REC Centre

Facility: Fall River

Date of Recording: July 20, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM’s services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Chelsea first moved to Fall River at the age of five or six. At this age, she was involved with camps, and her sister did the youth leadership program and really enjoyed it so Chelsea decided to sign up for it.

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

- Meeting new people and getting to know more people in the community
- Learning about diversity and inclusion and other skills (i.e., leadership skills, interview skills and resume skills).

Why is this story significant for you? *For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

- Learning new skills looks good on a resume, which could lead to future employment opportunities
- The skills learned through the youth leadership program are very applicable in everyday life (i.e., learning about things such as inclusion)
- Chelsea gained confidence to speak in front of crowds

MSC Story

Title of Story: Community

Name of Storyteller: Emily Irving - Inclusion Support Worker Staff

Location: Lakeside REC Centre

Facility: Lakeside

Date of Recording: July 25, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Emily: "Well this is my first time working with HRM doing the Recreation program here. I am an inclusion support worker for the camp. So I work with kids who might have behavioral difficulties or who might just need extra support with the camp or any type of disability."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Emily: "I've seen more of the community – like I never came to Lakeside before. I think it's great how the kids go on a lot of outings and field trips and while they are enjoying them, sometimes they are going to these places for the first time and it's my first time too. So I'm enjoying these places with the kids."

Why is this story significant for you? *For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

Emily: "I think it is important to know your community and what it has to offer – I know that I will take advantage of it from here on out. Like I will go back to the places that we've been to and informing others

of the cool places. It also helps me because I find out which places are accessible for people – which is good to know.”

MSC Story

Title of Story: Opportunities

Name of Storyteller: Kristen Winfield

Location: Carol's Corner

Facility: Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre

Date of Recording: August 3, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Kristen: “I first got involved when I was younger. I did the camps that we are now volunteering at. I heard about it [the Youth Leadership Program] through school. So I went to the orientation night with my night. So it all started there. This is my third year [participating in the program].”

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Kristen: “I have been given a lot of opportunities for volunteer hours, which looks good on resumes and when you apply to jobs. Yeah, so that kind of thing.”

Why is this story significant for you? *For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

Kristen: “[The volunteer opportunities have been important] because I have been able to give back to the community. You also get to have fun while doing it, because you are with all of your peers.”

MSC Story

Title of Story: Coming Out of My Shell

Name of Storyteller: Laura Botress

Location: Board Room Café – Barrington Street

Facility: Needham

Date of Recording: July 24, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Laura: "I became involved with Needham day camps when she was seven years old, then this year Savannah [the Youth Leader Coordinator at the Needham REC Centre] asked me if I would want to become a Youth Leader, and I said yes."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Laura: "I gained more leadership [skills]. I can have responsibility on children now, not just responsibility on toys or things like that. And then I can use that when I take care of my brothers, so it kind of helps me"

Why is this story significant for you? *For example, what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?*

Laura: "It would help me be a leader, so I wouldn't be someone who is shy. And like just go with what is happening if it wrong or right. So I am more of a leader and stand up for what is right, because I used to be shy. I am a little less shy [now]."

MSC Story

Title of Story:

Name of Storyteller: Savannah Buckley – Youth Leadership Coordinator Staff

Location: Board Room Café – Barrington Street

Facility: Needham

Date of Recording: July 24, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Savannah: "Well, my parents both worked for HRM, my dad worked for HRM. So it was just kind of just like – well this is what we are doing. So, I started when I was I was eleven with the youth program. Then before that, because I wasn't actually allowed to work, I would go volunteer at my dad's special events. So at Dixon's events and stuff. So I would face paint and stuff, so that is how I got my foot in the door. Then I got into the youth program, became a youth leader. Now here I am [as a Youth Leader Coordinator]. Yeah, we were just always involved with REC. It was in our blood type of thing. So it was kind of like, this is what we are doing. This is my second year [being the Youth Leadership Coordinator]."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Savannah: "I feel like sine I have started being the Youth Leader Coordinator, I have had more responsibility. I kind of learned how to balance things and I am a little bit more mature now that I am not just a camp learner and my sole responsibility is not just to make schedules and watch the kids. Like, now

I have people who I am looking out for and also doing the background work. So it has definitely taught me a lot more how to manage my time and how to actually do things. It's not like I just get to hang out all summer. I am actually learning how to talk to people and how to communicate with outside people. Since being a camp leader you learn how to build a relationship with parents. Since I am with the youth all the time, I know most of the parents and most of the youth because I have been there since their kid was like five. So they know me both outside of camp and inside of camp. So that is pretty great."

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Savannah: "it's definitely given me some guidance and I have figured out how to put my thoughts all together. I was lost before, and I didn't know what I was going to do with my life. Then I sat down and I was like, okay here are the steps, I know how to slowly get there. I have all this volunteer experience; I have all this extra background stuff. So I know this is my beginning, this is my step. I also know where I want to be in the future, so I know how to get there. I know that I need to put in time and organize myself. Like last summer it was my first time coordinating the program, and I was like, I have no idea what I am doing. [The program] didn't end up as great as I wanted it to be. I didn't know what I was doing. So I now feel comfortable, and I know that I can do this, and because of that I know that I can do anything else and this is a good first step."

MSC Story

Title of Story: All About the Skills

Name of Storyteller: Anna Jewers - Day Camp Leader Staff

Location: Sheet Harbour REC Centre

Facility: Sheet Harbour

Date of Recording: August 9, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: Meghan Smook

Tell me how you first became involved with HRM's services and programs and what your current involvement is?

Anna: "I came [to the Sheet Harbour REC Centre] last year. I learned about the program through Fabienne [the Youth Leader Coordinator] who is still with the centre. So she just told me about it. So now I am just a leader and I was a leader last summer as well. So I just do day camps mostly, most week days."

Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with HRM Services and Programs? *This change can be in your personal life, family life, or community. Please describe who was involved, what happened, where and when. If choosing one change is too difficult, feel free to describe more than one.*

Anna: "The leadership skills I would say. Because you need to take a leadership role when you come in to get the kids to pay attention to you. You learn different skills how to do that as a Youth Leader. So how to get the kid's attention in a good way. You also learn a lot about kids and stuff. Like I used to volunteer for the leadership program down at the library. So that is for grades 10, 11, and 12 and that was good."

But when you go to day camp you have to plan your own games, so I have learned planning skills and I have learned how to improvise with the kids. Because sometimes they don't want to play a certain game so you need to have a back up one instead."

Why is this story significant for you? For example what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?

Anna: "I think it is just good to have these skills in order to work with people in general. For instance, when you go to school, you need to socialize. With leadership stuff, like it is good to have these skills in case you ever need to present something. So it's good to have those leadership skills to be able to go out and do things. With kids and stuff, it is good when I come back to day camp, because I already have the skills from working with the program from the prior year. I am kind of used to it now, and it's good to have those skills because I can tell that I have retained those skills and I have learned from my mistakes last time. And I find it much easier now than it was last time. So I know that I have gained those skills. [These skills] just come in handy when you see kids, and you are able to play games with them. Like if you have little cousins and stuff. I now have the skills to be able to work with them. [With regards to planning skills] it helps with my time management, because you need to know how long a game is going to last and how to set an actual lesson plan. So I guess if you have a future job, it can come in handy. Because you have to say 'I'm going to do this at this time, and I'm going to do this then'. [Your employer] needs to know exactly when things are going to happen and if you are going to have your tasks done in time."