



Municipal District of St. Stephen INFORMATIONAL REPORT Report: Community Services Report April 2025

To: Jeff Renaud, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Kev Sumner, Director of Parks & Community Services
Resource Staff: Aaron Muzzatti, Jeremy McShane & Michelle Vest
Date of Meeting: April 30, 2025
Subject: Community Services – April 2025

Recommendation: That Council Accept this report for informational purposes.
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Community Services & Parks Monthly Report

We were approved for 3 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) positions in April, this number is considerably lower than previous years, last year we had 5 positions from the Federal grant and 9 positions in 2023 but unfortunately, we didn't receive as much funding this year. We were also unsuccessful in the Provincial SEED (Student Employment Experience Development) grant for the first time in 6 years, so with both grants we have seen a decline in positions, however we can still offer students the employment postings as we budget for a zero-funding scenario.

The former Visitor Information Center (VIC) kiosk has been removed by our Public Works crew, the concrete for the new VIC cabin will start once we get more consistent warmer weather (see the photo of the cleared VIC location) and the new cabin will be in place for July 1st.

The highway sign advertising St. Stephen as "Canada's Chocolate Town" has been damaged over the winter and Future St. Stephen will cover the cost of the replacement sign (see photo). The Oak Bay Community Hall roof has been renovated, please see Jeremy's report. We are also working with new and existing renters on the programming and events in the hall. We will begin mowing the grass around the hall and the SPCA centre in St. Stephen as the volunteers that carried out these duties have now stepped back from them. Spring Clean Up day in St. Stephen is scheduled for May 21st.

The Rotary Field project of adding more parking spaces and separating the ball diamond and soccer field is developing well, again I would like to thank the Public Works crew for installing the road on the field. Fencing should be installed in the next few weeks. Playground inspections continue and our Parks crew have returned for the season and they have started the Spring Clean Up of the parks and green spaces. Our staff will also be undertaking Commercial Pool Operators training in May in preparation for the outdoor pool season. Tennis court resurfacing and Milltown Pool projects are still scheduled for late summer/fall so they do not interfere with the summer months.

We have added security at the GCC for the three hours after schools close as we continue to see an increase in anti-social and inappropriate behaviour. This security service will stop when the arena is closed on April 28th as we are taking the ice out for a few months.

Aquatics – Aaron Muzzatti

Past Month's Events:

- a. The Therapy Pool is up and running as normal again.
- b. We have received concerns from users regarding the lack of jets in the Therapy Pool. The pool deck engineers have followed up with Acapulco pools (pool deck contractors) to determine the status of the warranty claim submitted on the jets in November, we are still waiting on that information.
- c. A \$2700.00 grant was received from the Fundy Community Foundation for the new Summer Multi-Sport programming. New programming will include Soccer, Lifesaving Sport and Track and Field.
- d. Interviews for multi-sport program instructors are scheduled to start through the first two weeks of May.
- e. The award for the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population under 20,000 was collected at the New Brunswick Lifesaving Society on Saturday the 26th of April.

Update on Aquatic & Recreation Programming:

- a. The Spring Session of swimmer lessons started on Wednesday 23, April.
- b. Spring Junior Lifeguard started on Saturday 26, April with 5 candidates.
- c. ASAP-2 swim education started on the 1st of April and will repeat every Tuesday and Thursday until the 5th of June with St. Stephen Elementary.

Facility Maintenance – Jeremy McShane

GCC - The Small pool boiler is back up and running as normal and we are waiting on information from the pool deck engineers on the therapy pool jets. Work will be going on creating more storage space in one of the former saunas, the other sauna is working well. The smaller therapy pool will also be drained, cleaned and refilled in June. The larger pool will also be drained and cleaned in June once the Milltown Pool is open and operational. Filters for the small pool will be cleaned in the first half of June as well.

St. Croix Publix Library – Jeremy continues to work very closely with the library staff and assisted with cleaning and garbage issues in the month of April and is working on securing the eavestrough that was damaged on the north side of the building.

Oak Bay Community & Fire Hall – A new shingled roof has been completed and as you will see from the photo in the report, new wi-fi has been installed for our users. A new compressor has been installed in the fire hall plus preventative maintenance work is planned on the front roll-up doors.

RCMP building – Jeremy continues to work with the RCMP members on Hawthorne Street and the property asset management team of "J" Division. The rear door of the attachment was not latching correctly so contractors are scheduled and pot hole work around the detachment is also being planned.

Events – Michelle Vest, Community Services Coordinator:

Current & Future Events:

- a) May 2nd – 4th – 2nd Annual St. Stephen Shopping Getaway Weekend
 - i. May 2nd – Municipal wide yard sale and Border Arena trunk sale
 - ii. May 2nd & 3rd – Charlotte County Home and Recreation Show at the GCC – currently 45% sold
 - iii. May 4th – Indoor Flea Market at the GCC + Community Registration session (sports, service providers, etc.)
- b) May 17th – IWK Kids Carnival at the GCC 11-3
- c) May 24th – Wall of Fame Banquet
- d) June 6-8th – St. Stephen Pop Up Play Place at the GCC
- e) June 17th – Grand March at the GCC
- f) June 20th – Canada Circus Spectacular at the GCC
- g) July 1st – Canada Day on the Waterfront with live music
- h) August 4th – Beat the Heat NB Day at the GCC (live music, inflatables, vendors, etc.)
- i) August 6th – 10th International Homecoming Festival
- j) August 11th – 15th – Ice Dogs Hockey camp at GCC
- k) August 20th – Sea Dogs Exhibition Game

Additional Information:

- l) MDSS will be running the Vendor's Market for one more season as the vendors working on creating a board will not be able to do so in time for this season. Market will run mid-May – end of September, 10am-2pm (one hour later start as requested by vendors, and better for staff scheduling)
- m) Ice is out April 28th to June 27th. We will be introducing drop-in ball hockey (like our "with sticks" program) and have roller skating sessions.
- n) MDSS will not be supervising BIA summer student this year; looking at utilizing current staff and expanding weeding area beyond BIA boundaries
- o) Old VIC building is down, new one to go up.

