



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Info Item No. 3
Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee
October 26, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Fall 2016 & Winter 2017 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.

In addition to semi-annual reporting, staff also committed to undertake a Youth Services Plan as a specific objective in the 2016/17 Parks & Recreation Business Plan approved by Regional Council. This report provides both the semi-annual Youth Engagement Report and an update on the implementation of the Youth Services Plan.

DISCUSSION

The attached Youth Engagement Report (Attachment 1) outlines youth activity over the Fall of 2016 and Winter of 2017, 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 2016 & Winter 2017 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 & Winter 2017

Prepared by:

Amanda Reddick, Community Developer
Parks & Recreation



Table of Contents

- Purpose** 4
- Youth Services Plan**..... 5
- Youth Engagement & Evaluation Method**..... 7
 - Most Significant Change (MSC) Data Collection 7
- Youth Programming** 8
 - Newcomer's Access Passes to Recreation Facilities and Programs..... 8
 - Free Programs offered through Parks & Recreation 8
 - Halifax Public Libraries 8
 - Leadership Training 9
 - Municipal Youth Employment Information 10
 - Recreation and Sport Programs 11
 - Youth Friendly Spaces & Places..... 11
 - Youth Events 11
- Parks & Recreation’s Youth Division** 13
 - Youth at Risk 15
 - What is At-Risk Youth 15
 - Youth Live Program 15
 - Youth Advocate & Souls Strong Program 16
 - Girls United Program..... 18
 - Adventure Earth Centre 19
- Action Items Update from Spring & Summer Youth Engagement Report** 21
- Conclusion & Next Steps** 22

Appendices

Appendix A - Municipal Youth Services Committee – Terms of Reference	23
Appendix B - Most Significant Change Story: Youth Live Program	24
Appendix C - Most Significant Change Story: Youth Advocate Program	25
Appendix D - Most Significant Change Story: Souls Strong	27
Appendix E - Most Significant Change Story: Girls United	29
Appendix F- Most Significant Change Story: Adventure Earth Centre	31
Appendix G - HRM Recreation Free Programs for Youth.....	32

Purpose

In May 2013, Regional Council directed the Community & Recreation Services (now Parks & 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 the Municipality. Further, staff was 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 the Municipality offered to youth over fall and winter 2016-2017.



Youth at the Adventure Earth Centre partake in arts and crafts

Youth Services Plan

The objective of the Youth Services Plan (YSP) is to ensure that municipal programs and services are meeting the needs of the youth, and will provide the basis for service offerings for the next three to five years.

Over the past two years, youth have been an integral part of the development of this plan. A youth team was established and helped to gain feedback from over 1400 youth. In addition to semi-annual reporting, staff also committed to undertake a Youth Services Plan as a specific objective in the 2016/17 Parks & Recreation Business Plan.

The Youth Services Plan provided the findings of a year long, youth-led process ensured municipal programs and services are meeting the needs of the youth of HRM. With staff support, the youth created and designed the survey, as well as delivered the engagement workshops.

Through the engagement process, seven key statements emerged, which were then developed into five strategic vision statements. Goals and objectives were then established for each of the strategic vision statements.

The data collected by the youth was “set in stone” and was not changed; this ensured the integrity of an authentic “by the youth, for the youth” process. Staff then reviewed the youth’s findings and created the objectives and action items required to make the plan operational.

The implementation of the Youth Services Plan is a three to five-year endeavor. On February 23, 2017, the Youth Services Plan was presented to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee and was then forwarded to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

The Municipal Youth Services Committee (MYSC) was established to oversee the roll-out of the Youth Services Plan. See Appendix A for the MYSC Terms of Reference. The MYSC is currently developing an internal structure and feedback process for the ongoing monitoring of the Youth Plan’s implementation. The MYSC will create a process that supports the “Most Significant Change” evaluation methodology to track youth experiences within HRM programs and services.



A special thank you to Abbey Campbell who helped Staff present the Youth Services Plan to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in February 2017

The Community Developer for Youth, with the support of the MYSC, will design and implement a process to receive regular feedback from youth across the municipality on the Youth Services Plan implementation. As part of the Youth Services Plan, youth will be engaged on municipal matters on an ongoing basis. To that end, over the summer months, the Community Developer for Youth worked with stakeholders to recruit members for the Youth Services Plan Youth Action Team. To view the full Youth Services Plan document, go to: www.halifax.ca/youth/plan.php

Youth Engagement & Evaluation Method

Most Significant Change (MSC)

As discussed in the Spring/Summer Youth Report, the MSC evaluation methodology has been adopted to record the experiences of the youth in HRM programs.

MSC explains HOW change comes about (processes and causal mechanisms) and WHEN (in what situations and contexts). It can be useful in explaining how an intervention (a project, a program, a policy, a strategy) is understood to contribute to a chain of results that produce intended or actual impacts as outlined in the Youth Services Plan.

The MSC approach involves generating and analyzing subjective accounts in the form of the collection of personal stories of change and deciding which of these accounts is the most significant – and why.

For this report, MSC stories were collected from youth involved in programs offered through the Parks & Recreation Youth Division. One story each was chosen from Youth Live, the Youth Advocate & Souls Strong Programs, Girls United and the Adventure Earth Centre. Once stories were collected by the MYSC, they were reviewed and then sorted by a domain of change. Domains (areas) of change can be pre-determined by the organization, or can organically emerge through the stories themselves. Regardless of how the domains are decided upon, they generally fall into four broad themes: a change in the person's quality of life; a change in the person's development; a change in the person's degree of commitment to a cause/organization, etc.; and a change that could not have been predicted. For this report, the domains of change were predetermined to align with the 5 strategic visions as outlined in the Youth Services Plan.

- Strategic Vision 1: Our services positively impact the mental health and physical wellbeing of youth
- Strategic Vision 2: All youth can access our services
- Strategic Vision 3: The municipality offers friendly and welcoming environments for youth
- Strategic Vision 4: Services are diverse and geared towards youth interests
- Strategic Vision 5: All youth are aware of the services offered by the municipality

See Appendices for Most Significant Change stories.

Youth Programming

Newcomer's Access Passes to Recreation Facilities and Programs

HRM Parks & Recreation offered recreation program / facility passes to newcomer families. The passes provided newcomers with access to recreation programs and facilities for one fiscal year. Recreation Programming provided \$38,269 of memberships and program fees for the period of March 2016 to April 2017.

The Multi-District Facilities also supported the newcomers. The Canada Games Centre issued approximately 5,200 day passes with the newcomer access pass, representing approximately \$35,000 in annual lost revenue; and the Dartmouth Sportsplex issued 9 memberships and 624 passes for an annual lost revenue of \$14,700. These figures assume that 100% of people eligible for the Welcomed in Halifax (WIH) program would have used these services.

Free Programs offered through Parks & Recreation

Throughout the fall and winter months, Parks & Recreation offered a variety of free youth programs. Programs ranged from hiking and sport to leisure and pastime activities, social activities and community events as well as cultural and art programs. *Please see appendix F for a list of free programs offered to youth across the municipality.*

Halifax Public Libraries

The Halifax Public Libraries offered several art programs at each library facility. These programs are drop in, and offer a variety of non-traditional art programs, such as access to technology, coding workshops, music recording, and other hands-on learning experiences.

Program Showcase: Alderney Gate hosted an Art Drop In during the fall, and 26 youth attended.

Leadership Training

Parks & Recreation

747 Youth participated in the following Parks & Recreation's Leadership Development opportunities: Youth Groups / Action Teams; Tutoring Opportunities; Youth Mental Health; Babysitter Training Courses; Youth Leadership Programs; Youth Live Program.

Program Showcase: Souls Strong at the North Preston Community Centre started a Youth Drop-In Leadership Training initiative that employs 4 youth from the program to lead the open drop in twice a week. Topics and activities for community youth are coordinated and developed by the youth employees.

Halifax Regional Police & Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The Halifax Regional Police's youth program takes place on Thursdays with 14 youth registered.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's youth program, called Stetsons and Spurs, for youth ages 12–17, takes place in Cole Harbour, East Preston and Lower Sackville. On average 33 youth attended this program.



The Preston Stetsons and Spurs Youth Program offered 'Cultural Youth

Empowerment for the Future' initiative in partnership with the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia, Community Justice Society, and the East Preston Family Resource Centre.

Facilitated by Parks & Recreation's Community Developer for Youth, and with input from the Stetsons and Spurs youth, leadership training modules were developed focusing on four main themes.

Prestons' Stetsons and Spurs – Cultural Youth Empowerment for the Future Leadership Training

The modules included:

1. Creating and holding safe group space
2. Anti-discrimination and diversity
3. Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC): understanding conflict and personal conflict styles
4. Group goal setting and organizing for social change

Fire & Emergency Services – Emergency Services Achievement Program

Fire & Emergency Services offered the Emergency Services Achievement Program (ESAP) that trained “at risk” young adults to overcome barriers so they can successfully enter the workforce and obtain meaningful employment.

The young adults, aged 18-30 years, were trained in employability skills, and then were 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 in total for the year). So far, this year, 11 youth have graduated from the program. The funding application for the 17/18 fiscal year is being prepared.

Fire & Emergency Services receives funding from Service Canada, and works in partnership with the Sackville Volunteer Firefighters Association, Opportunity Place Resource Center, and the employers that hire the participants. This training takes place as funding is available through Service Canada.

Municipal Youth Employment Information

Youth employment opportunities are offered across all the Municipality’s business units throughout the year, with the largest number of youth hired during the summer months by Parks & Recreation. The average age of youth hired was 18 years old. For Fall 2016 and Winter 2017, 688 youth were hired; 603 of these youths worked for Parks & Recreation. Please note that Halifax Public Libraries does not track youth employment numbers.

September 1st to December 31st 2016 – Employees aged 16-24:

Business Unit / Position	Count of Emp #
CAO	5
Finance & Information, Comm & Tech (FICT)	3
Fire & Emergency Services	9
Forum Bingo	13
Halifax Forum	14
Halifax Transit Services	7
Human Resources Services	1
Operations Support	2
Parks & Recreation	603
Regional Police	17
Transportation & Public Works	14
Grand Total	688

Recreation and Sports Programs

Some of the recreation and sport opportunities offered through Parks & Recreation included: community hockey dryland; minor basketball program; shooting drills; and fencing. Attendance for these programs and events across all recreation centres was 3,839.

Program Showcase: 160 youth participated in the St. Margaret's Bay Recreation Centre's Tae Kwon Do program.

Youth Friendly Spaces and Places

Strategic Vision # 3 in the Youth Services Plan defines the goals and objectives to create spaces that are welcoming and open for youth. The Youth Services Plan provides the following criteria as essential components of a youth friendly space:

- Open concept drop in space
- Gender neutral bathroom
- Provide ways for youth to “take ownership” over the space
- Friendly staff greeting youth when they enter the building
- Bright colours and bigger rooms
- Free food

Parks & Recreation offered the following programs in youth friendly spaces and places: healthy teen programs; youth nights; and drop-in programs. The combined attendance for these programs was 1,497.

Program Showcase: The Sheet Harbour Recreation's programming space now includes a 400 sq. ft. multi-purpose room. This allows staff to have more flexibility in program delivery, offering more for community youth. The multi-purpose room serves as a meeting spot for 15 girls participating in the After the Bell Walking Club.

Youth Events

Parks & Recreation

Youth Activity Night; a Bonfire Party; Fun Zone; Button Making; Teen Dances; and a Halloween Sleepover are just a few of the events organized by Parks & Recreation that attracted 2,604 youth.

Program Showcase: East Dartmouth held Youth Promoting Independence and Involvement in the Community and attracted 17 youth.

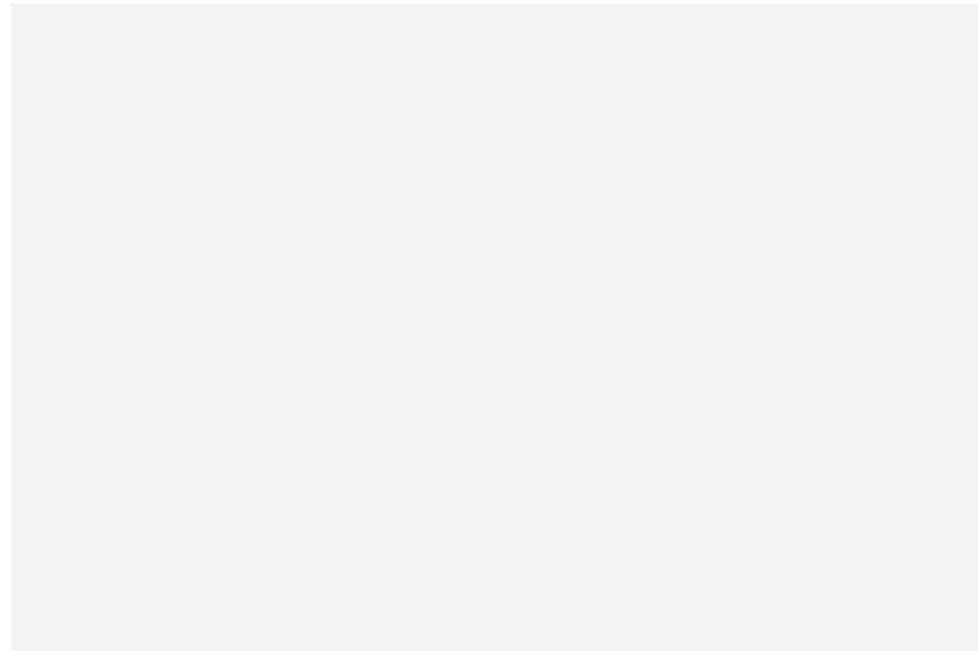
Halifax Public Libraries

561 youth attended Halifax Public Libraries movie nights & book and media discussion events throughout the Fall and Winter.

Program Showcase: The Halifax Central Library held Open Mic events over the fall and winter months; 643 youth participated.

WE Day Atlantic

The municipality hosted **WE Day Atlantic** on November 30, 2017.



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 the year long program that nurtures compassion in young people and gives them the tools to create transformational social change. Together they offer young people the tools and the inspiration to take social action, empower others and transform lives—including their own. 8000 students and educators from more than 315 schools attended this event. The theme “Me to We” inspires children and youth to volunteer and help others in their local community and around the world.



Parks & Recreation's Youth Division

The Youth Division, within Parks & Recreation, is an amalgamation of five principal youth programs: Youth Live; Youth Advocate & Souls Strong Programs; Girls United; the Adventure Earth Centre; and the Community Developer for Youth.



Parks & Recreation created the Youth Division in April 2015 to champion, and at times, lead the implementation of the Municipality's Youth Services Plan. In addition to the work being done by Division staff on the Youth Services Plan, some of the other

Staff of Recreation Programming's Youth Section attending their annual in-service day

work and highlights for the Youth Division over the fall and winter include:

- The Adventure Earth Centre
 - ✓ Programs were offered in the Fall and Winter at Fairbanks Centre, Shubie Park. Programs included: guided trail walks and hikes, youth leadership training, school programs and family Winterfest days.
- Youth Advocate, Souls Strong Program
 - ✓ In September, a delegation from the Canada-Israel Crime Prevention Working Group met with the Youth Advocate & Souls Strong teams. The purpose of the visit was twofold; first, to learn about the opportunities and challenges of operationalizing a pilot program like Souls Strong; and secondly, the Delegation wished to learn about how the Youth Advocate Program became a *Canadian Best Practice* in community based crime prevention.
 - ✓ The second annual evaluation of Souls Strong is underway, indications are that the Program is having a positive impact on the lives of young men and families in the community of North Preston.
 - ✓ In October, the Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada met with staff of the Souls Strong and Youth Advocate Programs. The Deputy Minister was given a briefing on the impact that both programs are having in the communities in which they operate.

- ✓ Youth Division staff are participating in the Nova Scotia Trafficking Elimination Project (NSTEP). NSTEP is coalition of organizations working together to develop strategies and systems to support women and girls involved in human trafficking. The Youth Advocate Program has been a leader in HRM in supporting girls as they transition out of sex work back to their families.
- ✓ In December, Youth Live hosted the Prince's Charities Canada: Prince's Seeing is Believing Tour. More information about this event is provided later in this report.

Youth at Risk

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

What is At-Risk Youth

The definition of an at-risk youth is broad. In some respects, all youth are at-risk in one way or another. The technical definition of an at-risk youth is a youth who is less likely to transition successfully into adulthood. Success can include academic success and job readiness, as well as the ability to be financially independent. It also can refer to the ability to become a positive member of society by avoiding a life of crime.

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 comprises of on-the-job training at Youth Live's Enviro Depot bottle exchange, end-of-life electronic recycling site and at the Commercial Enviro Depot which focuses on sorting diverted recyclables from the Otter Lake Land Fill, paper and used library book recycling, and green cart delivery and repair. The mentoring stream includes working along-side Youth Live staff that provide guidance and coaching, modules on life skills, and job skills designed to prepare them for their future.

Recruitment Process

The Youth Live Program offers continual intake. Each month, the program has 3 to 4 youth graduating and 3 to 4 new youth starting. Eligibility requirements include: falling within the age range of 16 to 24 years; must have graduated or have dropped out of school; and must not be employed. The youth can apply online (through 15halifax.ca/youthlive), e-mail ylrecruit@halifax.ca, text/call 902.579.4738 or message the program through Facebook.

See Appendix A for Youth Live's Most Significant Change Story.

www.halifax.ca/youthlive

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hfxyouthlive

Ages: 16-24

Number of youth currently in the Youth Live Program: 17

Number of youth graduated through the period of January – March 2017: 10

Prince's Charities Canada: Prince's Seeing is Believing Tour

Prince's Charities Canada (PCC) helps to support the Canadian charitable work of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This organization is a non-granting charity that helps to connect business leaders to community groups and organizations working with youth.

On December 2, 2016 PCC hosted an event called the The Prince's Seeing is Believing (PSiB) tour at Youth Live. PSiB is an experiential program for senior business leaders across Canada and is designed to close the gap between the boardroom and the community. PSiB takes executives out into the community during special Visit Days/tours to engage one-on-one with those affected by an issue (this tour focused on youth employment) and those already working to address it.

Through building understanding, PSiB seeks to leverage corporate thinking and responsible business practices to tackle social and community issues through systemic change.

As part of The Prince's Seeing is Believing tour, a Youth Live participant was invited to speak to the business leaders about her achievements in the program. After her speech, the youth was approached by a Human Resource representative from Sobeys and asked to apply for a position with them. The youth applied and was given a job at Sobeys.

Youth Advocate Program & Souls Strong Program

The Youth Advocate and Souls Strong Programs are neighbourhood based intervention programs for youth who are engaged in criminal activity and/or gang related activity. The aim of the program is to increase the youth and parent's ability to make better choices by celebrating successes, building up self-reliance, resiliency, pro-social skills, and by engaging them in constructive behaviours with family, school and community.

The Youth Advocate Program reaches out to youth ages 9 to 15 years old living in the communities of North & Central Halifax, Fairview/Clayton Park and Spryfield, North and Central Dartmouth, Woodside / Gaston Road and East Dartmouth, while Souls Strong supports young men between the ages 15 to 20 years living in the community of North Preston.

Both programs are guided by the following principles:

- Family Voice & Family Choice - ensures youth and/or family members lead the process.
- Neighbourhood based service that focuses on improving coordination and delivery of existing services because no single system can prevent or reduce delinquency on its own.
- Reducing risk & violence while building resiliency. Building on youth and family strengths.



The Youth Advocate Program is funded by HRM and is a core municipal service.

Souls Strong is a 5-year pilot project funded through Public Safety Canada; this funding will end in March 2018. In the summer of 2017 staff began to work on the options and opportunities for the future of this program.

Youth Advocate Program:

Number of Youth currently in the Program: 30

Number of Youth graduated between January to March 2017: 1

Number of youth who graduated between January to March 2017: 0



Youth Advocate Program (YAP) and Souls Strong Program (SS) on a trip to Ski Martock

See Appendix C for a Youth Advocate Program Most Significant Change Story.

See Appendix D for a Souls Strong Most Significant Change Story.

Girls United Program

Girls United is an outreach program of the Youth Advocate Program. It receives an annual grant of \$12,000 from the NS Department of Justice and is supported by staff of the Youth Advocate Program, as well as staff from Recreation Programming. Girls United focuses on girls, ages 12 -14 years old, who are either involved in the Youth Advocate Program or girls outside this program. The strategy is to use a wide range of activities and strong positive relationships to support girls who have experienced or have been exposed to gender specific risks. Program modules are delivered using a variety of methods: including outdoor adventure based pursuits; field trips; guest speakers; recreation; sport; health and wellness based activities.



Regional Girls United (GU) Group after a white-water rafting trip

Number of Youth currently in program: 25

See Appendix E for a Girls United Most Significant Change Story.

Adventure Earth Centre

Parks & Recreation’s Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) offers a wide range of programs and leadership opportunities designed to instill in children and youth a respect for their communities and for the earth. The AEC provides opportunities to connect youth and children with the natural world, to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle, to develop stewardship and leadership skills, to give back to the community, and to connect with like-minded people.



AEC “Guru” weekend – Elder Emile Gatreau facilitating a skill development workshop on connecting with the natural

Website: www.halifax.ca/Youth/AEC.php

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hfxaec/

Adventure Earth Centre Programs:

Fall / Winter Programs	Description	Age Range	Number of Youth
H.E.A.T	Through service and action projects, the H.E.A.T (Helping the Earth by Action Together) program provides opportunities for youth, aged 13 to 24 years, to develop their leadership skills and to increase their environmental knowledge. Some examples of the work done by the H.E.A.T youth include supporting the Spryfield Food Bank by organizing a Caroling for Cans food drive, teaching outdoor cooking, snowshoeing, and other winter activities at Winter by the Sea, an event celebrating winter activities for newcomers to Halifax.	13 - 24	50
MindShift	MindShift is a youth led and designed dramatic presentation about shifting our culture toward environmental sustainability. The H.E.A.T team presents at high schools, universities and conferences.	13 - 18	8 (AEC Team); 8 (Sackville High)
Re: Generations Camp	Re: Generations camp offers youth leadership opportunities within a camp setting. Youth are exposed to new activities, given the chance to lead program activities, take on leadership roles, and engage in planning and debrief processes.	13 - 24	

Fall / Winter Programs	Description	Age Range	Number of Youth
Adventure Earth Centre Leadership Team (including Guru Weekend)	AEC Leaders were invited to a “Guru” weekend. Leaders participated in workshops on outdoor skill development, community youth development, earth education, facilitation, and connecting to the natural world. 75 to 80% of AEC staff have come through these youth leadership development streams.	15 - 24	20

Action Items Update from Spring & Summer Youth Engagement Report

- Item 1:** Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice a year (fall/October and spring/April).
Update: Ongoing.
- Item 2:** Ongoing engagement of youth on the priority areas and identification of at-risk youth/communities will be necessary to ensure current youth programming is adequate and appropriate to meet the needs of youth.
Update: Ongoing.
- Item 3:** Implement the Youth Services Plan and report updates to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the next Youth Engagement Report.
Update: The Youth Services Plan is being implemented and early updates are incorporated into this report.
- Item 4:** The next Youth Engagement Report will provide an update on Parks & Recreation's Youth Division, which includes the Community Developer for Youth, Youth Live Program, Youth Advocate Program, Souls Strong, Girls United and Adventure Earth Centre.
Update: Complete. The data has been presented in this report.

Conclusion & Next Steps

As Parks & Recreation continues to engage youth, staff will be utilizing the Most Significant Change Method to collect the youth's stories regarding the impact that Parks & Recreation programs are having, as well as the regular attendance stats that have been collected.

Next Steps:

- Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice per year (fall/October and spring/April).
- The next Youth Engagement Report will be in a different format emphasizing the success of the Youth Services Plan, as well as to provide an update on Parks & Recreation's Youth Section initiatives.
- Ongoing engagement of youth on 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.
- Operationalize the Youth Services Plan's 2017 action items and provide updates to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.
- An update on the future of the Souls Strong Program.
- An update on a Youth Advisory Committee, as requested by Council.

Appendix A: Municipal Youth Services Committee Terms of Reference

Municipal Youth Services Committee (MYSC)

Mandate:

To develop (internal) and support (external) a meaningful HRM youth engagement infrastructure that contributes to operationalizing the Youth Services Plan as defined by HRM youth within a 3-5 year period.

MYSC goals:

- Develop an internal HRM structure and feedback process for ongoing monitoring of Youth Plan implementation.
- Ensure that youth programs and services are adequate and appropriate and meet the needs of all HRM's youth.
- Create a structure and processes that support the *Most Significant Change* evaluation methodology to track youth experiences with HRM programs and services as well as employment and volunteering.
- Organize/coordinate the YES Camp.
- Review and assess benefits for youth and for the Department, of the YES Camp, We Day, Teens Talk Now and other events that target youth.
- To develop some corporate parameters and protocol around youth engagement.

Membership Composition:

For more effective and efficient communication of process and planning, members determined that the MYSC should be fully representative of the various divisions within Parks and Recreation and other HRM stake holders that work closely with youth and/or have a desire to engage youth more meaningfully and strategically.

The MYSC membership consists of:

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 from each of the 3 municipal youth programs: Youth Live, Adventure Earth Centre, Youth Advocate Program and Souls Strong.

*in progress membership includes 1 Multi-District Facility and 1 Facility Lease Agreement representative, and 1 Municipal Clerk's Office Representative.

Appendix B: Most Significant Change Story: Youth Live Program

Title of story: NA

Participant First Name: Romeo

Age: 17

Location of interview: 947 Mitchell Street

Name of person recording the story: Darryl Spurr

Date of recording: January 10, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with the Youth Live Program?**

I wasn't in school, and I was not doing anything so I thought it would be a good idea to learn more skills and earn money while I'm doing it.

- **Looking back at your experience with us, what do you think has been the most significant change for you as a result of this program? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your community.**

Having more job skills. I had never worked before, so everything was new. Being here has showed me that I can do many different jobs like shipping/receiving, cash management, and customer service.

- **How has it affected how you interact with others? (family/friends/etc) For example: what difference has it made/will it make? Why do you think this difference is important?**

It has given me the confidence that I will need to apply for future jobs, and to be able to interact with others. But for right now I have decided to go back to High School and finish my education.

Appendix C: Most Significant Change Story: Youth Advocate Program

Title of story: NA

Participant First Name: Youth Participant

Location of interview: Jr. High School

Name of person recording the story: Troy Allen

Date of recording: March 21, 2017

Key Questions:

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

Struggling at home with brothers and family. Mom and dad split and it was a lot for a little kid. I wasn't the smartest kid. Struggling in school kind of. My Social Worker decided to ask my father about YAP. Then I did paperwork and met my guy Troy.

- **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 your 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 (using further forms).**

Being put in therapy helped a lot. Helped with getting closer to my dad. We had therapy sessions with my dad and talked about how to work through problems.

- **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?**

I think its important because it made my personal life and family life a lot better. For example, my father/son bond is a lot closer. Still not that close but better. Its important because I may have went on the streets and doing drugs like my brothers.

Appendix C: Most Significant Change Story: Youth Advocate Program Cont...

Title of Story: Change

Participant First Name: Youth Participant

Location of interview: Eastern Passage

Name of person recording the story: Youth Participant

Date of recording: March 22, 2017

Key Questions:

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

I first became involved around 3 years ago. I am now graduated from 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 your 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 (using further forms).**

The most significant changes were mine and my mothers relationship and schooling.

- **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?**

When I first started working with Dave & the youth advocate program I was in grade 8 but I was getting suspended all the time and eventually got kicked out in grade 9. Thanks to the help from Dave, I went to an alternate school. Me getting suspended and kicked always led to consent fights between me and my mom which usually led to me being kicked out. Now me and my mom have an amazing relationship and I'm currently in grade 11 on track and expected to graduate on time.

Appendix D: Most Significant Change Story: Souls Strong

Title of Story: NA

Participant First Name: DeShawn

Location of interview: North Preston Community Centre

Name of person recording the story: DeShawn

Date of recording: March 23, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with Souls Strong and what your current involvement is?**

I talked about the program with one of the leaders (Darryl Johnson) and he informed me about the program and how I could benefit from being in it.

- **Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the Souls Strong program? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your 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 (using further forms).**

Both teachers encouraged me to be more involved in community activities.

Appendix D: Most Significant Change Story: Souls Strong Cont...

Title of Story: NA

Participant First Name: Sheron

Location of interview: North Preston Community Centre

Name of person recording the story: Sheron

Date of recording: March 23, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with Soul Strong and what your current involvement is?**

I came in as a participant 3 years ago for Soul Strong and I'm working as a part-time worker for Souls Strong.

- **Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the Souls Strong program? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your 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 (using further forms).**

Before it wasn't that much youth, involved now it's a lot of friends and family getting together having snacks and doing activities and going on trips.

- **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?**

It's significant cause it makes us become one big family in our community.

Appendix E: Most Significant Change Story: Girls United

Title of Story: GetAir

Participant First Name: Youth Participant

Location of interview: Dartmouth, NS

Name of person recording the story: Youth Participant

Date of recording: March 24, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with Girls United and what your current involvement is?**

One of the staff asked me if I wanted to be in girls united 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 Girls united program? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your 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 (using further forms).**

Well over the past when I was going on trips I met new friends

- **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?**

Girls united helped me learn how to meet new people and be friends.

Appendix E: Most Significant Change Story: Girls United Cont...

Title of Story: Paint balling

Participant First Name: Youth Participant

Location of interview: Dartmouth, NS

Name of person recording the story: Youth Participant

Date of recording: March 23, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with Girls United and what your current involvement is?**

When I first became involved with girls united, one of the staff approached me and told me a little about the program and said you can have fun and open up to other people other than in the community.

- **Looking back over the last six months, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from the relationship with Girls united program? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your 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 (using further forms).**

Well over the 6 months I've met new friends from different places that are different colors and we hang even when we're not in girls united.

- **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?**

This will help me talk to other people and have the confidence to go learn more about other people and learn people about me.

Appendix F: Most Significant Change Story: Adventure Earth Centre

Title of story	How the AEC Changed Me
Name of Storyteller*	Oscar Hogan-Paul
Name of person recording story	Oscar Hogan-Paul
Location	Halifax, Nova Scotia
Date of recording	March 22, 2017

Key Questions:

- **Tell me how you first became involved with the Adventure Earth Centre and what your current involvement is?**

I attended the residential camps as a participant, and from there I was encouraged to stay involved. I am currently on the H.E.A.T staff team, and have applied for the position of Staff for the summer of 2017.

- **Looking back over the last month and a half, what do you think has been the Most Significant Change that has resulted from your relationship with the Adventure Earth Centre and your attendance at the AEC Guru Weekend? This change can be in your personal life, family life, or your 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 (using further forms).**

Since attending the Guru weekend, I have become more confident and assertive in my own social and leadership abilities. I have been taking more risks and chances both in my personal life and as a member of the H.E.A.T. staff team, and I believe that I have benefitted from it.

- **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?**

Since the Guru weekend, I have been more willing to put myself outside of my comfort zone. For example, I volunteered to lead a H.E.A.T. event, despite not being %100 sure in how the end result would turn out. Previously, I would've let someone else with more experience lead the event. But I decided that I could not only lead the activities, which is something that I'm very comfortable with, but I would also schedule the whole night, which is something I had never done before. I've also begun taking more risks in school, that I previously wouldn't have taken. I've been contributing more to class conversations, getting to know other classmates better, and using my own time efficiently to finish my work. I believe that these changes, and by extension the Guru weekend, will benefit me tremendously in my life. I'm more willing to try new things and step outside my comfort zone in ways I wasn't before, all of which are valuable traits to have in life.

Appendix G: HRM Recreation Free Programs for Youth

Open Gym times

- Bedford – LeBrun and Basinview
- Cole Harbour
- Findlay CC
- Harbourview School - Dartmouth
- Citadel CC
- St Andrews CC
- Needham CC
- Musquodoboit Valley (2 schools)
- Musquodoboit Harbour
- Leslie Thomas Jr High – Sackville
- AJ Smeltzer Jr High – Sackville
- Atlantic Memorial School in Shad Bay
- Dutch Settlement

Free Skates

- Bowles, Grey and LeBrun Arenas

Emera Oval

- Free skating
- snow shoeing
- skiing
- roller blades
- roller skates
- bikes
- skateboards
- scooters
- Nordic walking
- walking program Move it Halifax
- Nordic walking workshops

George Dixon Community Centre

- Drop in Floor Hockey
- Open Gym
- Open Gym in line skating
- HYPE – Free afterschool program for youth starting in October

Citadel Community Centre

- Making Tracks Bike Safety Session
- Volleyball for girls
- Basketball for girls
- Indoor Walking
- Tennis Lessons

- Intro to Nordic walking
- Table Tennis
- Floor Ball
- Badminton
- Floor ball
- Bike repair equipment lending
- Welcoming Wheels program

Isleville Centre

- Loose Parts Week

Needham Community Centre

- Basketball Drop in
- Youth Leadership
- Youth Program
- Family Fun Night Fridays

St Mary's Boat Club

- Canoe lending
- Adult Paddle Nights

Adventure Earth Centre

- Snow Shoe Clinics

Musquodoboit Valley

- Fit and Fab girls program
- Family gym night
- Musquodoboit Valley Fitness Centre
- Walking groups throughout the community

Sackville

- Friday Rocks Youth group
- Art Hive
- Board Game Lounge
- Drop in Badminton
- Hiking for all
- Indoor walking club
- Skate Jam
- Membership lending program
- Family gym games
- Recreation Day
- Scooter Jam

LeBrun Community Centre

- Cardio Kicking

Gordon R Snow

- Art Hive
- Art Group
- Teen Zone
- Scooter Jam

Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre

- Youth Lunch Drop-in program

Sheet Harbour Community Centre

- Badminton drop in
- Photo Hike - (Spring)
- Badminton
- Halloween Spooktacular (Fall)
- Holiday Surprise (Fall)
- Snow shoe workshops

Captain Spry Community Centre

- Teen Zone
- Badminton for youth

Hubbards

- Family Play Hike
- Snow Shoe Hike

Lakeside

- Youth Co-ed volleyball

Musquodoboit Harbour

- Yoga Day at the Park
- Free Family Movie – Offered monthly as a partnership with the Library
- Youth Floor Hockey
- Youth Basketball Drop In
- Hiking Club
- Soccer/Basketball drop in
- Basketball Drop in – Eastern Shore District High

North Preston Community Centre

- Youth After School Program
- Youth Drop in
- Summer open Gym Monday
- Youth Volleyball
- Passport to Wellness cooking with Nova Scotia Health Authority (as part of the Afterschool Program) - NPCC

- 8 weeks on Wednesdays for Junior high aged youth

Tallahassee Community Centre

- Youth sport drop
- Youth Badminton
- Youth Volleyball

Cole Harbour Recreation Centre

- Youth Basketball Drop In
- Badminton Drop in

Dartmouth North Community Centre

- Community Basketball Program
- Skateboard Event
- Show shoe borrowing program

Dartmouth

- Dragon Boat Clinics

Walking Groups – All

Swim Lessons – At beaches throughout the municipality