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Info Item 2
Community Planning and Economic Development
February 15, 2018

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee

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

DATE: January 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Spring & Summer 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 (CPED) regarding trends, issues, best practices, and actions taken with respect to youth programming.

DISCUSSION

The attached Youth Engagement Report outlines youth programs and services activity for the Spring and Summer of 2017 for: Recreation Programming, Halifax Public Libraries, RCMP and Halifax Regional Police.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff engaged youth to complete this report. Staff gained feedback from youth on the trends and issues presented in the attached report by visiting existing youth programs and events across the municipality.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 Youth Engagement Report – Update for Spring & Summer 2017

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Shawna Shirley, Community Developer, Parks & Recreation, 902.869.4202

Attachment 1

Youth Engagement Report

Update for Spring & Summer 2017

Prepared by:

Amanda Reddick, Community Developer
Parks & Recreation
January 8, 2018

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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 (CPED) 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 spring and summer of 2017.



Youth Leadership Program – Summer 2017
Youth Summit

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 has created a feedback process that supports the “Most Significant Change” evaluation methodology to track youth experiences within HRM programs and services. (See Attachment 1 - Most Significant Change Stories)

Youth from across the municipality have been an integral part of the development of the YSP. To gauge whether the YSP is achieving the outcomes expected by youth, the MYSC collected stories from 130 youth, over the spring and summer months. The MYSC membership includes:

- 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 and Souls Strong

A working group of staff has reviewed the youth’s key issues and created the objectives and action items needed to make the plan operational.

Key Collaborations

Over the spring and summer months, work commenced in the following areas:

An information workshop was created on the YSP. 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.

Work has been initiated on establishing a more robust collaborative working relationship with key HRM stakeholders to operationalize and to report on some 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 Clerk’s Office, as well as Corporate Communications.

A workshop curriculum has been prepared on “Creating Youth Friendly Spaces”. The workshop will be delivered to all levels of Parks and Recreation staff over the winter of 2018.

Youth Action Plan Update - Regional and Core Municipal Programs

Led by the Community Developer for Youth, the Community Recreation Coordinators of the Recreation Programming division of Parks and Recreation gathered together for a full day planning process. The day concluded with a draft *implementation plan* for the YSP for each recreation programming area. Recreation Programming staff will gather twice per year to review the implementation process, to share ideas and learnings, and to adjust the roll out of the Plan as required.

Strategic Visions

The Youth Services Plan has five strategic visions:

Strategic Vision 1: Our Services positively impact the mental health and physical well being of youth

Strategic Vision 2: All youth can access Parks and Recreation 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

Below are a few examples of how the YSP visions are being realized. For more detailed information on the progress being made on implementing the YSP at specific Recreation Centres, please link to the following site: www.halifax.ca/youth

Strategic Vision 1: Our Services positively impact the mental health and physical well being of youth

Youth Program Section

One of the Community Outdoor Recreation Coordinators is now trained to deliver the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to staff and youth and will be providing the first training to the Youth Section staff in December 2017.

The HEAT youth action team is offering mental health related workshops to youth at the Adventure Earth Centre (AEC) to train youth in having conversations around mental health.

Strategic Vision 2: All youth can access the Parks and Recreation services

Musquodoboit Valley:

Meet with schools to discuss opportunities to offer no cost programs during lunch hours and after school.

Tallahassee:

Provide bus tickets to any youth who may require transportation to/from programs.

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

Wave Pool:

Redesign the Kidston Room to make it appealing to youth for the Pizza and Board Game drop in night.

Lakeside:

Will convert soon-to-be empty office space into a new dedicated youth space. Space, accessibility, and budget are all being taken into consideration.

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

Needham:

In the fall of 2018, offer programs for the 16-20 and 20-24 age groups.

St. Mary's Boat Club:

For older youth, offer free Paddle Board, Kayak rentals, and youth sailing programs.

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

Fall River

Host a youth information session in June of 2018 to promote and clarify the importance of leadership programs.

Inclusion & Accessibility

Work closely with staff from the HRM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and staff from ISANS to develop appropriate Cultural Training & Marketing materials targeting newcomers and newcomer's youth to encourage participation.

Youth Section Manager Update

Pathways to Leadership Project

Coordinated through the Youth Program Section, Recreation Programming division staff have initiated the *Pathways to Leadership* project. This work is bringing clarity to the phases and progressions of leadership development within Parks and Recreation. Four leadership phases have been identified. Each phase includes broad categories that will inform the type of training and development opportunities that are required for young volunteers and staff who have leadership aspirations. Through the Pathways to Leadership project, training modules and workshops have been, or are being, developed and will be offered to all seasonal and part time Recreational Programming staff. The phases and developmental categories:

Developing Leaders (13 to 15 years)

Fundamentals of leadership: Exploration, establishing behavioural norms, self-assessment, self-managing (regulating), developing core competencies, organizational opportunities.

New Leaders (16 to 18 years)

Learning to lead: First job orientation to the HRM culture – mandatory training, HRM leadership values, expectations and practices, employment readiness skills.

Seasonal Leaders (16 to 24 years)

Aspiring leaders: Orientation to HRM systems, employment development, policy and procedures, situational, leadership & leading others, career aspirations, time management, technical proficiency.

Full-Time Leaders (19 to 24 years)

Leading leaders: Strategic leadership, leading functions & systems, leading organization.

Youth Advisory Council Update

A report was approved by Regional Council in January of 2018 directing that a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) be established to advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on municipal matters that impact youth. The report proposed that the age of YAC members be 15 to 24 years, and that it should have 12 seats – 2 each per community council area, and 6 at large positions; with representation from the: LGBTQ community; disability community; indigenous Mi'kmaq community; African Nova Scotian community; Francophone /Acadian communities; and newcomer communities. The YAC will be supported administratively through the Municipal Clerk's office and will receive overall guidance from a Leadership Team made up of key HRM staff and representatives from community stakeholder organizations.

Youth Engagement and Mapping

In February 2017, a motion from CPED requested a report outlining the opportunities and challenges of establishing a multi services youth centre in Sackville. An engagement process was initiated, over the spring and summer months, that reached out to youth serving organizations, as well to youth living in the Sackville community. A recommendation report will be submitted to CPED in February of 2018.

Information that was gathered from youth in the Sackville area, regarding the programs and services available to them and accessed by them in that community, was instructive, and will inform the types of programs and services that will be delivered in Sackville in the future.

Youth are generally satisfied with the programs and services that they access, and felt that the programs met their needs. They are aware of a number of programs and services available to them in Sackville and many participate in several of them. The reasons given for participating in their chosen programs/activity, included:

- they were given food (all youth identified food as a reason for attending a program)
- they could hang out with their friends
- it was free

Their reasons for not participating in a program included:

- no access to transportation
- age restrictions
- did not like or feel safe in the space or location
- too much was expected of them
- criteria for participation was too restrictive

Programs that the youth felt were not available to them in Sackville included:

- cooking programs
- employment programs
- tutoring
- mental health awareness

Concurrent with the youth engagement process in Sackville, a mapping process was carried out by Parks and Recreation staff throughout the Municipality. The purpose of the mapping process was to identify youth serving organizations and organizations that were inclusive of youth, in the community. The process identified 45 different organizations who offer a wide range of programs and services. Generally, the organizations fell into the following categories: Sports,

Recreation & Leisure, Community Service Groups, Faith Based Programs, and Education & Employment Services.

Community Developers Initiative - Youth Volunteer Awards

The nomination process for the annual Volunteer Awards is under review. Changes will be made to the process to ensure that it becomes more inclusive of youth. Work has begun to make the nomination process *youth friendly* and to make the Awards event format more participatory. Specific changes that will be introduced for the 2018-19 Volunteer Awards include:

- Diversification of the nomination process to allow video/audio submissions to become inclusive of communities with strong oral traditions, as well as individuals who are new to the English language or who experience literacy challenges.
- Adoption of a scoring criteria that reflects character qualities such as dedication, commitment, contributions and impact.
- To level the playing field, less emphasis will be placed on the total number of hours volunteered, so that youth volunteers with limited free time will not be disadvantaged.
- Changes to the nomination form will be made to allow youth to nominate other youth.

Parks and Recreation’s social media guidelines will be followed to maximize the Volunteer Awards reach to a more diverse youth audience.

Youth Program Statistics

RecKids / Access Pass Program Summary

Delivered through Parks and Recreation, RecKids 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.

Summer 2017 Access Funding Report per Recreation Centre

Area		# of Individual Children/Youth Support	\$ Approved Camps 50%
Bedford/Hammonds Plains		11	3,446
Lebrun Centre		0	0
Sackville Sports Stadium		0	0
Sackville Recreation		3	262

Area		# of Individual Children/Youth Support	\$ Approved Camps 50%
Fall River		1	99
Musquodoboit Valley		5	354
Cole Harbour		14	754
Tallahassee		6	1,550
Musquodoboit Harbour		0	0
Findlay		1	500
Dartmouth North		22	7,084
North Preston		30	1,283
Chocolate Lake		18	1,950
St. Andrew's		45	9,678
Lakeside		4	794
Sheet Harbour		0	0
Captain Spry Center		2	355
St. Mary's Boat Club		7	333
George Dixon		4	534
Needham		36	10,040
Citadel		10	1,092
Adventure Earth - Fleming Park		6	1,396
Adventure Earth - Residential Camps		24	5,450
Aquatics			
Captain Spry Wave Pool		7	377
Needham		0	0
Bedford Outdoor Pool		3	183
Sackville Sports Stadium		2	150
TOTALS		261	\$ 47,664

Access Passes, for a value of \$47,664, were used to subsidize the registration fees of 261 children and youth over the summer months. The Passes were used primarily to register children and youth in summer camps. The Peninsula, Mainland North areas of Halifax, and Dartmouth North saw the highest number of Access Pass usage.

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 March 31st to September 30th of 2017, the dollar value of distributed passes was \$684.26. Most of the passes were used by children for aquatics programs, with the remainder used by adults for various Arts & Crafts and general interest programs.

Youth Employment Stats for HRM (ages 16-24)

April 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017

Business Unit	Count of Personnel Number
Corporate & Customer Services	3
Finance & Asset Management	3
Fire & Emergency Services	10
Halifax Regional Police	12
Halifax Transit	9
Human Resources / Office of Diversity & Inclusion	1
Office of the Auditor General	1
Parks and Recreation	1802
Planning & Development	2
Transportation & Public Works	24
Grand Total	1,867

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 & Recreation hired 1784 youth over the spring and summer of 2017.



Total Number of Registered Youth

Parks and Recreation offered a variety of programs for youth over the spring and summer seasons. The number of youth registered in programs over the two seasons totaled 3958. The table below offers a breakdown of where youth were participating.

2017	Total Number of Registered Youth
Adventure Earth	485 (SPRING 283 / SUMMER 202)
Bedford – Hammonds Plains	129 (SPRING 23 / SUMMER 106)
Captain Spry	107 (SPRING 82 / SUMMER 25)
Chocolate Lake	112 (SPRING 34 / SUMMER 78)
Citadel	93 (SPRING 39 / SUMMER 54)
Cole Harbour	56 (SPRING 15 / SUMMER 41)
Dartmouth North	8 (0 SPRING / 8 SUMMER)
Findlay	142 (SPRING 64 / SUMMER 78)
George Dixon	1210 (SPRING 1070 / SUMMER 140)
Gordon R. Snow / Fall River	440 (SPRING 29 / SUMMER 411)
Lakeside	33 (SPRING 24 / SUMMER 9)
Musquodoboit Valley	12 (SPRING 0 / SUMMER 12)
Musquodoboit Harbour	142 (SPRING 0 / SUMMER 142)
Needham	117 (SPRING 87 / SUMMER 30)
North Preston	470 (SPRING 392 / SUMMER 78)
Sackville	48 (SPRING 0 / SUMMER 48)
Sheet Harbour	120 (SPRING 37 / SUMMER 83)
Saint Andrews	209 (SPRING 126 / SUMMER 83)
Tallahassee	25 (SPRING 9 / SUMMER 16)
Total	3958

Recreation Programming - Youth Program Summary - What was Offered?

Arts Programming

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation offered the following "Art Programming" opportunities: Sewing, Pottery, Painting, Art Workshops, Screen Printing, and Girls Art Club.

Program showcase:

Fall River hosted a Youth Art Show which 36 Youth attended.

Halifax Public Libraries

The Halifax Public Libraries offered several art programs at each library facility. These programs are drop-in.

Program Showcase:

The Halifax Central Library offered an Open Mic/Youth Performance night which had 496 youth attend.

Leadership Training

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation offered the following "Leadership Training & Youth Employment" Opportunities: Conflict Resolution, Outdoor Skills Practice, Transferable Skills, Marine Debris Presentations, Youth Leadership Programs, Youth Live Program, and employment opportunities at all Community Recreation Centres.

Program Showcase:

In the spring, approximately 200 Youth attended the George Dixon Centre for Youth Tutoring and extra help programs.

Youth Leadership Pilot

Led by the Community Developer for Youth, a community development approach was taken to initiate a mediation process between two groups of youth; newcomer youth and youth who have resided in the north end of Halifax for most of their lives. Over the spring, both groups were in conflict, with indications that the conflict was escalating and was drawing in extended family members and the broader community.

The Community Developer for Youth began a dialogue process, which included, at various stages: Hope Blooms, ISANS, the Public Health Authority, the YMCA Settlement Association, the Community YMCA, the Community Recreation Coordinator of the George Dixon Recreation Centre, and the District Councillor.

A product of the dialogue sessions were the following goals:

1. To build conflict management and community building capacity in the North End youth community.
2. For youth to spend more time together and create more opportunity for cultural and personal understanding and meaningful friendships.
3. Enhance and create a unique and distinct Peer to Peer model of mediation and leadership.
4. To have fun together!

Parks and Recreation's contribution to achieving the above goals, in part, was to develop a Youth Leadership program designed to bring youth from both communities together. Approximately 20 youth were identified as being primary actors and participants. In the conflict, many of the youth were seen to be leaders. The youth were invited to participate in the Youth Leadership Pilot offered through the George Dixon Recreation Centre. With the support of an ISAN interpreter, many of the youth leaders are now participating in the Pilot. They are receiving training in Dialogue for Peaceful Change (community based conflict transformation), First Aid and CPR, Mental Health First Aid, Critical Incident Stress Management, ASIST (Suicide Intervention), and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.

Youth Friendly Spaces and Places

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation offered the following "Youth Friendly Spaces and Places" opportunities: Youth Nights, D2Y, Youth Leadership Information Sessions, and Youth Leadership Program.

Program Showcase:

In the Spring, 30 youth attended the Uniacke Square Beautification Day.

Youth Events

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation offered the following "Youth Event" opportunities: Youth Dances, Ice Cream Socials, Youth Spirit Days, Fun Zones & other socials.

Program Showcase:

17 youth attended the Adventure Earth Centre's End of School Party.

Halifax Public Libraries

The Halifax Public Libraries offered off-site programs for youth. 690 youth attended several Open Mic/ Youth Performances events over the spring and summer months.

Program Showcase:

The Woodlawn Public Library offered a film night in the spring which was attended by 40 youth.

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 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.

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency

The Emergency Services Achievement Program 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. 12 youth attend this program at any given time.

Recreation & Sports Programs

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation offered the following Recreation & Sport opportunities for youth: Basketball, Floor Hockey, In-Line Skating, Sports Conditioning, Fencing, Badminton, Yoga, Gymnastics/Tumbling, Fitness Classes, Open Gym drop in programs, rock climbing, snow shoe hikes and youth open swims.

Program Showcase:

In the spring, 75 youth attended the night-hoops program at the Needham Centre.

Program Showcase:

In the spring, the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre hosted an Open Gym program for youth. The program took place afterschool on Mondays and was accessed by youth 628 times.

Youth Events

Parks & Recreation

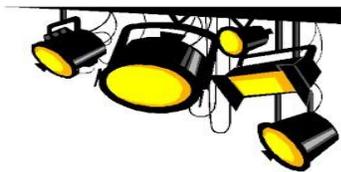
Parks & Recreation offered the following “Youth Event” opportunities: Youth Dances, Festival &

Events, Coffee Houses, Movie Nights & other socials.

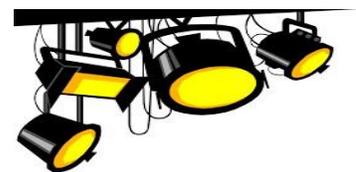
Program Showcase:

The Dartmouth North Community Centre hosted the “Dartmouth Norths Got Talent” show during National Youth Week in the spring. 120 youth attended this event.

Over the summer months, festivals and events are offered in many communities across the municipality. Some have a “youth theme” such as Natal Day’s Esso Youth Showcase (20 youth performers / 5000 youth attended), while others give youth an opportunity to volunteer at the event. (25 youth volunteered at the Clam Harbour Sandcastle Competition.)



In the Spotlight



In addition to the programs and events municipal staff offer to youth through recreational activities and programming, there are countless individuals and organizations working in communities across the HRM that also make a difference in the lives of many youth. Jay Aaron Roy is one of those individuals.



Liked by **folkspllosion, gh0stdoe** and **27 others**
jayaaronroy #HalCon2017 with these goofs! Plus
Theodora soon, and Jessie tomorrow and
Sunday! #HalConCrew #comicshoptings
#Halifax
@halcon_scificon

SEPTEMBER 22

In the Spotlight – Community

Born and raised in Fall River, Nova Scotia, Jay Aaron Roy is a local advocate, and the creator, owner, and operator of Cape & Cowl Comics & Collectibles in Lower Sackville. Cape & Cowl is a neighbourhood comic and game shop that promotes diverse representation, community connection, love for literacy, and is home to the Leighann Wichman Safe Place drop-in for vulnerable and rainbow youth. Opened in late September of 2014, Jay and the fans of Cape &

Cowl will be celebrating three years in business this year! Jay is humbled and honoured by being named a Local Hero by Hal-Con Sci-Fi Con, and promises to continue to work hard in promoting inclusion, safe spaces, and community initiatives.

Cape & Cowl has hosted hundreds of events for the Lower Sackville community, including paint nights, singing bowl therapy sessions, D&D and video game clubs, Card gaming clubs, parent/baby drop-ins, literacy events, Free Comic Book Day, seasonal craft fairs, hosting educational PRIDE events at local venues, and over 150 affordable birthday parties to local families. Cape & Cowl offers a drop-in safe space to local counselling therapists at affordable rates, so that sessions can be offered to local community members, removing the stigma and anxiety of visiting a medical setting. Cape & Cowl is also proud to support over 70 local artists that create and sell works through the shop which include many local youth, and are featured during our craft fairs.

Cape & Cowl has over 40 youth volunteers who help with birthday, conventions, and special events. Cape & Cowl is committed to challenging racism, homophobia, and transphobia, and gives priority to welcoming volunteers from the rainbow community who have a more difficult time finding safe and accepting work environments.

In the Spotlight – Staff

The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) presented Terri Peace with a 2017 Award of Excellence in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, on May 20th. This award recognizes individuals and organizations that have collectively influenced hundreds of thousands of Canadians, and helped implement one of EECOM's key goals – to advance environmental learning, ensuring Canadians are environmentally literate, engaging in environmental stewardship and contributing to a healthy, sustainable future.



“Terri’s passion for environmental education and youth change was shown to us today with the student performance of Mindshift. As a programmer at the Adventure Earth Centre in Halifax, she has shaped several lives, not only of the student performers, but the outreach they have done. The Re-Connecting with Nature initiative has taken off and been very successful in Nova Scotia. In the last two years, the Re-Connecting with Nature workshop has reached nearly 250 leaders with an outdoor, experiential program and been very well received. This workshop series has reached as many leaders in 18 months as the NS Outdoor Leadership Development Program, which previously provided environmental education, interpretation and recreation leadership workshops, reached in 15 years”.

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

April 2017 – September 15, 2017				
Program Name	# of Youth in program since April 1	# Youth Graduated	# of referrals/ inquiries to program	Program Capacity (<i>space available</i>)
Youth Advocate Program	30	5	29	30
Souls Strong Program	2	8	0	30
Girls United	14	0	3	N/A
Youth Live Program	18	13	15	20
Emergency Services Achievement Program	12	12	-	6

Youth Advocate & Souls Strong Programs

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 Youth Advocate Program reaches out to youth ages 9 to 15 years old living in the communities of North & Central Halifax, Fairview and Spryfield, North and Central Dartmouth, Woodside / Gaston Road and East Dartmouth. Souls Strong supports young men between the ages of 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 and 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 January of 2018, a confidential recommendation report to Regional Council was submitted to the Board of Police Commissioners. Direction regarding future programming has been given by Regional Council and will be implemented by staff over the next few months.

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 from Recreation Programming. Girls United focuses on girls ages 13 - 15 years old who are either involved in the Youth Advocate Program or girls outside this program. The program uses 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.

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 includes business operations and mentoring. Business operations comprises of on-the-job training at Youth Live's Enviro Depot bottle exchange and end-of-life electronic recycling site and at 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 and, as well, youth receive modules on life skills and job skills designed to prepare them for their future.

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.

Youth Leadership Program (YLP)

The Youth Leadership program offered by Parks & Recreation is for youth ages 13+ (or those whom have completed grade 7) who want to learn leadership skills, take part in social activities, work with children, and give back to their community. This program is not a full-time commitment; times vary in each community. Summer staff were hired to work in the summer program. These staff range in age from 16 to 24+ years old.

The Youth Leadership Program offers three different levels of training and commitment:

- Level 1: For younger youth with no previous leadership experience.
- Level 2: For youth with some previous leadership experience.
- Level 3: For youth ages 14+, who have previous leadership experience and are ready for more responsibility.

Typically, Level 1 and 2 youth participate in group training and lead group activities on a limited scale, while Level 3 youth volunteer on an individual basis and lead activities on their own or with a partner. In groups, youth plan and implement a community action project in the community where they are participating in the Youth Leadership program. Community action projects range from raising money for the local food bank, or volunteering at a senior’s home, to carrying out a community clean up.

- 🚧 Summer 2017 Youth Leadership Program Attendance: 645
- 🚧 Average number of volunteer hours completed by each youth: 28 hours

645 youth participated in the Youth Leadership Program. The decline in registration in 2016 provided an opportunity for Recreation staff to expand programming into areas with high wait lists, to ensure that all youth had the opportunity to participate. This resulted in an increase in youth registrants in Summer 2017, providing a capacity to accommodate all interested youth.

Training Modules

All Youth Leadership participants receive a variety of training and leadership skills. Varying by Recreation Centre, the youth participated in the following modules throughout the summer of 2017: Inclusion & Diversity, Interview Skills, High 5, Program Planning, Public Speaking, Time Management, Budgeting, Leadership, Safety, Team Work & Participation, Social Media, Bullying, and Community Action.

Community Action

Community Action is at the core of the Youth Leadership Program. Each youth has an opportunity to brainstorm, plan and implement a community action project. For the summer of 2017, youth were tasked with brainstorming a community action event early in the season which gave them a longer time to plan, to develop and distribute promotional materials. Some examples include:



Family Fun Day

Carnival style games, activities, relay races, face painting etc.
Aug. 19 | 4 – 8pm
Musquodoboit Harbour Peace Park

Community Chalk Day

Aug. 22 | 10 a.m. - noon
Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre

Community Clean ups

Aug. 21 | 9 a.m. - noon
Citadel area - south end
Aug. 23 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Dartmouth North Community Centre

Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser (bring your dog)

Aug. 23 | Noon – 3 p.m.
Acadia School Cost: \$2

Tie-Dye and Clothing Drive

(Bring your own item to tie-dye)
Aug. 23 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Bedford Hammonds Plains

Trail Celebration Day

Aug. 24 | 1 – 3 p.m.
Gordon R Snow Community Centre

BBQ/Bake Sale

Aug. 24 | 5 - 7 p.m.
Cole Harbour Recreation Centre

What are Youth Leaders doing in their Communities?

Leaders from Chocolate Lake, St. Andrew's Centre, Captain Spry Community Centre and Lakeside Community Centre joined forces on Thursday, August 24th, to host a Fun Day for all the day camp participants from their centres. Youth Leaders led field games, craft making, face painting, carnival games. As well, they hosted a bake sale with proceeds going to a local charity.

Along with the Community Action plans, the youth participated in several socials throughout the summer. Except for dances, all socials were planned by the program youth.

Some of the social events youth organized and/or participated in included:

Kayaking and canoeing, boardroom café, field day and BBQ, trip to the Discovery Centre, bowling, rock climbing, movie nights, swimming, a trip to the Clay Café, Youth Leadership Summit and YES Camp

Youth Summit - August 11, 2017



This summer marked the 2nd Annual Youth Summit conference. 229 youth attended the Summit. The event attracted Youth Leadership Coordinators (YLCs), some Community Recreation Coordinators, and many external people and groups throughout the day. The YLC had a variety of responsibilities throughout the day, from crowd pushing to running the wellness breaks, handing out snacks and lunch or managing technology. Summer Managers, Youth Leader Coordinators, and Youth Leader participants organized the entire event including, budget tracking, securing keynote speakers, organizing breaks, community outreach and scheduling volunteer organizations to set up booths related to employment, education, volunteerism and sports. For the full Youth Summit Report follow the link: www.halifax.ca/youth

How does the Youth Leadership Program impact the Youth?

During July and August 2017 one on one interviews with Youth participants, Youth Leader Coordinators and summer staff were conducted. More than 130 Most Significant Change stories were collected from the Youth Leadership Program. The summary of the data below provides some information on the value youth place on the program and the importance of summer employment opportunities for youth across the municipality

Youth Leadership Program: Youth Participants (13-15 years old)

- Patience with themselves, children and adults
- Being part of the program made it easier to make new friends from different areas and backgrounds
- Understanding and valuing difference
- Growth in confidence
- The feeling of leading versus following and the difference it makes in decision making
- Making friends with similar values and interests
- Elevated sense of responsibility transferred to helping-out more at home with family matters and in community

Youth Leadership Program: Youth Leader Coordinators (Summer Staff / 16+ years old)

- Feeling more prepared for aspects of employment i.e., interviews, time management, budgeting, public speaking
- Easier to network for future jobs
- Feels possible to reach high with the sense of achievement with the levels in the program
- A growth in the sense of responsibility to the community, bringing people together and staying connected
- Growing comfort level with being themselves, more confidence
- Helps with thoughts about career choices
- A stronger sense of responsibility and trust their own abilities

Many of the Youth Leadership Coordinators have been a part of Parks and Recreation for many years, as campers and youth leaders. Many of the youth leaders identified an interest in gaining employment with Parks and Recreation, and wish to continue their journey through the Youth Leadership program.

Youth indicate that their experiences in the Youth Leadership program has helped them become better citizens, to gain confidence in themselves and in their abilities, to understand youth, to obtain proper skills to help them move forward with their career aspirations.

Action Items from Fall 2016/Winter 2017 Youth Report

<p>Item 1: Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice per year (fall/October and spring/April).</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing.</p>
<p>Item 2: 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 Youth Section initiatives.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing. Youth Services Plan updates will become a main feature in further reports. Complete. The update on Parks and Recreation Youth Section is included in this report.</p>
<p>Item 3: Engagement of youth in 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.</p>	<p>Update: Ongoing. Priority areas and identified at-risk youth are increasing included in leadership programming.</p>
<p>Item 4: Operationalize the Youth Services Plan's 2017 action items and provide updates to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.</p>	<p>Update: Complete. The information is presented in this report. A comprehensive update including all recreation centres will be included in all future Youth Engagement Reports.</p>
<p>Item 5: An update on the future of the Souls Strong Program.</p>	<p>Update: Complete. The information is presented in this report. Direction on future programming has been given by Regional Council.</p>
<p>Item 6: An update on the Youth Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Update: Complete. The information is presented in this report. Direction to implement the Youth Advisory Committee has been given by Regional Council.</p>

Next Steps

- Continue to provide Youth Engagement Reports to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee twice a year (fall/October and spring/April).
- Continue to integrate a new reporting structure that is inclusive of successes and opportunities in operationalizing the Youth Services Plan.
- 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 Souls Strong program.
- Provide updates to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on the Youth Services Plan.

Attachments

Most Significant Change Testimonials

Participant First Name: Jared Taylor

Location of interview: Youth Live 947 Mitchell

Name of person recording the story: Courtney Matheson

Date of recording: July 7, 2017

Key Questions:

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

Well I was looking for work and my mom's friend's kid had gone through the program. I applied and got an email for an information session. Then I had an interview and got accepted!

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?

Work ethic, undoubtedly. The only real jobs I had I only worked once a week and couldn't make it through the second one. My endurance is up and more capable of a lot more things than I thought I ever was.

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?*

Generally, I have learned more about working in a team and making sure I am coming up with creative and simpler methods to get things done. I am a very social person and this has allowed me to reach out to people I would not have ever met before. It gave me the confidence to get my license as well.

If you could give advice to a new Participant what would it be?

Find ways to beat the heat and treat yourself a little bit. Find something to look forward to to get through your days easier.

Youth Advocate Program/GU

Title of Story: Branching Out
Name of Storyteller: Patrick Andrew
Location: Adventure Earth Centre - H.E.A.T Staff Member
Facility: Adventure Earth Centre
Date of Recording: August 14, 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?

Patrick: "I first started being involved when I was twelve, I did one of the overnight camps with the AEC. Since then I did three overnight camps as a participant with them, and then I started leading day camps as a youth leader. Then I was asked to become a leader with some of the overnight camps and then this past school year I was a Leader in Training with the H.E.A.T program throughout the fall, winter and spring. This summer I am a program staff with 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.*

Patrick: "In the past, throughout the school year I have been focused on only school. I haven't done much outside of school, I used to play soccer, but I haven't done that since grade eleven, two years ago. I think in the past six months throughout the school year, being with the H.E.A.T group has helped me become more involved. As a result of being more involved outside of school, I have started to do more activities in school as well. I have become more involved with the student council and I had to take some initiative within the school program I was in, I was in the IB program, so I had to do a bunch of extra-curricular stuff anyway. But I think being involved with the H.E.A.T program really helped me branch out and do more than what was necessary. So I did more than the minimum amount of hours of volunteer work. I think the H.E.A.T Program really helped me branch out and do more than I would have."

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?*

Patrick: "It really helped me make connections. I used to be quite an introvert. I really didn't branch out very much. I kind of kept to myself. I think being a leader with the H.E.A.T program has helped me really make relationships with people and get to know people better. Especially when you are working with a large amount of youth all year and you are going to be working with them once a week, or twice a week, it is really important to build relationships and get to know people. I think the H.E.A.T program has helped me branch out in that way as well

because I have notices that I am less introverted now. I think the primary factor is my involvement with the H.E.A.T group. I think it has really pushed my personality in that direction.

Title of Story: Learning From Others

Name of Storyteller: Laura Cutherbertson

Location: Lakeside Field Day

Facility: Bedford Hammonds Plains/Lebrun

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?

Laura: "I started with [the camps] in Kinders, then I went to juniors, then I went to seniors and now I am a Junior Leader."

Meghan: "Okay, sweet. And how many years have you been doing the Junior Leader program?"

Laura: "One year - this is my first 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.*

Laura: "Probably a change in my friend group, because in I have definitely made friends with some younger kids. I also think that I definitely stepped out of my comfort zone just being with younger kids for like a week."

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: "If I would ever want to get a job, I would have experience with younger kids and with older kids. Also, I guess being with kids is good and I get to work with different types of people and learn how they do different things."

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 apart 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."

Title of Story:

Name of Storyteller: Marisol Rocha

Location: Camp Mockingee (YES Camp)

Facility: Captain William Spryfield

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?

Marisol: "I started with swimming lessons when I was like three, and did it all the way through, then finished swimming lessons and did the other swimming programs like Bronze Medallion. I also did some camps, like the 5-8, and the 9-12, and just some other things, like intro to volleyball. I used to do junior lifeguarding with HRM and now I do the Youth Leadership program for one 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.*

Marisol: "With the Junior Lifeguarding and the Youth Leadership I made a lot of new friends. With the Junior Lifeguard I know more people at the pool, so I think it will be easier to get a job later for a swim teacher or a lifeguard. It really helped just knowing things like first aid and with the youth leadership program we have learned skills through the training modules."

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?*

Marisol: "It will help with [future] job [prospects]. Just knowing the pool manager. I know older friends that have gotten jobs and it helped them, just being at the pool more often and being able to help out. Also, just being able to make new friends, because some of my friends I have met through junior lifeguard. Also the Youth Leadership helps if you want to become a Leader."

MSC Story

Title of Story: Learning to Be Myself

Name of Storyteller: Megan DeAdder

Location: Camp Mockingee - YES Camp

Facility: Chocolate Lake

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?

Megan: "I first became involved in REC. I learned about REC when my friend they did it, and my other friend was going to do it [the youth leadership program] but she didn't get in. So it was only me doing the program. So I just kind of did the [youth leadership program] by myself and from then on I just kind of became more independent and I really liked the program. It taught me a bunch of things about kids, and I learned about myself along the way as well. [I am currently in the] Chocolate Lake Youth Leadership program [in level] three."

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.*

Megan: "It has helped me be more open and meet people and just be myself instead of being someone else who people like. So I am just kind of more independent, making better choices, and being less of a follower and more of a leader. Because I have been able to lead kids and giving the future confidence. It also helps with future job prospects."

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?*

Megan: "Well these skills gained will help me get a job and will help me in university. It also builds your character and who you will be in the future. I know that it helps me be a better people, because I am able to help people. In the future I will still feel compelled to help other people as well."

Title of Story: The Importance of Professionalism
Name of Storyteller: Matt Abarbanel – Program Staff
Location: Camp Mockingee - YES Camp
Facility: Chocolate Lake
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?

Matt: "One week in the summer, my mom was away so she had to put us into a day camp. So that is where my adventure with HRM started. Officially, my current role is Program Instructor but I have been doing a lot of stuff with the YLC at Chocolate Lake. [I have been a program instructor for] four, four and a half years. I started out volunteering at Chocolate Lake's after school programs then I started doing day camps, then eventually I weaseled my way into getting a job at Chocolate Lake. For me, this is currently a two month position."

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.*

Matt: "I would say that the biggest change I experienced is that I am more comfortable talking to large groups now. Like when I was a kid it was a massive fear of mine. Like going up and talking to people because I didn't know what to say. So yeah, I would say that speaking in public has been the biggest change. Another change that I have really liked has been my sense of professionalism that has developed. I literally started working for HRM the day after I turned 16. When I am looking back at it now, I wasn't necessarily the most professional person - I was 16. But through a lot of mentorship, Keith Blackburn at Chocolate Lake, and Karen Lowry who is retired, Keith especially pushed me towards being a lot more professional."

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?*

Matt: "As a kid I used to have fairly bad anxiety about meeting new people, but now because of my work at Chocolate Lake, talking to large groups of people and interacting with people that anxiety has sort of been tamed. I don't know why it's important to me - it's just a skill that I have. I don't view it necessary important to my identity. But definitely the professionalism is very important to me. Professional skills are something that you need. The industry that I am going into is very focused on being professional. Like signing your name to things, and taking responsibility for your mistakes, and owning up to your mistakes and saying 'this is how I am

going to learn from it'. It is also just being generally respectful in the workplace and thinking about any ramifications that your actions can have. Also, professionalism also kind of fits into following the rules. So understanding the paperwork that is involved with the job [is important]. I definitely value the professionalism because it is a skill that I would like to have. I see a lot of people, some of them are my friends, like this one guy I was talking to was 26, and he has never held a job because he doesn't have those professional skills. I just realized how lucky I am to you know, have those skills, and I can keep a job and I can consistently do a good job."

Title of Story: Camp Courage

Name of Storyteller: Cheyanne Hardy

Location: Dartmouth, NS

Facility: N/A

Date of Recording: August 18, 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?

My mom received a flyer in the mailbox about Camp Courage. She thought I might be interested. She was right! I applied and got accepted.

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.*

I guess the most significant change has been the new relationships you have formed with the other campers. Through Camp Courage we had to learn to work together and push ourselves when we went well beyond our comfort zones. Together we learned that we could do anything. Together we learned that as women, we could do anything.

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 have always had a respect for first responders. My dad is a dispatcher, my [mom?] is a police officer and so I have always had positive stories about police, fire and ambulance services. Once I was in a car accident and the first responders were incredible, so when I got the call from Andrea Sperenza that I was accepted into Camp Courage I was ecstatic! I couldn't wait to see what was involved in a first responders day. And boy oh boy! They do so much! Way beyond what I think other people realize. I think programs like these are essential. In HRM there are so many opportunities for youth to take part in programs, like Camp Courage, or sports, or

arts, all kinds of things & youth can explore more closely subjects they are interested in. We can learn more about people that work in HRM. Youth can obtain knowledge and that's the key, isn't it?

To learn, to participate, to understand. That what makes all the difference. At Camp Courage I learned what was involved in being a first responder. They truly are the people that keep us safe. They work hard; they push themselves every day, for us! And I also learned that I have the ability to be a first responder as well! And that's important for youth to know they can be anything in this world. You just need courage, determination and heart!

Title of Story: Responsibility

Name of Storyteller: Nhi Dinh

Location: Citadel Recreation Centre

Facility: Citadel Recreation 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?

Nhi: "In the very beginning I was swimming lessons, and then after that used to do summer camps in REC programs, and then I got involved here actually. So seeing like Junior leaders I knew that I wanted to be one because it seemed like a lot of fun, and that there would be a lot of things that you might be able to learn from the program. So I asked my mom if I could sign up and she's like yeah. This is my second year doing it [the youth leadership program] but I'm a level 3 position.

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.*

Nhi: "This summer I noticed a difference in myself. When I was little a kind of kept to myself a bit and I would only hang out with like people who I knew and if I met new people I'd be like 'hi, hey' and be shy. But now, I guess this summer through things like YES Camp and like doing socials with other centers I have gotten to know a lot more people and now I'm more welcome and more open to talking to new people and just going up to some other youth leaders and say 'hey do you want to do this?' or going up to kid that's sitting by themselves and getting them to play game with me. Another significant change I guess in me I guess I'm more responsible now because before I wouldn't really think twice before I did something but now, I guess through

participating in and volunteering at the REC camps you kind of have to think twice before making a big decision because it could have an impact on the kids in 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?*

Nhi: “I guess now I can go up to someone and start a conversation with them even if I don't know them. That helps me a lot for because I could be anywhere and need to talk to new people. But before by being scared or nervous prevents that. In addition, there's a lot more opportunities to get involved if you just take them. You can get a lot more trust with your parents or if you're looking after someone then there you can build trust with their parent's/guardian's.”

Title of Story: Friends

Name of Storyteller: James Bissett

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?

James: “I did the camps when I was younger. I did the pre-school camps, and I did one or two of the day camps, and my brother has done some of the camps, and my mom thought it was a really good idea to help out with doing that stuff, because she knows that I like doing stuff with people and helping out with kids. So that was the best volunteer job to get me first into the job world and maybe move up as time goes along when I move on when I am 16. Currently I am doing day camps, like full day as a Youth Leader. It is my third year doing the Youth Leader.”

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.*

James: “Made new friends. I have two close friends that I met through here. So that really helps because sometimes when you go into a program or a camp, you don't really know anybody so it's good to have those two or three people who you know who they are and you're able to talk to them at the socials and training so you're not sitting there all alone bored.

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?*

James: "I think it will make a difference further down the line, because next year, we go into the same school so it will be helpful to have close friends by during exams and stuff and maybe not just be friends in the rec program. But I get to hang out with them outside the program which is new because I don't particularly hang out with people outside because I don't really like going out places and doing new things but it makes me feel a lot more comfortable being with those people because I spent most of my time with them in the summer. So I do programs, and trainings and socials, so that is where I spend time with them and that is where I feel comfortable talking to them and now I feel comfortable outside and I can hang out with them whenever I want and I am always in touch with them and it's good to have them".

Title of Story: Trust

Name of Storyteller: Chelsea Graham

Location: Dartmouth North REC Centre

Facility: Dartmouth North

Date of Recording:

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: "I took a karate class when I was younger for a year [at a REC Centre]. [I heard about the Youth Leader program through], I think it was Shitanshu [the Dartmouth North YLC], came to our school and told us about the Youth Leadership program and they were handing out forms for it. I thought that it [the program] would be cool, so my teacher gave me a form for it, then I came to Dartmouth North REC Centre and I liked 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.*

Chelsea: "At the start I didn't really know that it wasn't everyday - like I thought it [the program] would happen every day but it didn't. So at the start I was kind of like 'ehh, this is kind of like school', and I kind of didn't like it that much. But then, the week after, we started to do fun things. We were doing field day with the kids, we were going places, and we weren't just sitting in the REC Centre all day. So it kind of grew onto me. So at the start I didn't like it that much, but then now, I do like it."

Meghan: "Do you think there have been any changes in your personal skill set, or maybe you met new friends because of the program?"

Chelsea: "Well yeah, we had WHIMIS training so I know what that is now. I also have a passion for helping little kids, I love little kids. So it kind of grew onto me - like my mom wanted me to do this program because she wanted me to gain more skills working with kids. So my skills working with little kids have grown since I have been [in the program]. So my mom wants me to a babysitter, so this program has kind of taught me how to be a babysitter."

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?*

Chelsea: "Well my mom has told me that 'you are not ready for babysitting yet, you are still a little young and you're not skilled enough'. So If I keep doing this [program] then it might help me more and my mom might trust me more with my little sister."

Title of Story: My Experience LIT'ing!

Name of Storyteller: Owen Yullie

Location: Dartmouth, NS

Facility: Findley REC Centre

Date of Recording: August 22, 2017

Name of Story Recorder: N/A

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

I've been participating in HRM REC camps during the summer and March break since I was six, and have always wanted to be a leader. So this summer I'm taking the LIT [Leader in Training] 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.*

I've made new friends, reconnected with old ones and this summer especially I've learned leadership skills. After this summer I know I want to be a leader.

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?*

The skills I learned this summer have helped me deal better with my step-sister, who is younger than me. It's given me a plan for the next two summers of my life, and hopefully longer. I want to

be a teacher someday, and I think the things I'm learning in LIT and as a leader will help me with that goal. Being a LIT this summer helped me learn how to talk to parents as an equal in some ways. I have never really thought about having a responsibility to my community before, I do not. I had a great summer and can't wait to do this program again next year, thanks!

Title of Story: Aim High

Name of Storyteller: Xavier Buckly

Location: Board Room Cafe - Barrington Street

Facility: George Dixon

Date of Recording: July 21, 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?

Xavier: "My dad is something with the George Dixon, so he put me into the summer camp and the afterschool program when I was young, probably like four or something. And then when I was 11, I was like growing out of the camps, so Cymone asked if I wanted to be a junior leader, so I said yeah. And it just felt like the same cause you are still in camp, but you have a bigger role than just a camper. Third year of junior leader."

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.*

Xavier: "Meeting new people, and communication and my confidence."

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?*

Xavier: "Being in this program will get me into higher positions, compared to if I just sat around for the summer. I think that I could get better jobs and stuff. Also, I did an exchange recently and because of the junior leadership program it wasn't that hard to make new friends. It's like I bonded with them really quick because I was already shown how to do that."

Title of Story: Getting to Know New People
Name of Storyteller: Program Participant #11
Location: Camp Mockingee - YES Camp
Facility: Gordon R Snow Community 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 started off at a different program, it wasn't REC. It's in Fall River, and it was just like an outdoor camp. So they took away their youth leader program after the first year that I was in it. I really enjoyed being with the youth and I really enjoyed volunteering with the kids. So I took a year off and I had a really boring summer cause I wasn't really with any kids. Then I heard that some of my friends were volunteering as leaders at the REC Centre. I just really wanted to join in because I just loved working with kids and stuff. I skipped my first level and I am in level two now."

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 really feel like I am more outgoing. I was really bad at speaking in front of people and I didn't really like asking questions and I was like really scared to make new friends. I noticed that as soon as I joined the program, I became more outgoing and I was talking to everyone. So I just feel really happy because I am getting to know new 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?*

Participant: "I feel like I am overall more happy, and I think that it will benefit me in everything. Like stuff during school and just in future jobs. Like I won't be scared to talk in front of people and to be outgoing and meet new people. I don't know, I think it will benefit me a lot."

MSC Story**Title of Story: N/A****Name of Storyteller: Shaelyn Sampson - Youth Leader Coordinator****Location: Gordan R Snow REC Centre****Facility: Fall River****Date of Recording: July 20, 2017****Name of Story Recorder: N/A**

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

I started doing ballet classes at the age of three, at the old Fall River Centre. After that, I was in day camps and art camps until youth leadership.

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.*

When I moved home after finishing university in New Brunswick I felt like I didn't have the same community - family feel that I did when I was in high school, but coming back to work at the REC Centre has given me that again!

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 this story is one many people experience - especially those of us on the older side of the youth category. Although your friends at your home community may change, community centers stay a constant pillar in each community in bringing people together

Title of Story:**Name of Storyteller: Sam Gregan****Location: Halifax Central Library****Facility: Halifax Public Libraries****Date of Recording: August 28, 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?

Sam: “[I first got involved with] Teen Night at the Halifax Central Library, it’s where you just hang out, do crafts, baking, and stuff on Thursday nights. Then Donna [a program staff] suggested that I do TAAC, teen action and advisory council. I’ve been in TAAC for about a year, than that branched off to the podcast park. So now that [the podcast group] is becoming its own thing. We’re making a podcast. The name is somewhere of the lines of – Second Floor Something. Cause we’re on the second floor, that is where the recording booth is right over there [gestures towards the front of the library]. [I started coming to Teen Night in] grade seven. [In TAAC] part of our group did those painting in the library, and Yule Ball. It’s a Harry Potter dance thing. So we do a dance type thing down stairs. It’s all Harry Potter themed, and I really like Harry Potter. We [also] organize programs and there is a thing called Mini-Con and it’s like a mini Halcon at the library.”

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.*

Sam: “I made some friends – a bunch of them are going to university in different provinces now.”

Meghan: “Have you learned anything new?”

Sam: “It is easier to work in groups now.”

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?*

Sam: “Well, I’m planning on being in TAAC and the podcast group until I’m graduated and I’m not allowed to be in it anymore. That will end up being three or four years of me being in those groups so I will be able to put that on my resume. That can set me up with success and help me get a job. I know I want to go into Social Work [when I grow up].”

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."

Title of Story: The Need for Volunteerism
Name of Storyteller: Danielle Day - Youth Leader Coordinator
Location: YES Camp - Camp Mockingee
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?

Danielle: "So I never really did anything HRM related when I was a kid. I did do Jazz/Hip-Hop when I was in grade primary and I took mother-daughter clogging, and it was a time. So that was aggressive. Then I never really did anything with HRM until it came time to apply for a job when I got home after my first year of university. My grandmother works with REC and she had done this job seven years ago. So she works at Musquodoboit Harbour, so she was kind of my reference on my cover letter, to show that yes - I am familiar with the program even though I have never done it myself type of thing.

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.*

Danielle: "I think one thing that HRM has opened me up to a lot more is just volunteering. Like I went to Alabama on a mission's trip last year, and that was cool and awesome. But just seeing the need in the community and realizing how helpful you can be and you don't realize that there are a lot of things that people do behind the scenes that they can just really use a group of twelve youth to just go out and do it in two hours versus them having to take time out of the entire summer. Like what we did at Carol's Corner [for context, Danielle's Youth Leadership group volunteered at Carol's corner by helping paint sheds, birdhouses, and weeding the grounds]. Because it was just that elderly couple who does all the work in the summer. So we did what they would have taken an entire summer to do in four hours."

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?*

Danielle: "So one of the big reasons that volunteering is super important in my life right now is because I am currently on a scholarship. One of the three main criteria of the scholarship is that I need to uphold in order to keep my scholarship is volunteering in my community or locally. So, I have an interest in it anyway but that is another push and is a driving force to my success in university is being able to uphold the standard of being a people-person and doing things for other people. I am in a society on campus and we are a Christian fellowship group and I have

been the face of this group and it is a lot of volunteer work with university students. I am in the community in St. Johns, which I have found to be a little hard because it's not my community. But getting to see how other community's function - like I have worked in a soup kitchen in St. Johns - and we don't have those in my community. So just being able to see how each community's needs are different and how you can meet those needs has been neat."

Title of Story: Something to Do

Name of Storyteller: Participant #31

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?

Participant: "So I first became involved because my sister works there as a life guard, and I first went to Needham because I took swimming lessons and a couple years later, I went to one of the day camps and I started going at least once every summer. Once I was old enough I thought, hey, I could be a junior leader. So year, now I'm a junior leader [this is North's first year of being 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.*

Participant: "It gives me something to do in the summer. Cause a couple years ago, I wasn't doing anything. I was just sitting around, being bored as heck. I didn't know what to do, and now I am getting out 3-4 days a week, and helping kids. It's really fun!"

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: "I was really bored and I was just sitting there, so I didn't get out, I didn't make friends, I just sat there. I did gain some friends. It gives me something to do, I make friends, and I am helping other people. I am giving back to the community."

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 parent's 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 since 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."

Title of Story: Changes

Name of Storyteller: Participant 22

Location: Cole Harbour Place

Facility: North Preston

Date of Recording: July 27, 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 am a junior leader at the North Preston REC Centre. So how I became involved, I was first a camper and some people told me that it would be fun to do the junior leader job. So I decided to apply and my first year was last year. I liked working with the children. It was kind of hard, but you learn something every day. So I decided to do it again this year, and it has become easier."

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 would say the attitude that I had. At the beginning of the summer, I really didn't want to do this, but the first week was kind of the enemy. Like training. What teen wants to do training? In the beginning of the training, I started liking it, so I stayed. At the second week, we were working with the children. I loved that part. Like jobs that work with children, I like working with children. [Another change] is just me being a nicer person to children."

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: "Because before the summer, I had a bad attitude. I realized that a bad attitude won't get you anywhere. I got in trouble for some of it. So after that, I dropped the attitude, and I got rewarded for it, so that made me kind of happy."

Title of Story: Job Preparedness
Name of Storyteller: Program Participant #23
Location: Cole Harbour Place
Facility: North Preston
Date of Recording: July 27, 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 heard about the Youth Leader Program through the application that we needed to fill out. I am a youth leader, [I have been doing the program for] one month."

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 would say that the trainings [have been impactful]. [In specific] job readiness training."

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: "It will help me to already know and not have to do trainings over again. It will be good to have these experiences on my resume."

Title of Story: Different in Their Own Way
Name of Storyteller: Program Participant #24
Location: YES Camp - Camp Mockingee
Facility: Sackville Sportsplex/Acadia School
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: "My friends and I used to go to Friday Night Rocks! And we started volunteering there and Kaitlyn, I don't know her last name, but she told me that I should come to the camp this summer. So I was thinking about it and my mom said to do it so I signed up for [the Youth Leadership 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.*

Participant: "I learned how to volunteer. I also learned some good life skills that I wouldn't have if I stayed and did nothing at home. I also learned how to play with children and how to do stuff like that."

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: "It's made me realize how much people are different. I thought that everyone was kind of the same. I don't know how to word this. This program has showed me that everyone is different in their own ways."

Title of Story: Community Contributions

Name of Storyteller: Jeffrey Holley - Day Camp 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?

Jeffrey: "I first heard about it because I grew up in it. So I was involved with the preschool and I would go on various trips and stuff. As I got older, I always heard about the programs from my friends - but I was in the cadet program. I am still involved with the cadet program, but I didn't go away this summer. But I mostly just heard about it from friends. I am a summer day camp instructor. This is my first 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.*

Jeffrey: "I definitely have started talking to more people than I have used to talk to around here. Because we are a small community, but we have our cliques and our little groups of people who

talk to each other. Like I didn't graduate with any of the people who work here. I am the third oldest, other than the person who works at the front desk. I would just say getting to know the kids around here. Because when I was young, up until I went off to university, I knew everyone in the community. Now we have new people immigrating here, and we have people coming in bringing their grandchildren, and I'm like 'who are you?'. And they are like 'oh, I am this person's grandson or this person's grandchild'. And I'm like, oh my gosh, you're this old already!'. I remember them from when they were knee high to a grasshopper. I would say just getting to know the community, getting back out there and doing something that is meaningful. I also enjoy doing something that involved kids because I want to be a teacher. I love to make positive impact on youth in general."

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?*

Jeffrey: "It is important to think about because we have a lot of people leaving our community because there isn't a lot out here for them. There is cadets during the year, and there is HRM in the summer. So, like we used to have a swimming pool here, we used to have a theatre, we used to have all this stuff when my parents were kids. But it's important to consider that stuff, especially within this type of work, we are going to understand that there is less and less people in the community. But we are still getting a good turnout of kids [in the summer programs]. It's also important to know the dynamics of the community and knowing why they are moving and what we can do to make them stay. I plan to come back here and teach hopefully. Because a lot of the teachers that we get down here, they leave the next year and they don't form relationships with the kids and they really don't contribute to the community. That is what I would like to do."

Title of Story: Caring for Others

Name of Storyteller: Participant 26

Location: Board Room Cafe - Barrington Street

Facility: St. Andrew's Community Centre

Date of Recording: July 21, 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: "When I was thirteen, that summer, I didn't really know what to do, and I used to go to the REC camps. And after that I started to volunteer as a junior leader there. That was fun because you got to play with the kids at the camp you used to go to. You are still involved and it is great on a resume because you get volunteer hours. This is my third and last year doing [the youth leadership 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.*

Participant: "Um, I think just me growing as a person. Cause before this, there are places that we volunteer like the Ronald McDonald House that you aren't really aware of what's going on. And you get to volunteer in the community and it lets you get involved so you know what's happening around you and in your life."

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: "If you're not connected with what's around you, you are just isolated. But when you get involved, it lets you know and it lets you grow as a person and it's just really good. You can put it on your resume, it helps you become a better person and it shows that you care about your life, and other people's lives."

Title of Story: Skating Skills & Friends

Name of Storyteller: Lilly MacInnis

Location: St. Margaret's Centre

Facility: St. Margaret's Centre

Date of Recording: August 21, 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?

Lilly: "When I was younger, I did can-skate here. Then we moved away. Every summer when we came back I would just kind of skate here every summer, and so I've skated here every summer since then. It's been three of four years since I started doing that, or maybe even more. I skate all year round."

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.*

Lilly: "I've definitely made more friends here and have gotten along with a lot of people here. I feel like it's easier to make friends with people who do the same things as you and you have a

lot in common. So I have made a lot of friends doing this program throughout the year and throughout the summer. So I meet new people every summer, because new people come in and stuff like that. I've [also] improved on my jumps and stuff in skating and my spins and stuff and kind of my stroking and stuff like that."

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?*

Lilly: "I feel like making friends boosts your confidence because you know that you have someone to talk to about things that you might have in common, you can agree on the same things. For skating skills, I just feel happy when I skate. So when my jumps and stuff are better it just makes me smile and it also boosts my confidence and stuff like that."

Title of Story: Life Skills

Name of Storyteller: Xavier Cusack

Location: YES Camp - Camp Mockingee

Facility: Tallahassee 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?

Xavier: "When me and my brother were younger, we used to be babysat by our friend. Eventually they couldn't do it anymore and my mom found this camp and she put us in when I was eight and my brother when he as eleven. So that is how I got into the program. [I am currently a] Youth Leader."

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.*

Xavier: "I have learned a lot about taking care of kids and how to be more social and treat people right and everything."

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?*

Xavier: "It will be able to help me if I ever have kids and stuff, and I'll know how to put them into good camps like these. Just basically life skills that you need."