

RECREATION

While Berlin Recreation is extremely gratified for the continual success of such standbys as Ski & Snowboard, Easter “Eggstravaganza,” Summer Soccer, and our playground activities just to name a few, space does not allow discussion of all 30 + programs offered. Permit me to highlight just a few new endeavors Berlin Recreation undertook June 30, 2014 to July 01, 2015.



Bone Builders’ participants (staff photo)

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and their enthusiastic volunteer Ms. Jackie Gagne began conducting exercise classes in the Recreation gym called Bone Builders. This program is open to anyone that understands the importance of maintaining muscle strength and flexibility and would like to do so in a low-impact, fun environment.

Berlin Recreation and Berlin Youth Hockey Mite Development League merged resources and coaching talent during the winter of 2015 enabling participants extra skating time at no extra cost. The Sunday youth hockey group was invited to practice on Saturdays and the Saturday recreation group was encouraged to skate with the Sunday youth hockey players to hone their skills. When we join forces, many people benefit and we plan to do so again in 2016!



Photo courtesy of Mallory Patry

Berlin Recreation was awarded a Community Facilities Grant enabling us to build permanent shelters at Community/Central Park and Brown School. This was aesthetically more pleasing and definitely more practical than the canopies we were having to replace yearly due to weather and/or vandalism. Taking advantage of the skilled Recreation maintenance labor pool and supplies available at the local hardware stores, the two shelters were quickly built just in time for our summer playground program.



Community/Central Park Shelter



*Brown School Shelter
(Recreation Staff photos)*

An additional fortunate outcome to being awarded the Community Facilities grant was AHEAD (Affordable Housing, Economic, & Development) saw the benefit to such a structure and covered the cost and assisted with volunteers to also build a shelter at Friendship Park. The public now has many wonderful places to relax in the comfort of the shade while enjoying Berlin parks!



Friendship Park Shelter (staff photo)

The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!



Mini Kickers (Recreation staff photo)

Actually they came and we couldn't be happier!

Challenger Sports offered Berlin Recreation a chance to provide their British Soccer Program, Mini Kickers, at a discounted price and the response was great! Nine two & three

year olds and 12 four & five year olds took advantage of this unique opportunity - a week long introduction to soccer (or as the British say – football) for the very young in early June, 2015. The weather was great with the children laughing and learning from wonderful teachers Mr. Louis McCarten and Ms. Becky Hannelty. We enthusiastically look forward to a return visit!



Leighton Theberge Photo courtesy of Leighton's mom Meghan.

In closing, we are always open to new developments and encourage anyone with ideas on how to better the community to certainly give us a call at 752-2010.

Terry Letarte
Berlin Recreation Director