

RECREATION

Berlin Recreation strives to offer as many leisure programs and opportunities as our budget allows. Expansion and continuation of our programs consistently depends on contributions from individuals and businesses as well as working with other city departments.

Over a year in the works, Berlin Recreation, as part of the HEAL (Healthy Eating/Active Living) Grant Committee, headed by Health/Welfare Director Angela Martin Giroux and many others have been reaching out to the community with public forums



Playground participants enjoying USDA lunch

and gatherings. Based on the feedback received, the HEAL Grant Committee will soon be developing community gardens and putting together a small playground on Mason Street. The Mason Street property became available thanks to the hard work of Housing Coordinator Linda White as she oversaw the demolition of dilapidated buildings. The HEAL Grant Committee will also be developing area markers and maps for the many walkers/hikers/travelers to discover all the beauty Berlin has to offer.

Summer Playground participants at Brown, Community and Brookside as well as Heritage House enjoyed 1,236 lunches and 1,274 snacks during the 2012 five week summer season. With USDA funding and

Senior Meals (a Tri-County CAP agency) under the direction of Leila Villeneuve supplying the food and staff to bag the lunches, Berlin Recreation Playground Supervisor Sylvia Ramsey was able to deliver nutritious lunches and snacks to Berlin school age children. This is obviously a needed and ever-growing service we are happy to provide.

Recreation's Summer Playground Program always gets a boost with our Summer Kick-Off – an event held in June at the Berlin Recreation Center. Coordinating with the Berlin Public Library, Kathy Godin and her group of volunteers annually assists the playground staff in providing entertainment, games and prizes for the many energetic children that attend. The Library's expertise is certainly valuable in getting the Recreation's summer season off to a great start!



Terry Letarte accepting a donation for Ski/Snowboard program from Attitash/Wildcat Corporation



Area youth enjoying a soccer game



Volunteer Coach Donny Labrecque with Berlin Pats Babe Ruth Baseball team



Day of Caring Volunteers at Laura Lee Viger Botanical Garden

A generous donation from Wildcat/Attitash Corporation as a result of their Season Pass Holder Party and Auction allowed ten students to participate in the Recreation's 2013 Ski and Snowboard program completely free of charge. While receiving five weeks of instruction these students were outfitted with helmets, boots, and skis or snowboards at no cost to them. A second donation from Wildcat will allow us to offer the same opportunity to at least 10 students during the winter, 2014 season. We also must say Thank You to Berlin Public Schools for providing the Recreation Department with a bus and driver for this five week program.

The Berlin School system also opens their Hillside School facility to Recreation so we can provide adult walking/jogging in the winter months and Men's Basketball during the summer months. Superintendent Corinne Cascadden and her staff need to be recognized for their foresight in acknowledging we can offer more when we work together.

Volunteers are always a strong and much needed component of many Berlin Recreation programs. Whether you took a walk around the city admiring the flowers, attended a local baseball or soccer game, or your child participated in a summer playground program, a volunteer was probably a part of the activity. Sports coaches, Garden Club volunteers, K-Kids (Kiwanis Club youth members) cleaning a park, junior playground leaders earning hours for National Honor Society, the youth and adults that contribute countless hours are an important asset. While too numerous to mention all the recent volunteers by name, we encourage anyone who knows and appreciates a local volunteer to nominate them for one of the city's annual volunteer awards. Contact Berlin Recreation if you would like further information on how to recognize a local volunteer.

Many non-profits benefit from the generosity of local businesses and individuals and Berlin Recreation is no exception. The city gardens, summer playgrounds, Ski & Snowboard program, Recreation's Annual Easter "Eggstravaganza" and Farm League and Babe Ruth Baseball all had their programs enhanced by recent donations. Companies and organizations such as the Attitash/Wildcat Corporation, Coos Eye Care, Coulombe Real Estate, The Echo Group, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Gill's Flowers and Candy Shop, Gorham

Historical Society, Northern Edge Realty/ReMax, Savoir Flare, and Verizon Wireless saw the need and no matter how already financially stretched they may have been, took action. For this we are extremely grateful.

The ability to collaborate with volunteers, other city departments and area businesses

allows us to offer many leisure opportunities and we at Berlin Recreation look forward to continuing our coordinated efforts to offer the best to area residents.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa (Terry) Letarte
Recreation Programmer



40 groups/organizations including Berlin Recreation received a donation from Coulombe Real Estate as part of their "40 for 40" campaign