

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Berlin Recreation can once again say their successful year was due in large part to joining forces with other departments and area volunteers to enrich the community as a whole.



Playground program gardens at Brookside Park & Brown School (Staff photo)

With Health and Welfare Director Angela Martin- Giroux taking the lead, a Harvard Pilgrim Food Fund Grant was awarded to the city in the summer of 2015. This allowed Berlin Recreation to add gardening projects to our summer playground program. Employee and talented gardener Elisabeth Ruediger motivated playground participants to create gardens at Friendship Park, Community/Central Park, Brown School and Brookside Park. The children watched their gardens flourish, learned about proper gardening methods, and were rewarded with being able to eat and share their bounty with friends and families.

Berlin City Departments, Recreation included, became very involved in the “No More” Campaign to End Domestic Violence. Activities included displaying banners on city vehicles and at Heritage Park, wearing purple on Thursdays in October as a show of support for the cause, fund raising during Homecoming and collecting and donating items to sell at Berlin Recreation’s Annual Fall Yard Sale. City workers raised a total of \$579.70 during Homecoming and

Recreation’s Yard Sale; gladly donating all proceeds to Response.



Summer Recreation employee Elisabeth Ruediger proclaiming “No More” to Domestic Violence because “Everyone Deserves to be Safe.” (Staff photo)

Berlin Recreation witnessed the final year of long time employee Mrs. Sylvia Ramsey executing her many skills to aid this department in providing quality programs to the community. Mrs. Ramsey was a central part of the Recreation Department and all it offered. Sylvia worked tirelessly whether it was teaching craft classes, overseeing the Summer Playground Program, creating the



Mrs. Sylvia Ramsay with participants of the “Little Tykes Program”

ambiance for Easter “Eggstravaganza” or as many know her and may even had a lesson or two with her, instructing the Little Tykes Playground program. She retired knowing her contribution had a meaningful impact on many citizens of Berlin. After over 30 years with Berlin Recreation, she deserves to enjoy time with her family!

This report would not be complete without mentioning the explosion of interest in Berlin Recreation Hockey. Forward thinking Mike and Missy Wedge and their group of dedicated parents and volunteers collaborated with this Department to offer a quality program at a reasonable cost and without the commitment of endless traveling. Berlin Recreation Developmental Hockey was formed and 50 children joined the first season! With parents having the option of one or two days of lessons, players received the right mix of a fun, but still competitive league.

Players not only had their weekend instruction, but thanks to the Wedges’ devotion to the program, children were invited to meet the River Drivers, Berlin’s newest hockey team, as well as travel to Manchester to have their picture taken with the Stanley Cup. Berlin Recreation Hockey Development will act as a feeder program to prepare athletes to either move on to Youth or School Hockey or simply to have experienced a wonderful opportunity to learn the sport of hockey under the direction of caring and committed teachers.



Nikki Downs proudly wearing her new hockey jersey Berlin Recreation Hockey Development Players in Action (Staff photo)



(Courtesy photos provided by Mr. M. Santy)



Respectfully Submitted,

*Terry Letarte, Berlin Recreation Program
Director*