


Halifax Regional Council
January 22, 2002]

TO: Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


George MacLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer


Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Parks & Recreation Volunteer Initiatives

ORIGIN

As a follow-up to the first annual Parks and Recreation Volunteer Conference, community volunteers across Halifax Regional Municipality requested staff to take a recommendation to Regional Council in the form of a resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Halifax Regional Municipality is fortunate to have visionary, diverse and caring citizens whose involvement in their local communities is marked by their many acts of volunteerism, and

Whereas over two hundred volunteers attended a Parks & Recreation Volunteer Conference on November 30 and December 1, 2001 to celebrate the International Year of the Volunteer, to attend training sessions and to network, and

Whereas at this conference one of the outcomes of the plenary session question "How can Halifax Regional Municipality better support its volunteers" was to hold an annual conference for volunteers,

Be it resolved that Halifax Regional Municipality support volunteer activity and a volunteer conference on an annual basis.

BACKGROUND

“Each year 285,000 Nova Scotians give, on average, 173 hours of their time to help others.”(Statistics Canada 1997) This translates into 140 million hours of voluntary work each year, the highest rate of voluntary work in the country. It is the equivalent of 83,000 jobs. Calculating this at the average wage of \$13.80 per hour, cumulative efforts contribute \$2 billion dollars in unpaid service to our province. 34% of the residents of Halifax worked for volunteer organizations placing them at a rate that is 42% higher than that of other Canadian cities. (Source GPI Atlantic)

Therefore, it seemed pertinent in 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer, for Parks & Recreation to recognize the volunteer efforts of citizens in HRM.

Utilizing a community development model which promotes Regional Council priorities, HRM Parks & Recreation hosted a volunteer conference on November 30 and December 1, 2001 . This event provided citizens with the opportunity to network and to gain valuable skills which they took back to their communities. In attendance were 225 delegates representing volunteer groups across HRM.

The organizing committee was a partnership of HRM Parks & Recreation, provincial staff, not for profit groups, and volunteers. This collaborative approach provided the necessary human and financial resources from HRM Parks & Recreation Services (\$15,000), Nova Scotia Sport & Recreation Commission (\$5,000), Halifax Regional Development Association (\$3,500) and Recreation Nova Scotia.

DISCUSSION

The conference culminated in a plenary session moderated by Councillor Sheila Fougere. Delegates were asked to answer the question: “How can HRM better support its volunteers?”

In response, volunteers identified the following areas where HRM could provide support:

- an annual conference
- training and development opportunities
- affordable liability insurance
- access to photocopying, fax machines, equipment, etc.
- staff person(s) dedicated to volunteers

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on the recommendations put forward, resources have been identified through the business planning process and realignment of existing dollars in the Parks & Recreation 2002-3 budget to host an annual volunteer conference.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies, and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES


None

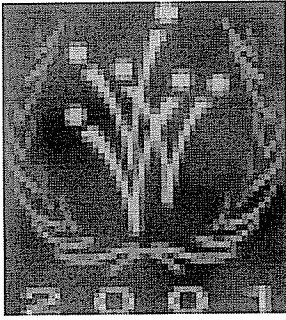
ATTACHMENTS

Volunteer conference promotional flyer
Volunteer conference evaluation summary

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Norma MacLean, Community Developer, 869-4204

Report Approved by: 
Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks & Recreation Services



HRM Parks and Recreation Services Volunteer Conference 2001

Evaluation Form

Your thoughts on the conference are appreciated. Please take the time to fill in this short form.

1. Was the time of year: Convenient [66] or Inconvenient [9] for you?
 2. Was the location (Harbourview Holiday Inn) a good choice for the conference?
Yes [73] No [0] Why/why not
-
-
-

3. Please rate the conference on the following:

Ease of registration	Fair [2]	Good [16]	Excellent [58]
Food Quality	Fair [3]	Good [17]	Excellent [57]
Staff helpfulness	Fair [1]	Good [13]	Excellent [62]
Trade Show	Fair [19]	Good [35]	Excellent [17]
Keynote Speaker	Fair []	Good [31]	Excellent [41]
Plenary	Fair [1]	Good [18]	Excellent [20]

Comments:

“Felt valued as a volunteer by the superior, *served* luncheon. Pleased that HRM appears to be listening (plenary)”

“This was a wonderful first conference. Good luck for 2002.”

“Thank you for the opportunity!”

“Thank you this was great. I enjoyed a chance to network with other volunteers. And to put a face to the name of the staff I’ve been working with.”

“Thank you for the assurance that it doesn’t end here!”

“Make all HRM staff more accessible at every level”.

“Account for number of volunteer hours - utilize methodology of GPI Atlantic. Thank you conference staff and Councillors.”

Celebrating a Bounty of Talents

Volunteers in Communities

Volunteer Conference 2001

November 30 - December 1

Harbourview Holiday Inn, Dartmouth

Conference Session Topics include:

Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers

Fund Raising for Results

Building the Organization

Youth Strategies & Success Stories

Developing Facilities, Fields, Playgrounds, and Trails

Developing Surplus Schools

Partnerships, Management Agreements/ Insurance & Liability

Risk Management

Writing and Accessing Grants & Foundations

Opening Remarks/Presentation - HRM Visioning:

Frank Palermo, Professor, Faculty of Architecture,

DalTech, Dalhousie University

Keynote Speaker - Harvesting Good Health for Volunteers:

Judith Hockney, Program Director of Women's Health

IWK Health Centre

Social/Entertainment Events On Site

Trade Show

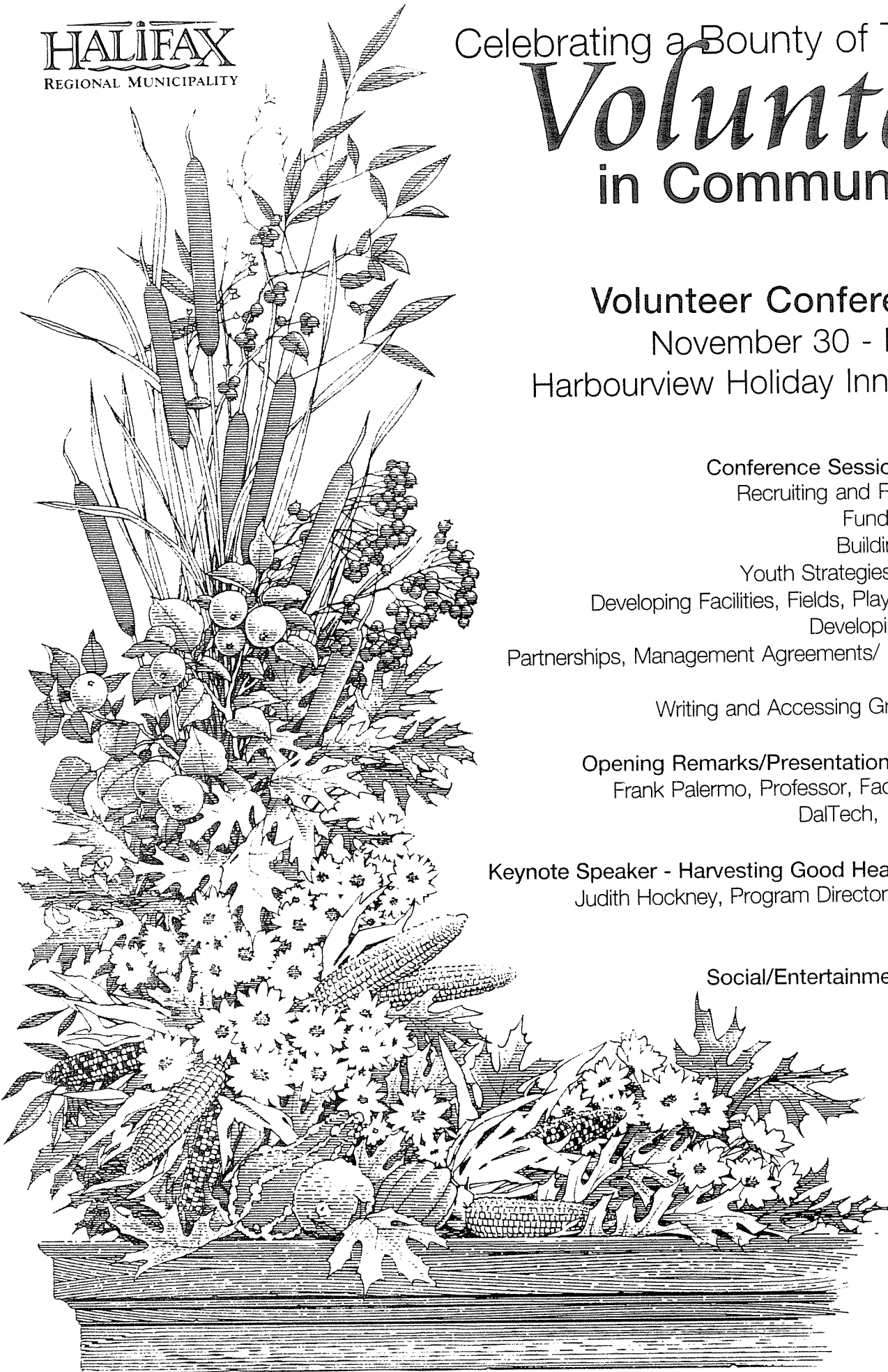
Registration

Information

490-4585



2001
International Year
of Volunteers



Parks and Recreation Services is pleased to host the conference "*A Bounty of Talents: Volunteers in Communities*". 2001 is the International Year of Volunteers so it is a perfect opportunity to bring together the energetic volunteers in all of our communities to share success stories, learn some new skills and network with leaders in other communities.

Conference Sessions

1. The On-Going Challenge of Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers and Staff

Lesley Dunn, Volunteer Resource Centre, will share her expertise on the recruitment and retaining of volunteers and staff. There will be an opportunity for participants to share their personal success stories and brainstorm solutions for when volunteers face burnout.

2. Building the Organization from The Ground Up

Grant MacDonald, Associate Professor, Henson College, will discuss the nuts and bolts of volunteer committee structure, by-laws, constitutions, running effective meetings, agenda preparation and rules of order. Bring your questions.

3. Put the "Fun" back into Fund Raising

John MacLean, past President of Recreation Nova Scotia, will share his many years of experience working with grassroots community organizations. Be prepared to share your success secrets and take away some great ideas!

4. Youth Inclusion

This session will present success stories around community youth inclusion. If you want to reach out to the youth in your community, plan on attending and discussing what works for youth versus what's not working.

5. Developing Facilities, Fields, Skateboard Parks, Playgrounds & Trails

Find out how to expedite a project in your community. HRM staff will guide you through the process, answer questions around applications, capital required, budget process, codes and standards.

6. Writing and Accessing Grants & Foundations

Presenters will review the HRM Grant program, provincial grants and HRDC programs as well as some corporate sector possibilities. Gain important tips on how to improve the quality of your applications.

7. Partnerships, Management Agreements, Insurance & Liability

HRM staff will review and discuss issues, questions and procedures addressing management agreements for community centre, insurance coverage and liability.

8. Risk Management

Bill Cruickshank, Recreation Facilities Association of NS, will address key areas to consider the relevance of risk management.

9. Your Neighbourhood School has been Declared Surplus and the Community needs a Centre ...

Doug Stout, Head of St. Margaret's Bay & Boutiliers Point Recreation Association, will focus on HRM policy on surplus schools. Talk with a community representative who has been part of converting a surplus school into a community centre.

Registration Information:

Phone registration - 490-4585
Space is limited, please register early.
Conference fee - \$20 per person

On Site Accommodations:

Accommodations at the Harbourview Holiday Inn -
\$99 Double, \$89 Single
Availability guaranteed only until October 31, please
call the hotel at 463-1100 for reservations.

Subsidies available for registration and expenses.
Contact Annette Verge at 490-6889 or vergea@region.halifax.ns.ca