



Acadia Recreation Club

650 Sackville Drive,
Lower Sackville, NS

March 10, 2015

Councillor Brad Johns
Councillor Steve Craig

Re: Inclusive Playground for Acadia Park

Dear Councillors:

The Acadia Recreation Club has been part of Sackville since 1924. We are the oldest service club in Sackville and we are a dedicated group of volunteers that have continued to leave a legacy to the community.

We recently decided to redevelop the 6 acres of land behind our hall into a community park/gardens. We are thrilled with the way the community has supported this venture. Although we have purchased many of the trees, shrubs, flowering plants ourselves, many residents and groups have also donated these items as well as volunteer hours to the maintenance of the gardens. We have also been blessed with the following donations from these groups:

- The Kinsman Club – the fountain
- Sobeys Store – planting a whole garden
- The Girl Guides of Canada have planted and are responsible for a garden
- Sackville High Woodworking shop donated the rose pergola
- The Army Cadet Corp – the bricks around the fountain along the Executive walk
- Payzants Building Products – gazebo on the hill plus the 2 sheds used for the rink
- Councillor Bob Harvey – the rink liner
- Hefler Forest Products – boards for the rink
- Sackville United Baptist Church – one weeks labour by their youth group

This year we will be preparing the grounds for the following projects:

- the Lions Club - starting the Ornamental Fencing along the front
- the Legion - giving us a flagpole and flags
- the Rotary Club- donating the first two “wall of hands” statues.

Many groups and individuals have reached out to help us. It has been a tremendous and humbling experience for us.

Throughout this redevelopment we have been fundraising for the Inclusive Playground which will be the “signature” draw for the park. It has been a challenge as the structure comes with a price tag of approximately \$300,000. We have tried 2 years unsuccessfully for the Aviva Community Challenge Fund, we have approached very large businesses for naming right sponsorships, we have applied for several grants, and we were instrumental in starting the Annual (shared fundraising) Rubber Duck Race for Sackville. Two of our regular tenants at the Acadia Hall (the Zumba Club and the Yoga Club), have held special donation classes and have

given us the funds for the Playground. We have had inquiries from Special Needs groups in the community as to the installation date and they are eager for this component of our project to arrive.

To date, we have \$10,000 raised towards the total amount of the project. We have approached HRM for assistance with the funding and have been told we need to lease the land to them in order to receive their capital funding support. We have approached the Province for a grant, where we are required to show we have 2/3rds of the funding in place in order to be considered for 1/3 funding. Our community needs this playground structure now, not in 10 years, which will be the time frame for us to raise this amount without government support.

We ask support for this project in the amount of \$300,000 to be given to us from the Sackville Landfill Legacy Fund for the purchase and installation of the playground structure. This will benefit the community tremendously. I can supply letters of support from the Autism Society, The Special Olympics group, and general families in Sackville. It is such a perfect fit with the Library and HRM Recreation situated next door to us and will become a place for families and all ages of community members to play, walk, or enjoy the playground with their young ones.

I have addressed this request to the two Sackville Councillors although I have cc'd all of Northwest Community Council Members so they are aware of the request.

Councillor Johns, the Landfill is in your district and you have been instrumental in maintaining the fund for important legacy items in our community. We feel strongly that this playground structure meets the criteria you have for applying for support from the Landfill Legacy Fund.

We like to keep you and your fellow Councillors informed of the exciting aspects of the projects we are doing at Acadia Hall.

Please approve our request for support, for this valuable asset for the community of Sackville.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Linda Hefler
Director
Acadia Recreation Club