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Parks-Issue 44

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Pre-Season Planning for Outdoor Pools



Putting the water in a pool is the easy part. For seasonal pool operators it takes a great deal of time and effort to prepare an aquatic facility for the peak summer season. **The** last thing you want to do all summer is scramble trying to keep users and staff happy. Before you unlock the gate or turn on the hose: reflect on last season – what went well? What incidents or situations were challenging? Were the staff adequately trained and prepared for the season?

Consider the following when you start to map out your Pre-Season planning for your outdoor pool:

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

Gloves, footwear, safety goggles and masks all come to mind when the term “Personal Protective Equipment” comes up, but for lifeguards and individuals working outside personal protective equipment encompasses

more than the “typical” PPE. For pool attendants or lifeguards, sitting outside in the blistering heat all summer isn’t safe, these staff should be provided with the adequate equipment and supplies to keep themselves cool and covered from the sun. Are **your** umbrellas in satisfactory condition? Is sunscreen provided to your staff who work outdoors? Is a water-cooler or drinking fountain nearby for refilling water bottles?

Local Trends and Changes in Pool Users

Be responsive to the changes in the user demographic at your facility and educate your staff. Most facilities say “proper swim attire is required in the pool” – but does staff know what to do or say when a body conscious individual wants to wear a t-shirt in the pool? Or a woman wearing a **required** burqa?

Safety Supervision & Admission Policy

Whether we want to believe it or not, some parents still rely on lifeguards or pool attendants to be the primary source of supervision in pools. **Prepare** your staff for dealing with large groups showing up

Unannounced or // parent/guardian who wants to drop off 4-5 young children without adult supervision in or out of the water **are** difficult. **Have** posted admission & supervision guideline on your website and at the admission gate **to help** parents understand that the policy is there for the safety of all users, **including their own**.



Health and Wellness

Inside this issue:

Pools	1
Baseball Maintenance Practices	2
Provincial Parks	2
Wright's Creek Watershed	3
Town of Stratford Parks	4

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Skinned Baseball Infield Maintenance Practices-Daily



Here are some basic infield maintenance practices that will keep your infields safe and playable. There are four main areas to consider when doing skinned infield maintenance: the home plate area, the pitching area, the transition between the infield and outfield and the base paths.

Home Plate - Fill in the low spots around home plate and firm up the ball field mix (a mixture of sand/silt/clay) with a tamper. Using water and keeping a consistent moisture level in the infield material makes it easier to work with and prevents material from blowing around.

Pitching area/mound (The mound is made of clay which provides a firm base to pitch from). Fill any holes with clay, water lightly and the pack the clay with a heavy tamper; some-

times the process needs to be repeated several times before the mound is packed properly. Finally, lightly rake the mound to give it a finished look. Any small rocks or debris should be removed at this time.

Transition between the infield and the outfield. Rake any infield mix from the grass and remove it. Some people like to use push brooms or water pressure to remove the excess material instead of a rake. Keep a distance of at least 12 inches from the turf when dragging the infield is a must and will help reduce the amount of maintenance this area will need.

Base paths and the rest of the skinned area. It is important to keep the top ¼ to ½ inch of infield mix loose and firm. To best achieve this condition, drag the infield every day. Remove the bases before dragging the skinned area with a nail drag to break up any compacted areas (depending on the makeup of your infield mix you might not need to nail drag every day). After the area has been nail dragged you should walk the infield and remove any rocks or debris. Next you should use a finish-

ing drag to smooth the surface; the field should be dragged in the opposite direction to the nail drag. Changing your dragging pattern every few days helps eliminate hollowing out low spots and bad habits. Consistent maintenance is the key to achieving safe and playable fields.

Tools/material required

Ball field mix, clay for pitcher's mound
Tamper
Heavy tamper
Finish drag
Nail drag
Rakes push brooms



As part of the PEI 2014 celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, go!PEI has launched the go!PEI 2014 Club. Throughout 2014, Islanders will have the opportunity to help go!PEI reach its goal by reaching your own! Our goal - 20,140 Islanders working towards an objective of 2,014 seconds (30 mins.) of activity five days a week. Every minute counts, whether it's 2 or 60! go!PEI and its community partners are offering fun and accessible 2014 activities across the province, many of them family-friendly, and with that all-important support and encouragement provided by leaders and other participants. Start working toward your goal! www.gopeiclub.ca

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The Wright's Creek Watershed By John Andrew

Wright's Creek watershed is an urban watershed on the east side of Charlottetown. St. Peter's Road bisects Wright's Creek and Andrew's Pond. The Pond was formed in the late 1700's to power one of the Charlottetown area's earliest industrial sites. The urban development in the watershed in the last several decades has led to heavy siltation and muddy water in the watercourse, especially in Andrew's Pond, resulting in a reduction in the fish population and overall water quality.



The Wright's Creek Watershed Environmental Committee, formed in 2005, is working to protect and restore the watercourse, with financial help from the provincial Watershed Management Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Fund and the City of Charlottetown. Annually since 2005, the group has had large excavators working along the creek. Six silt traps have been constructed and are emptied regularly. Seven large springs have been dug out and five lined with large Island stone boulders to improve water flow and quality. Two 600-foot long, twelve-foot wide storm water channels leading to the watercourse have been lined with large stone. The former Jardine's Pond near the headwaters of the creek has also seen improvements.

In 2013, excavator work began on removing some of the silt from Andrew's Pond. The water level was lowered and much of the silt from the east side of the upper pond (north of St. Peter's Road) was removed. The committee's goal is to restore the pond to the healthy state of earlier times when more fish were caught in Andrew's Pond on the first day of fishing season than in any other pond on the Island.


The recreation potential of the entire Wright's Creek watercourse is immense, with wonderful waterside trails and piers for fishing, boating and nature and wildlife viewing. There is the further potential to eventually continue the trail system as further residential development occurs. Wright's Creek will be an important asset to the community.

PEI PROVINCIAL PARKS TAKES LEADERSHIP ON PLAYGROUND INSPECTION



Last fall, Active and Safe PEI completed an Island wide undertaking to inspect playgrounds through a program offered by Recreation PEI. The staff and management at PEI Provincial Parks felt it was important to take the initiative of ensuring all playground equipment was safe and up to CSA standards at all of their campgrounds, beaches and day use parks. While a number of parks have had new equipment installed over the last few years, PEI Parks wanted to be confident knowing that both new or old all playgrounds were safe, so a total of 23 playgrounds across the province were inspected.

With the inspections now complete, the majority of the results were very positive. The inspections showed that only the playground in Kings Castle Provincial Park was in need of major renovations. Kings Castle has long been a popular day use park providing years of memories and family moments. Located in Gladstone (3kms east of Murray River) the park is treasured by all community residents and seasonal visitors. Many local camps love visiting the park and many reunions and family day events are held at the park annually. When the concerns were identified in the inspection report, staff wasted no time addressing them; PEI Parks recently announced the playground structure will be replaced, with a new one being installed this summer.




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**Helping Islanders Get
Active and Stay Healthy**

Recreation PEI, Inc is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization. It primarily is a community/facility based membership of those who have an interest in delivering and promoting recreation and physical activity.

- Helping communities be healthier and active
- Educating program and facility leaders
- Promoting risk management for programs and facilities

Community Recreation Programs should: promote participation and social interaction rather than excellence; provide social support (friendly, enjoyable, inclusive); use local facilities and promote local access; foster partnerships between local organisations – strengthening local networks and build capacity to manage projects or support skill acquisition.

Town of Stratford-Parks

Fullerton Creek Open Space

During the development of the new Fullerton's Creek Well field, the Town of Stratford purchased 140 acres of land to allow for a protection zone. To protect the water supply this property cannot be developed and provides an excellent opportunity for a new community park. This well field encompasses three open fields, a stream, wooded areas including an old Acadian Forest and is bounded on the north by a marsh. The Town of Stratford, is developing a strategy for a municipal park on this land and // want to hear from as many residents, stake holders and interested parties as possible.

Stratford Community Garden

A community garden can mean a variety of things to residents. For some, it is simply a place to grow vegetables or herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. Others think of a community garden as a place to reconnect with nature. Community gardens can provide opportunities for apartment dwellers/small lot owners to have access to grow their own food. Gardening provides an opportunity for exercise in the fresh air.

Agriculture is becoming a popular activity in metro-politans around the world, as people realize the in-

trinsic value of 'getting one's hands dirty' and growing healthier alternatives to grocery store foodstuffs. The Town of Stratford, along with the Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group has developed a community garden in the heart of this expanding, bustling community.

Trails

Meeting the goals to provide a range of trails, sidewalks and bike lanes is an important component to improve the facilities and infrastructure //. These trails, sidewalks and bike lanes make environmentally friendly methods of transportation a viable and accessible alternative to driving, and reduce the carbon footprint of the community. The accessibility of the trails also helps to promote physical fitness within the community.

Parks

Stratford has a number of major parks and neighborhood parks and trails. The major Parks include Tea Hill Park which has a public beach, cricket facility and change room and Robert Cotton Park which includes an arboretum, beautiful gardens and trails. It also houses the Mayflower Seniors and Youth Can Do clubs;





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