

## **Bon Accord Community Services**

### **2014 Successes:**

#### **FCSS**

- Bon Accord Community Services has been welcomed back to the Community with great enthusiasm. Residents are pleased that it is now focused solely on Bon Accord and area. Our Information, referrals and support access have started to increase. More residents are feeling comfortable to ask for assistance regarding their issues.
- CSAB have a very dedicated group as members.
- FCSSAA reconnection to Bon Accord
- Edmonton Evergreen reconnection as Bon Accord CS.
- Regional CS Edmonton Evergreen Meeting held in St. Albert excellent opportunity to hear from Province regarding future FCSS funding and strategizing on how our municipalities move forward. Mayors, Councilors, and Managers were all in attendance to share the day.
- Director's network in Grande Prairie excellent New Director's workshop and then poverty simulation by United Way. Fantastic opportunity to network with other FCSS program managers to hear what and how they do things. Also opportunity to hear from the provincial FCSS Department on Outcome Measures and expectations.

#### **SENIORS**

- Reconnection with the Seniors group and attending their business meetings regularly. Improved communication between the Town and the Seniors.
- The Senior Appreciation luncheon was well attended and very much appreciated. Excellent feedback through our survey indicated that 95% of seniors feel appreciated and connected to the Community.

- We have been asked by the senior's to help them develop a welcome information package for their new members. Collaborative initiative.
- Engage seniors in volunteering i.e. they helped create the table décor and decorations for Volunteer Appreciation Night.
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program for seniors and low Income/ Great collaboration with Sturgeon County. CS as well as three great volunteers who came in and took the training and then helped with income tax remittance for appointments made. We did a total of 5. Will relook at the need for 2015. However a resident found access to our other support that we offer for other issues.

#### **SCHOOL/JOINT USE**

- Collaboration between BACS and Lilian Schick schools was increased this past year and it was hugely successful.
- Anti-Bully Rally with both schools participating. 98% said they were more confident & aware of what they could do if they were being bullied or saw someone being bullied
- Youth Leadership luncheon
- Hockey Academy & more Joint Use at LSS
- Town Wide Clean up and hot dog lunch with school and Town staff
- Meet the Community Night collaboration between BACS and Town
- Roots of Empathy partner
- Family Day awards to both schools
- BACS grade 4 Music Classes to perform at Senior appreciation
- Community Room at LSS turned into a training gym
- L.I.T. Volunteers came forward through new relationship with LSS
- Bonnie our Scottish Terrier was debuted to the grade one classes at BACS

### **SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM**

- Summer Day Camps great success this summer with over 230 participants throughout July and August. Plus 47 took part in the multi municipal field trips (Bon Accord, Redwater, Gibbons)
- Able to hire a Summer Recreation coordinator and Assistant for summer camp programs.
- Parent Link Program for 0-6 years every Monday. We provide volunteers for this morning program.
- Arena Ice slab over the summer was used approximately 35 times in 2014.

### **INTER-AGENCY**

- EC map Coalition excellent collaboration with all early childhood agencies within the Sturgeon and St. Albert Region. Created great access to future partnerships through networking opportunities.
- Fall Tabloid – more pages this year. With our collaborative partnership with the library we should be able to offer even more for the winter issue.
- Member of Sunflower Community Resource Management Team
- Feed The Families Food Drive – great collaboration with our residents, Sturgeon County, The Bon Accord Fire Fighters and Town staff. The Food Bank received over 1 tonne of food.

## EVENTS

- Family Day Family Skate and pop, chips and a hot dog lunch. Great opportunity to be set up in the lobby and introduce myself and talk to people about signing up to help volunteer throughout the year.
- Pink Shirt Anti- Bully Rally
- Volunteer Appreciation 99% of the attendees say they feel very appreciated and connected to our community.
- Senior Appreciation Day Luncheon
- Garage Sale and Ride for Dad same day brought lots of people to Bon Accord that day.
- July 1<sup>st</sup>. Canada Pancakes in the Park and Flag raising with Minister Johnson
- July Family Festival- a fantastic festival for the community with minimum help and advertising from us.
- Harvest Days- new games and opportunities for more age groups. Volunteers were amazing and we had a total of 26 for Harvest Days. Show cased the Roller Derby group that has been running in Bon Accord all spring/summer. The parade was a success, and we gained two volunteers to be our mascot and helper when we need them for events. Pancake breakfast saw Minister Johnson's 2<sup>nd</sup>. visit to our community in 2014.
- Planned events still to happen: Equinox volunteers coordination, Family Turkey Bingo, Planning a Corn Maze event for October. Winter Wonderland.
- CSAB Board Orientation helpful in understanding the difference between FCSS and Recreation programming. FCSS = Preventative, supports, volunteerism, information & referrals. Recreation= FUN!
- Communities in Bloom judges and luncheon- the judges were most impressed with the Town frontage this year and how beautiful the new planters and baskets looked. (Mid July visit) The luncheon the Town put on was lovely and appreciated by all.

## **Bon Accord Community Services**

### **2014 Challenges:**

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Community Services Manager's role and responsibility expanded due to department restructuring. Learning curve year.
- Community Services Budget for 2014 was created prior to the position being filled. A better understanding of what to expect in 2015 will be reflected in the 2015 budget.
- Province has not increased FCSS funding for 2015.
  
- FCSS administrative reports and outcome measure reports will now become mandatory and will require more time for creating and filling out for each program, project we do. Increase in Recreation, Parks and Rec Dept. responsibilities requires some added administrative support in helping with grants and reports. Hours spent at work over and above the normal 37.5 /week is substantial. Some administrative assistance would be welcome and most helpful.
  
- Conferences and FCSS Networks - This is the BIG conference of the year. This is where important resolutions are passed and important information from Governance is passed on to the FCSS community. We did not have enough money budgeted in 2014 to allow our participation. We will be budgeting more dollars in order for CS Manager and one Board member and Council Rep to attend the FCSSAA conference

#### **YOUTH**

- Not enough time to connect with the youth during the year and help build a relationship with them, in hopes of having a youth group to provide safe fun activities, mentorship and build self esteem and connection to the community. Youth can be an awesome resource

- for volunteering within their community once that relationship is built. They will take more ownership of their community.
- Based on successful negotiations of program expectations, our new funding partnership with the library will increase the focus on year round educational and recreational programs offered to children, youth and adults. This has been a huge challenge in the past with getting attendance and by in, the library however does not struggle in this area. The Community Services office has had no time this past year to arrange and offer any additional programs. The programs will be cost recovery and run during library hour including some evenings and weekends.
- Summer Programs will not recover the cost of staff needed to run the summer camps and mentor the youth volunteers, however will cover all other expenses such as supplies, food and transportation. FCSS can cover the cost of the Coordinator as she is a mentor to the youth.

#### **COMMUNITIES in BLOOM**

- New baskets and flowers have proven to be a challenge this year. We understood less watering would be required and indeed they have needed watering at least 3x a week. By the middle of August some of the basket's floral have seeded up and have died. Upsetting some CIB committee members. They feel the plants were neglected by the Town staff and stated so.  
CIB went over their budget this year and want the Town to compensate them for their over expenditures. Communication with some committee members proves to be near impossible.  
CIB may be cutting back on their roles and responsibilities in 2015.  
Committee struggles with attracting and maintaining new members.

#### **ADVERTISING**

- To better promote all the new initiatives and on going events in Town advertising dollars will need to be increased in 2015.

### **ARPA CONFERENCE**

- Held annually in Banff or Jasper in October. This conference will not be attended in 2014, as budget dollars do not allow. This is an excellent conference and really revitalizes our board and renews their creativity in program planning for the community.

### **EVENTS**

- Harvest Days- between Community Services budgeted amount as well as newspaper advertising and fireworks, facility expense, the Public Works, Parks & Rec, Community Services and Administrative Support staff time and equipment used for the event the Town spends approximately 10K on this event. The Ag Society donates \$3000 and time to their event. We need to re-evaluate our commitment to this event. i.e. Harvest Days vs. July Family Festival. The committee struggles with attracting new members to its committee.
- Family Day – people were upset that there was no pancake breakfast in Bon Accord this year. Will discuss with CSAB to see if they wish to do one in 2015.
- Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween in the library, International Women’s Day Event/Conference & Fall Block Party are new initiatives for 2015 that will be included in 2015 budget.

### **PARKS & REC**

- Should CIB cutback in 2015 we will need 4 summer students instead of 3 to pick up the responsibilities of planting, watering, maintaining the planters and baskets.
- Rose Glen Park Upgrade- Will not hear if our CFEP grant has been approved until September 2014. Meaning we will have to start and complete a year later than hoped. Budget could increase due to inflation. Will include in MYCIP.

### **Arena**

- No grant for renovating showers this year. Will revisit through MYCIP 2015.

### **TRAINING**

- I will be enrolling in the U of A Municipal Management Leadership course in 2015.