



Recreation, Culture and Wellness Quarterly Report

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Reporting Period: Recreation, Culture and Wellness Quarterly Report for the period: April 1 – June 30, 2023

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT 2023-0173-Recreation Q2 2023 Recreation, Culture and Wellness Department Report be received for information.

Department Overview and Statistics:

Recreation, Culture and Wellness seen Town of Pelham's winter programming season come to an end on the Accipiter ice pad on April 3rd. The ice was removed by April 5th in preparation for Pelham Raiders lacrosse season and the Fonthill Kinsmen Home Show to follow. The Home Show was another success for the Fonthill Kinsmen with a great attendance well over 3000 people. The Meridian Community Centre was also host to many other events in April including, Earth Day, Canadian Hockey Enterprises Niagara Cup Tournaments, DSBN French School Celebration, Kinsmen Home Show, West Lincoln Craft Guild, and Pelham Minor Basketball Association OBA finals in the gyms. The Meridian Community Centre seen more 44,185 visitors through the doors in April. Outside of the Meridian Community Centre Recreation, Culture and Wellness staff were busy hosting Pelham's traditional Easter egg hunt once again at Centennial Park along with preparing baseball diamonds and soccer fields when the weather permitted.

The month of May began on a musical note within the Meridian Community Centre. The District School Board of Niagara hosted a Musical Monday, utilizing a majority of the facility to do so. With Mother's Day around the corner the Meridian Community Centre became the setting for many local artists to put their art on display. The Pelham Art Festival had yet another successful show on the Accipiter pad and brought a large spectrum of culture into the doors. The Meridian Community Centre was very busy during the month of May being host to the Royal Canadian Army Cadets, Niagara ParaSport Festival along with our Spring/Summer programming and numerous ice rentals including PMHA, Southern Tier Admirals and Pelham Junior Panthers spring tryouts. ParaSport Niagara hosted a unique day of

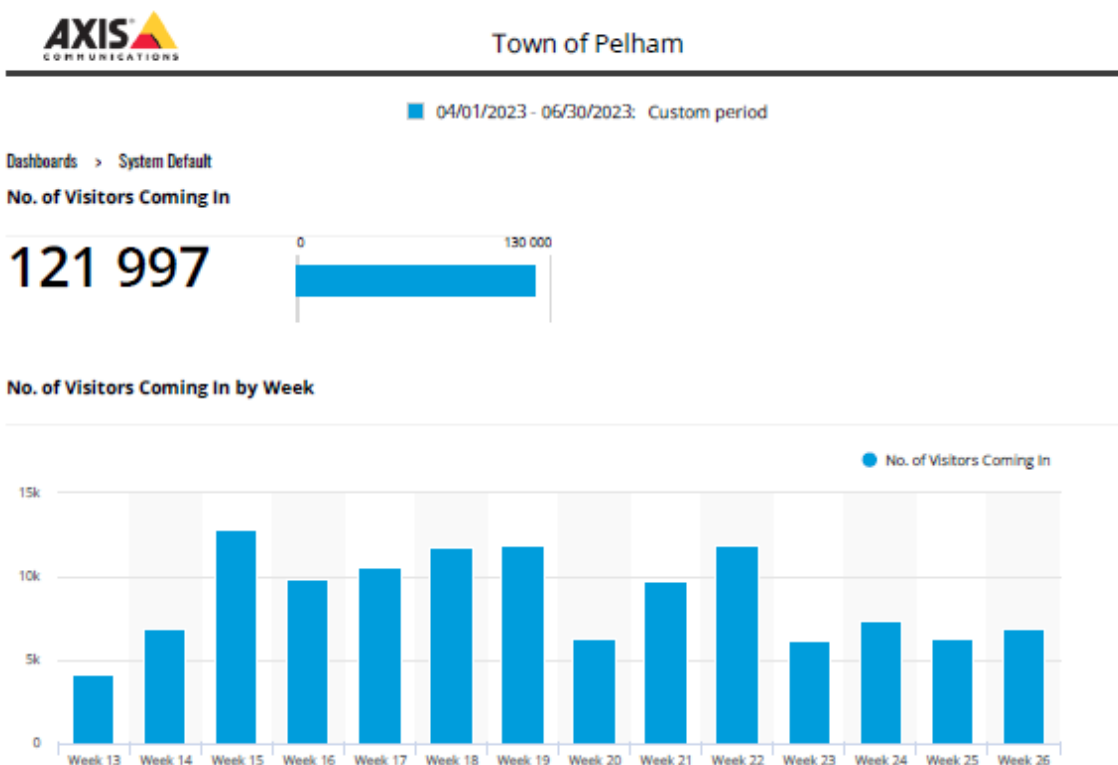
learning, opening minds to new perspectives about inclusivity, adapted sport and recreation, and disability diversity. Sledge Hockey, multiple presentations, Wheelchair Basketball, Food Trucks, and entertainment were some of what they offered in the festival. The Meridian Community Centre seen 43,887 visitors through the doors to take advantage of all that Recreation, Culture and Wellness put forward in programming, rentals, and hosting of events.



Outside from the Meridian Community Centre in the month of May, staff kept up the seven baseball diamonds that were readily used by Pelham Minor Baseball Association along with slo-pitch leagues and other organizations. Staff had to also prepare 12 soccer fields within Harold Black and Centennial Park along with Glynn A. Green School. Spring startup of all outdoor programming was now in full swing, including Tennis and outdoor Pickleball. All Pelham parks consistently got busier the later we went into the month, with longer days along with sunshine and a warming trend. Centennial Park also hosted the annual Fenwick Lions Carnival and Fireworks. As of the Victoria Day long weekend the Town of Pelham now opened its second Splash Pad at Marlene Stewart Streit Park. It was a great addition to pool facility and will play host to many children, parents, camps and visitors from all around. Centennial Park batting cage was a long awaited venture for Pelham Minor Baseball Association and will be well used by PMBA players.



As the Recreation, Culture and Wellness department moved into the month of June all Town of Pelham facilities were operational and ready for use. Leaving the pool to be the last but maybe the most important task to be completed for the Summer's recreational programming season. By mid-June the Pelham pool was once again open to the public and Pelham residents. Inside the Meridian Community Centre staff were busy with many large events, daily rentals, and recreational programming. Meridian Community Centre was host to the first Boarder Purrtrol cat show, the Glynn. A. Green and Notre Dame Highschool graduation, along with a PD Day Camp and the E.L. Crossley Highschool 60th Anniversary Reunion. In June the Meridian Community Centre seen over 33,925 visitors throughout the facility.



Recreation, Culture and Wellness staff thrilled with new added Capital assets to assist in the operations. A newly acquired Ford pickup truck has been long awaited and needed, in addition to a Toro Sand Pro baseball groomer. Staff are now able to raise our quality of standard in preparing baseball diamonds. With immediate positive feedback from Pelham Minor Baseball Association, it has been a welcomed investment moving our relationship forward. With the added Capital assets and over 121,997 visitors through the Meridian Community Centre doors, Recreation, Culture, and Wellness departmental staff are positive, proud and motivated for what the future will bring.



MCC Programming

Big Band

The Town of Pelham's Big Band Dance Night, featuring the Jimmy Marando Swing Band takes place every third Tuesday of the month in the Accursi Room at the Meridian Community Centre. It is a night filled with swing, jazz, classical music, and lots of dancing! The attendance has been growing steadily with an average of 160 attendees each night throughout the last

three months. This event continues to offer free admission with food and beverage available for purchase.



The Velveteen Rabbit:

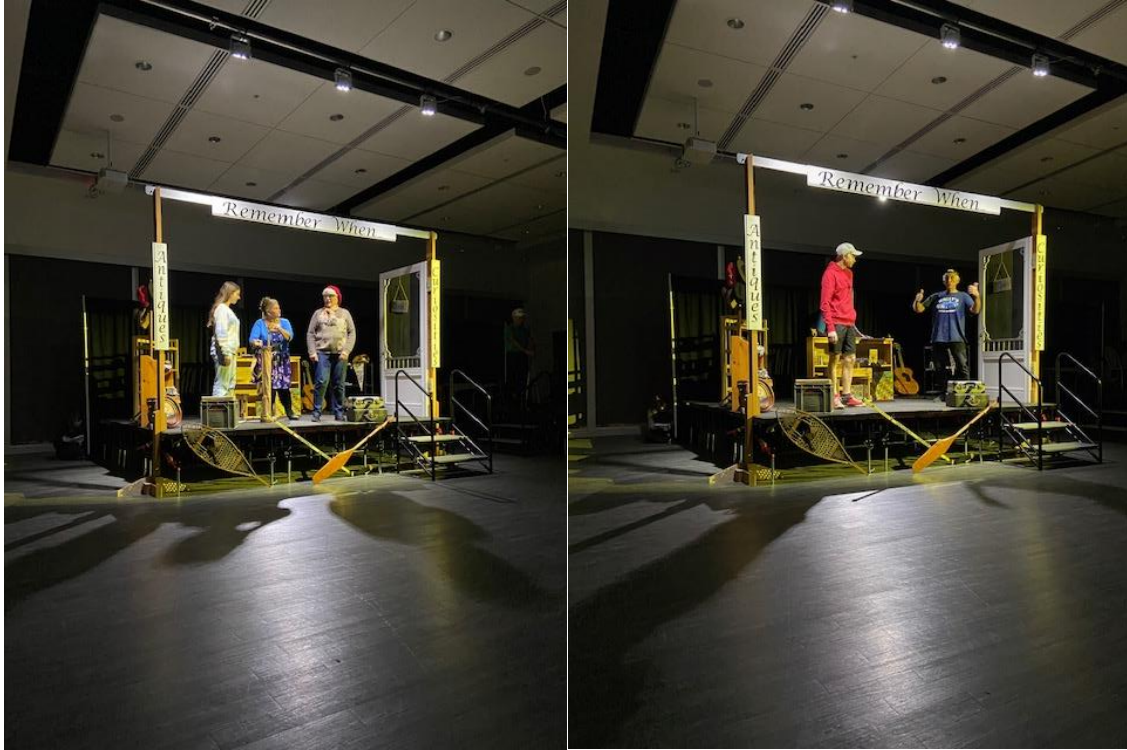
The Velveteen Rabbit, presented by Carousel Players returned to the Meridian Community Centre on April 1. Over 100 tickets were sold for this presentation.

SAY IT! On Stage

“SAY IT” stands for “Seniors and Youth Intergenerational Theatre”. It is a program designed to strengthen connections and encourage collaboration between teens and their elders. Through intergenerational conversation circles, senior participants have the opportunity to share anecdotes and experiences from their lives; these stories provided the foundation for a play that was produced and performed by both youth and senior participants.

This initiative also seeks to showcase the broad range of talents and passions individuals bring to the project – music, dance, visual arts, crafts, and trades. The aim is to involve the community of Pelham in all its diversity, including Indigenous presence and storytelling approaches.

The most recent SAY IT! on stage project began April 2023, with future performance dates to come in 2023.



Comedy Night in Pelham

The next Comedy Night in Pelham is planned for Saturday July 29th, 2023. Tickets are now available for \$25. Call 289 668 3425 to reserve a table of 8 for \$150. Bar service will be available for purchase. Doors open at 7pm. Showtime 8pm.

Visit **www.gardencitycomedyfestival.com** for more information or to purchase ticket!



MCC Art Walls

During Q2 of 2023, art displays were showcased on the Meridian Community Centre art walls. During the month of April, the Pelham Art Festival showcased a variety of paintings in the atrium of the Meridian Community Centre.



During Q2 of 2023, EL Crossley's grade 11 and grade 12 art classes continued to display their two bodies of work "Collective Consciousness" and "Re-purposed Parts Portraits" in the upper hallway at the Meridian Community Centre.



Earth Week in Pelham:

Earth Week was celebrated in Pelham from April 17 – April 22. Our Earth Week encompassed several elements and events, which included:

- Rain Barrel Sale Pick-up at MCC – April 22nd 9:00 am – 1:00pm

A total of 245 Rain Barrels were sold to residents during Earth Week in Pelham.



- Community Cleanup – April 22, 9:00am – 12:00pm

On April 22, 115 residents participated in a town wide community clean-up to celebrate Earth Day. All participants arrived at the Meridian Community Centre at 9:00 am to pick-up their clean-up supplies and enjoy a coffee. Participants gathered 93 bags of garbage from various locations throughout the town. After the clean-up, all participants were invited back to the MCC for a complimentary lunch.

Eco-Expo – April 22 9:00 am – 12:00pm

The Earth Day Eco-Expo ran simultaneously with our Rain Barrel pick-up and our Community Clean-up. The Eco-Expo featured 6 local environmental organizations, who spoke about their environmental initiatives and the importance of Earth Week celebrations.



- Community Tree Plant Event – April 21, 10:00am – 12:00pm at North Pelham Park

The annual Community Tree Plant took place at North Pelham Park and was sponsored by the Niagara Community Foundation Grant. Staff, councillors, local environmental organizations as well as students from St. Alexander school participated in our Community Tree Plant and helped to plant 30 trees.



Pelham Farmers' Market:

The 20th season of the Pelham Farmer's Market began May 4 and will run weekly until October 5. The Farmer's Market features 22 vendors plus a non-profit booth. Throughout the last 10 weeks, attendance at the market has been growing steadily.

Summer Chill Supper Market:

The annual Thursday Night Summer Chill Series returned to Peace Park on June 8 and will run each Thursday night until September 21. The Summer Chill Series includes the Pelham Supper Market, Farmer's Market, and the Bandshell Concert Series. The Supper Market features eight local food vendors as well as local beer, wine, and cider. Local musical talent is featured in the Supper Market each Thursday from 5:30 – 6:45 pm. On June 22, the Supper Market featured an Indigenous Vendor Market in celebration of Indigenous People's Day. The Thursday night Summer Chill Series has been a successful event thus far for the 2023 season, with over 8500 attendees within the first five weeks. Once Summer Chill ends, a full report will be done on all numbers.



National Indigenous People's Day – June 21:

June 21st was National Indigenous Peoples Day, a special occasion to learn more about the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The day began with a flag raising ceremony at the Meridian Community Centre. The Every Child Matters Flag was flown, as it is inclusive of all Indigenous communities, and reiterates the importance of bringing awareness to the residential school system.

Following the flag raising, seminars and workshops were offered at the Meridian Community Centre. The Town had the honour of hosting both Nokomis Migizinz Cinidlee and Josephine Lavalley. In the evening, the Town of Pelham hosted an Indigenous Lacrosse Workshop with Fuse Lacrosse, led by Jace Sowden. In addition, the Lincoln-Pelham Public Library staff were set-up in the atrium of the Meridian Community Centre where they offered buttons, colouring pages and Indigenous literature.

The Town's website also contained a wide variety of resources for residents to learn more about Indigenous communities and how to be an ally.



Active Programs

The Meridian Community Centre welcomed a new youth Cycling Program in partnership with Cycling Ontario. This HopON Program, like the summer Bike Camps, was hosted by a certified instructor and Pelham Camp Staff to teach pelham youth how to safely operate their bikes while using the road and trail systems. The outdoor Tennis and Pickleball courts opened this spring and quickly grew a large membership 87 tennis players and 160 Pickleball Players. Within the MCC, active programs such as spin classes, FIT with Brock and pickleball continued throughout the spring season.

Camp

Summer Staff welcomed a full camp of 14 campers on May 19th and 27 campers on June 9th for the PD Day camp. Staff are preparing for the summer season full of fun and exciting camp opportunities! The expanded camp program will accommodate junior campers, from ages 4-7, and senior campers from ages 8-12 in separate groups with separate weekly trips and activities. In addition to regular day camp programs, the Town will also be hosting Art & Theatre Camp, Junior Firefighter Camp, Bike Camp, Tennis Camp, Animal Adventure camp and Teen bike camp this summer! Each week campers will enjoy time at the MCC, Pelham Pool, Centennial Park and on an out-trip that changes locations each week. Junior campers will travel to locations including Cheeky Monkeys, Safari Niagara, Crockadoodle and more, while senior campers will travel to Adventure Village, Wild Water Works,

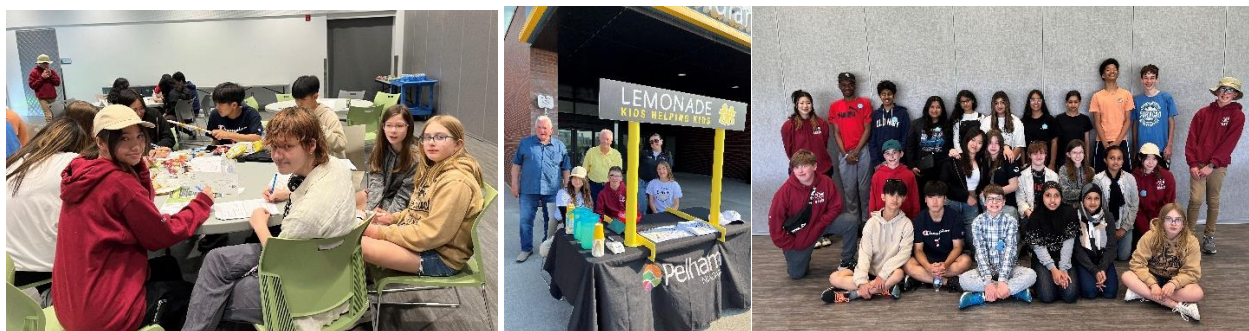
African Lion Safari and the Ontario Science Centre. Camp registration has grown from 656 in 2022 to 990 children in 2023 with a waiting list and additional staff have been hired to accommodate the additional need from the community, expanding from 15 staff in 2022 to 20 staff in 2023.

Aquatics

The Pool Opened on June 17th to the public for preseason programs! Regular programs including swim team, Aqua Zumba, lane swim and public swim will begin July 3. Although initially facing difficulties with hiring due to lifeguard shortages, the Town was able to hire a team of 16 staff to offer instruction and aquatic supervision throughout the summer. As the lifeguard age restriction has changed from 16 to 15, we are hopeful this will assist with the hiring process in the future. Private pool rentals have seen an increase for 2023, with 9 rentals to date. Having the pavilion and the splash pad at Marlene Stewart Streit park has helped to bring larger crowds to the area, welcoming more families to the pool this summer.

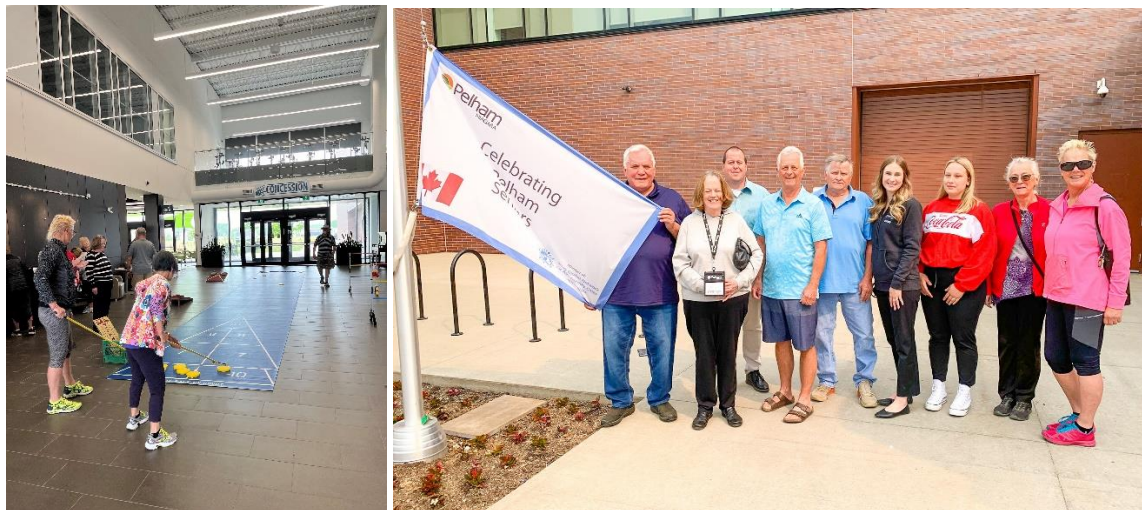
Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) Working Group Updates

MYAC has changed its name to the Mayors Youth Advisory Collective, as they are now a working group and no longer an appointed committee of council. On May 19th MYAC hosted a Youth Forum that welcomed over 25 youth from local schools to gain feedback on programs, events, initiatives, and what Pelham can do to be more youth friendly. MYAC is currently compiling all results and hopes to present their findings to council in the future. MYAC members, as well as Members of Town Council participated in the Pressed in Pelham Lemonade Stand on June 10 at the Meridian Community Centre. \$254 was raised to help send Niagara youth to camp through Family and Children's Services.



Seniors' Month Celebrations

Senior's month was an eventful celebration at the Meridian Community Centre this year. From June 5th to June 9th there was a week packed full of events, including our first monthly Senior's Educational Speaker Series. On Monday, June 5th the festivities kicked off with the senior's flag raising ceremony with refreshments and snacks to celebrate. On Tuesday we had SAY IT! On Stage, a seniors and youth intergenerational theatre, for an information and conversation circle. On the following day, Wednesday June 7th, we had our first monthly speaker series from the Niagara Christian Gleaners, a not-for-profit volunteer led organization that operates a modern food plant to receive surplus produce from growers to then wash, chop and dehydrate it and further send it to hungry countries in need. On Thursday and Friday, we held after-program socials on both days in the Atrium, with various games such as ladder ball, corn hole and shuffleboard, laid out to be played by the older adults. Additionally, there were snacks and refreshments available with takeaway bags filled with useful community resources. During these two socials we had many older adults who stopped by to play games, grab a snack, and socialize with one another. Overall, our senior's month weeklong celebration was successful and brought together community members to celebrate seniors.



ParticipACTION

The Town received the ParticipACTION grant this spring, which had a focus on getting the community active for 30 minutes each day, for the 30 days in

June. The June 30 for 30 initiative hosted 30 days of active opportunities partnering with local sports groups, organizations, and activity instructors. This included a community baseball game with the Welland Jackfish, Try Ringette workshop, a Jr. B Ball Hockey Clinic, Aqua Zumba class and more, all free for the community to attend. Over the 30 days in June, the Pelham Community Submitted 70,690 active minutes.



Festivals & Events Update

Easter Egg Hunt – April 8

On Saturday, April 8, Pelham's Easter Egg Hunt returned to Centennial Park. Nearly 2000 people attended the annual event to hunt for eggs, participate in Easter-inspired crafts, met the Easter Bunny and entered the annual Easter Colouring Contest.

The hunt had three designated age group areas for 5 and under, 6-9 years and 10-12 years. Three Golden Eggs were hidden in the park in each group. Those who were lucky enough to find the Golden Egg took home a prize! Food was provided to families FREE by the Fabulous Fenwick Lions.

Canada Day

Canada Day kicked off with the return of Pelham's beloved Grand Parade, attended by approximately 2000 people along the parade route from A.K Wigg School to Harold Black Park. The Pelham Canada Day Parade tradition of the Town's firefighters engaging in a friendly water fight with parade goers is always a hit! Following the parade, the Jimmy Marando Swing Band

kicked things off at the main stage, followed by No More New (of the Fonthill Music Academy), Hunter Stull, and local favourites Wet Knights. The Rotary Club of Fonthill hosted the Kids Zone area that remained packed with families for the entire duration of the event. The Fonthill Lions provided food at the concession stand as well as a Poutine-eating contest, which featured eight contestants. The evening ended with spectacular fireworks show sponsored by the Fonthill Lions Club. The Town of Pelham gratefully acknowledges the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage and the Rotary Club of Fonthill, Sawmill Golf Course, Fonthill Lions club and Lance Wiebe Financial Services for their support of the Canada Day festivities.

Summerfest

The Summerfest Committee is preparing to hold Summerfest from July 13-16, 2023. The 4-day event will have local food and artisan vendors, live entertainment, buskers, community groups and service clubs, local craft beer options, and family-friendly activities and performances in the Kids Zone. Summerfest is slated to have a fantastic entertainment line up as well. All of the information can be found on www.pelhamsummerfest.ca

Volunteers

During Q2 of 2023 Staff received seven new volunteer expression of interest forms through the Town's website. One volunteer was interviewed and subsequently added to the database. The remaining volunteers were added to the database without an interview. At the beginning of May, RCW staff had a meeting with Carrie Brown, who is involved in event management and volunteer coordination for large Canadian events including the Juno's. Upon Carrie's recommendation, the volunteer interview has been removed from the volunteer recruitment process, due to the barriers it imposes upon some volunteers. Town Staff continue to advertise volunteer opportunities by emailing the community volunteer database.

Five volunteers assisted with the annual Hoppin' Easter Egg Hunt at Centennial Park on April 8. A total of 10.25 hours were contributed by these volunteers assisting with the Kids Activity Booth and Easter Bunny Line-Up.

One Senior VIP (Volunteer in Pelham) has continued to contribute her time to the Meridian Community Centre. During Q2 of 2023, this volunteer contributed a total of 18 hours to assisting with the Orchestrum Music drop-in program on Friday's and the monthly Big Band Dance Night.

Dedication Program

During Q2 of 2023, there were no new inquiries for the bench dedication program. The Pelham Cares Bench was installed and unveiled during the Pelham Cares AGM on May 24, 2023, at the MCC. The plaque has the following inscription: "In recognition of our amazing volunteers past, present and future." Please see below for pictures of the bench and plaque.



Transit Update, as of June 30, 2023:

At the time of writing the report, the Regional Transit Commission had not supplied the total number of rides from April – June, and the total number of rides each month. Staff will update Council Q3 with the Q2 numbers.

Employee Updates:

The Masters of Applied Gerontology Student, Camp Supervisor, Aquatics Supervisor and RCW Intern started for the Summer Season on May 1.

E.L. Crossley Co-op Student started for the season on June 27.

Grants, Concerns, RFPs, Agreements:

The Active Living Programmer Assisted in the application of the following grants: ParticipACTION ; Niagara Community Foundation Camp Grant; New Horizons for Seniors Program Grant; Seniors Community Grant Program 2023-24; 2023-24 Seniors Active Living Centres Funding; Wellbeing Grant; Innovative Programming for Help Age Canada.

Meetings:

- Golden Horseshoe Regional Meeting
- MYAC meetings continued
- ASIG Regional Aquatics Meeting
- PSAC meetings started for the 2023-2026 term
- Niagara Regional Swim Team Meeting