

Schreiber to get recreational master plan

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reference for facilities and programs for the next 10 years.

Also, when it is done, the plan will help with grant applications to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and other ministries. Larivee said the plan will also allow the town to better utilize the money available to them.

Need established

Larivee told the News the need for the plan was established when the town looked at what is spent on town facilities and what is spent on maintaining them, for example the community hall and the ball parks.

Part of the Master Plan will concentrate on looking at the condition of these facilities before any money is spent to repair them.

"Do we want to do a lot of maintenance?" Larivee said. "Maybe we should build a new one [facility] rather than maintaining it."

The plan will also look at programs and policies. It will help to decide what programs to offer and what programs not to offer.

The plan will see just what the community wants in programs and facilities. "Recreation is becoming more important in all facets of community life [partly due to layoffs and part-time workers]," said Larivee.

Trends and fads

The plan will look at what the community wants to do and what the trends in recreation are.

Larivee said that right now minor baseball is really big in Schreiber but in four or five years it might die- it might be just a fad.

There is no point in building ball parks now if five years down the road the desire dies. There will be a white elephant, said Larivee- an expensive facility with nobody using it. "We want to avoid that," he said.

Immediate, short and long-term

The Master Plan will prioritize immediate, short-term and long-term objectives for the township Larivee said.

Did Official Plan

Schreiber's Master Recreation Plan is being done by Conlin Engineering and Planning Limited of Thunder Bay. Larivee said this company also did Schreiber's Official Plan several years ago. For this reason, he said, the company already has a "good understanding of the town." Conlin was also the lowest bidder for the project.

Larivee said the terms of reference for the plan were sent to 10 companies- eight responded. Three of those eight companies were then asked to bid for the project and Conlin came out the lowest bidder.

Background statement

In the background statement of the terms of reference for the plan, it states that Schreiber's changing workforce, increased enforced leisure, an aging population and an aging recreation centre have added to the complex task of meeting the recreation needs of the community.

Open House

Recreation Co-ordinator Larivee said there will be an open house at the community hall in the complex on Thursday, June 4, so the public can talk to Conlin and township

representatives about what is involved with the plan.

Larivee noted that Conlin Limited has hired a local student,

Tamalea Meister, for the summer to help identify the recreational needs and wants of groups and organizations in the community.

75 per cent of the cost of the Master Plan is Wintario- funded and the remaining 25 per cent is paid for by the township.

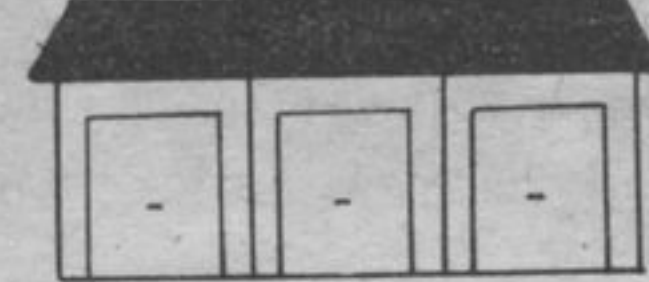
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