

***“If bread is the first necessity of life, recreation is a close second.”*** Edward Bellamy

Recreation in Sunapee continues to grow and provide expanding programs because of the supportive community and wonderful volunteers. Special thanks to all town departments, Sunapee gardeners, and Sunapee elementary and high school for their continued efforts for assisting the Recreation dept in providing a quality of life within Sunapee heads and shoulders above the rest.

Outdoor Recreation space, specifically athletic fields, is going to be our main focus in 2008. Dewey Field and Ski tow hill are being studied so they may increase their usability during different seasons and Veteran's field will be given a facelift with new infield material, flagpole and other much needed improvements. Veteran's field is the gateway to the town and should represent a proud community.

### ***Winter Activities:***

**K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Basketball:** 32 youngsters learned the basics of basketball every Saturday morning from 9:30-11 am at Sunapee high school. Emphasis focused on participation, skills and fun. Coaches include Jennifer Duda, Tina Walker Cahill, and Rich Ducharme

**Basketball Referee Clinic:** Sunapee basketball has a wonderful bunch of referees. The quality and professionalism is greatly due to the training of Steve Whitehead. Referees for the 2007 season include Vinny Tagliatela, Sara Reney, Courtney Whitehead, Hannah Preston, Kate Milewski and Karissa Krause.

**3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball:** The Quad Valley basketball league is made up of boys and girls teams grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. This league includes Kearsarge area, Andover and Sunapee. Many thanks go out to the following coaches 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade girls: Pam Richardson, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade boys: Mike Robinson, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade girls team #1 Rusty Fowler & team #2 Dave Clarenbach, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Boys team #1 Paul Skarin & team # 2 Gordon Weinberger

**Open Gym:** We offered youth drop-in basketball for grades 3-12 on Saturday evenings at the Sherburne gym. This program runs from December to the end of February from 6pm to 9pm. Participants shoot baskets or takes part in more organized pickup games. Many thanks to Paul Skarin, Dan Banks, Katie Gioldassis, and Brian Emery for assisting with supervising open gym.

**Ice Skating Rink:** The ice skating rink is located at Ben Mere Park in Sunapee Harbor. Many thanks go to Greg Kelley for doing a wonderful job maintaining the ice.

## ***Spring Activities:***

**T-Ball:** Introductory baseball program for boys and girls ages 5-6. Special thanks to coaches Patricia Halpin, Jennifer Duda, Rich Ducharme, Kevin and Elaine Rickard, Billy Austin, Laura & Randy Henault, and many others for spending their Saturday mornings teaching Americas' favorite pastime to our future big leaguers

**Youth Girls Softball:** Girls participate in an Under 10 and Under 12 softball league made up of teams from Newport, Grantham, and Sunapee. The U10 team was coached by Tina Naimie and the U12 team was coached by Joan Fowler. Both teams played very well and enjoyed the season. Special thanks for Steve Anglin and Jeff Trow for umpiring most of the softball and baseball games.

**Softball Clinic:** In a continued effort to increase the level of knowledge among our area female softball players, Tony Milewski spent a long weekend teaching all aspects of the game for softball.

**Cal Ripkin youth Baseball:** Seventy-three 7-12 year old boys turned out for the Kearsarge Valley baseball program this year. Sunapee hosted three rookie league teams coached by Kevin Rickard, Billy Austin, Rich Ducharme and Tim Hayes. Two minor league teams were coached Mike Robinson and Peter Ippedico, two major league teams coached by Paul Skarin and Mike Coughlin. Thank you to Steve Anglin and Jeff Trow for their continued support in volunteering as umpires for many years.

## ***Summer Activities:***

**Drop-in Tennis:** Thank you to John Augustine, Dexter's Inn and Trails, for allowing Sunapee residents to use his Tennis facilities as an evening drop-in program during the summer months.

**Dewey Beach/Georges Mill's Beach:** Going to the beach is such a wonderful part of summers in Sunapee. We are very fortunate to have two beautiful beach facilities. Hours of operation are 9am until 7pm seven days a week at Dewey and 11-3 at Georges Mills. Beach managers were Mary Lyman, Darcie Gauthier and Simone Robinson. Special programs offered at the beach included the wonderful "store", swim lessons, snorkeling, kayaking, volleyball, arts and crafts, sailing, sand castle building or just soaking up the sun.

**Swim/Snorkeling lessons:** Darcie Gauthier, Cailee Hawkins, Jill Thorson and Kirsten Wolf all shared the duties of providing swimming instruction to 73 young swimmers. It is my goal as recreation director that swimmers of all ages get a quality learning experience from the Dewey beach swim staff. Thank- you to all the lifeguards and beach staff for their dedication and continual training. Thank-you to the Sunapee Fire Dept for their assistance with mock training for our staff.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration:** Thanks to \$10,000 fundraised by donations from local businesses and residents Sunapee recreation was able to display its spirit of patriotism with a spectacular fireworks show shared by 2,000 viewers in Sunapee Harbor. This weekend also included a parade along Central Street with more than 30 cars, trucks, lots of candy and even the Manchester Mounted Police.

**British Challenger Soccer camp:** This week long Soccer camp is designed for participant's enjoyment, and to enhance skills at virtually all ages and skills levels. 112 future soccer stars ages 3-12 attended the camp. Thanks to Brian Garland, Van Webb and Heather Cantagallo for opening their homes to host five British Soccer staff for the week.

**Rock Bass Fishing Derby:** Over 150 anglers of all ages joined the efforts on the second Saturday in August to rid Lake Sunapee of the pesky rock bass. 1200 fish were pulled out and donated to Vermont Institute of Natural science to be used as bird food.

**Tennis lessons:** Lessons were held at Dexter's Inn and Trails by longtime tennis instructor Bruce Cronin. This program offered 4 sessions throughout the spring, summer and fall. Tennis is a wonderful summer activity that is fun for all ages.

**Movie Night:** In the spring of 2007, Sunapee Recreation purchased an inflatable 16x9ft movie screen. This purchase will allow us to offer movies a few times a year for many families to enjoy.

### ***Fall Activities:***

**K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Soccer:** This Saturday morning program attracted over 42 players that came to Veteran's field to learn the basics of Soccer. Instruction and fun was offered by Katie Flint, Jon Reed, David Rowell, Rich Ducharme, Jeff Stoughton, Gary Summerton, Miles Cooney, Peter Salvitti

**3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Soccer:** Sunapee participates in the Merrimack Valley Soccer League. This year's program supported over 100 players in grades 3-6. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade girl's coaches: Alan Abendroth. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade boys coaches Brian Emery and Brian Vincent, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade girls coaches Rusty Fowler and Tina Naimie, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade boys coach Mike Emmond. Thank-you Ray Cline, Alan Abendroth jr, Vinny Tagliatela, and for refereeing soccer games and helping make the program a success.

**Drop in youth Volleyball:** Open to boys and girls grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> for the months of October-November at the Sherburne gym. Joan Fowler and members of the Varsity volleyball team volunteered to teach the fundamentals of the game.

**Turkey Trot 5K race:** Sunapee Recreation offered its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Turkey Trot in 2007. 230 runners/walkers lined Lake Ave on its 5K loop. Special thanks to Katie Flint, David Rowell, and all the sponsors for their dedicated efforts to make this event a success. All the proceeds will go to fund improvements at Veteran's field.

### ***Year –round programs:***

**Adult Drop-in Volleyball:** Adult volleyball is played every Friday night from 7-9pm at the high school. Thank you, Aaron and Jessica Warkentien for volunteering your time to organize such a fun activity.

**Adult Drop-in Basketball:** Adult basketball for men and women runs Sunday from 7-9pm at the high school. Thanks to Ken Ricketts for organizing this program.

**Drop in Floor hockey:** A very well organized program that runs Sunday mornings from 8-10am at either Sherburne gym or the High School. This program is organized by Jeff Trow.

**Dewey Woods Trail:** Thanks to Sawyer Webb and the Sunapee Conservation commission residents can now enjoy a walking trail system that can be used year round. Located at the top of route 11, this is a wonderful trail for all hiking/snow shoeing levels.

### ***Special Events:***

**Sunapee Harbor “Magical” Christmas:** Sunapee Recreation joined forces with the harbor businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Sunapee Seniors, and other town organizations to offer a Christmas celebration that shows the spirit of the whole community. Some highlights events by the Recreation dept. include the Looney Lunge and the fireworks.

**Spring Egg Hunt:** A fun spring event organized by the recreation committee. Over 100 young egg hunters raced inside the Sherburne gym to search for 1000 little treasures.

**Special Trips:** Sunapee recreation featured two trips to the Boston Red Sox, one to the Boston Celtics and one to Foxwoods Casino These trips provide a comfortable coach bus, plenty of friendly memories and a great way for seniors and sports enthusiasts to share in the fun.

### **Special Recreation Fund:**

Sunapee Recreation fund is where all monies are put that are taken in from registration of programs, special trips, clinics, Dewey beach store, and other money generating endeavors. This money in return is used to purchase tickets and buses for future special events, uniform tops and hats that players keep after the season, and additional inventory for sale at the beach. This fund is also used to follow through with projects that were unanticipated the previous budget year. This type of revolving account ensures that recreation opportunities will exist along with the normal operating budget.

### **Recreation Advisory Committee:**

Brian Garland	Patricia Halpin
Chuck Weinstein	Melissa Eastman
Paul Skarin	Marylin Morse
Craig Heino	

Thank-you so much for supporting recreation and all its benefits!

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Blewitt

Recreation Director