

Colchester Parks & Recreation

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Winter Carnival Volunteers Represented!

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)



On February 6, 7 & 8, Colchester Parks & Recreation along with the Winter Carnival Committee hosted the 32nd Annual Colchester Winter Carnival at Colchester High School. Over the course of these three days, Colchester's most popular family event saw over 1,200 people attend. Colchester High School's campus played an instrumental role, serving as the event's primary location on Friday and Saturday, while Saint Michael's College's Ross Sports Center Pool and Burlington's Leddy Park Ice Rink provided some warm and cold choices to families on Sunday.

With so many moving parts involved with running the Winter Carnival – fundraising, advertising, talent show, concessions, inside activities, outside activities, facility logistics, contractual services, theatre operations, customer service, volunteer support and recruitment – it takes

many committed staff and volunteers to run a successful event. For 32 years the Colchester community has proven this! As for this year's Winter Carnival, volunteer involvement was well represented. Led by Colchester Parks & Recreation Staff, the Winter Carnival Volunteer Committee (7 individuals) who meet once a month for six months leading up to the event, compiled a group of volunteers who made the event a success. Therefore, special thanks goes out to the following groups, organizations and businesses: Colchester Theatre Company, Colchester High School Cares, Colchester High School National Honors Society, Colchester Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Building Bright Futures of Colchester, Lake Champlain Access Television, Chittenden Country Maple Promotion Board, Studio 3 Dance Team, Colchester Lion's Club, CHS Food Service and Merchants Bank.

As for the Winter Carnival "Super Seven" Committee – Renee Barrett, Kathy LaRoche, Mary Beth Mooney, Ronny Cummings, Toni Navarro, Kelly DesLauriers, and Tiera Porter – nice job and thank you for your dedication to our community!

The Winter Carnival Committee is always looking to add to our team! If you are interested or know someone that could be a good fit please go to the Colchester Pride web page <http://colchester.vt.gov/RecreationColchesterPride.html> and click on the Winter Carnival link to see what committee duties might interest you.

*"Volunteers are not paid
-- not because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless."*

Did You Know?

The Colchester Winter Carnival was held at Marble Island until 1995 when a fire destroyed the resort hall. Colchester High School has been its home ever since.

Colchester Causeway Needs Volunteers

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)

Saturday, June 6th marks the 3rd Annual Colchester Causeway 5K/15K race, held at Airport Park. Like any other race of ours, we need volunteers to help during the race.

As this race continues to gain in popularity (400 runners in 2014), volunteers play an important role in administering a successful race. Volunteer roles vary, the time commitment is just in the a.m. hours and it involves our unique, beautiful Causeway. This all makes volunteering

at this race appealing, and don't forget, you will receive a Colchester Causeway race t-shirt!

The Colchester Causeway 5K/15K needs approximately 20 volunteers, willing to brave the elements - the race is held rain, wind or shine... which you can usually count on at least two of those out on the Causeway. Our inaugural year, heavy rain the day and evening before forced the closure of a part of the 15K course as it was under water, while

last year saw sunny skies with a stiff tail wind on the Causeway. Regardless of what Mother Nature throws at our volunteers, they've embraced the challenge as this race is truly unique. A old rail road line made out of marble and stone jutting out into Lake Champlain now turned into a local treasure and tourist destination tends to make people forget about the weather. Combine that with runners smiling and thanking you along the course, makes volunteering at this race feel pretty special.



To learn more about volunteering at the Colchester Causeway Race, you can visit the Colchester Pride web page at <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/ColchesterPride.html> under Volunteer Opportunities click on Colchester Causeway 5K/15K for a full listing of volunteer positions. Or call the Parks & Recreation Department at 264-5640.

2015 Colchester Triathlon in its 30.1 Year

By: Mike LaPan, Administrative Assistant (Parks & Rec)



Colchester Triathletes swim in 2013

Last year's Colchester Triathlon was a wash... literally! We were washed out by a deluge of rain, thunder, and lightning! Despite the many racers who trained for countless hours, woke up early in the morning, and got drenched without even jumping in the lake for the water leg, we were forced to cancel last year's race due to safe-

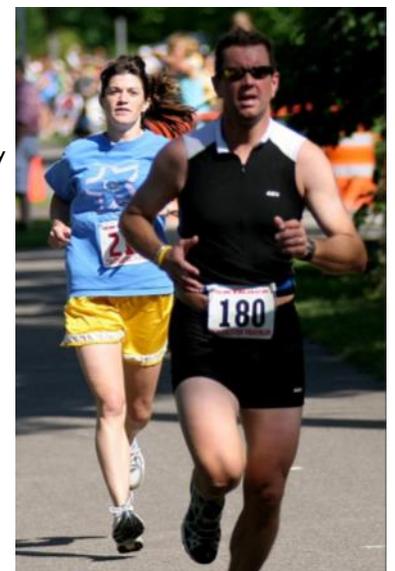
ty concerns. And wouldn't you know it, this was the first time we had EVER cancelled a Colchester Triathlon in the 30 years since the event started. Many of our racers follow the philosophy of "Never Give Up," and we're taking a page from their book by refusing to give up our celebration of 30 years of Colchester Triathlon! Armed with a new

Weather and Cancellation Policy and a shortened Swim leg to 500 meters and shortened Kayak leg to 1 mile, we will celebrate the 30th time the Colchester Triathlon is actually run in its entirety: more than 30, less than 31... 30.1!

Run, Run, Run to Mark Your Calendars

Looking to run a race in 2015? Well, Colchester will be hosting plenty of races in 2015 that may be of interest to you... of course if your not volunteering at one ☺ of them.

- ◆ Saturday, April 11 - Unplugged
- ◆ Saturday, May 30 - Colchester/Milton Rotary Club 5K
- ◆ Saturday, June 6 - Colchester Causeway 5K/15K
- ◆ July 8, 22 & August 5 - Laker XC 5K Tail Series
- ◆ Sunday, July 26 - 30.1 Annual Colchester Triathlon
- ◆ Sunday, August 9 - Get Your Rear In Gear 5K
- ◆ Saturday, October 10 - Pink out the Park 5K Run/Walk



Local Businesses Volunteer Time and Equipment to Touch-A-Truck Event

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)

Eight years ago dump trucks, tractors, cranes, fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, school buses, tractor trailer trucks, tow trucks, dump trucks, lawn mowers and army trucks filled the Colchester High School parking lot one cold rainy spring morning. What ensued was quite remarkable - over 400 families braved the elements while enjoying an up-and-close experience with their favorite trucks! This marked the beginning of what now has become the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department's Annual Touch-A-Truck Event.

To use the line from the famed movie *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come," the Touch-A-Truck Event proved to be a community favorite and the kids, parents and grandparents come every year. This free event takes place on the CHS parking lot, which will be held this year on Saturday, May 2 from 9:00—11:00 a.m., rain or shine. After the first year, we decided to have a designated siren and horn time (10:30-11:00a.m.), when horns and sirens can be pushed and pulled. Prior to 10:30a.m. is deemed "Quiet time" so kids and adults alike don't have to worry about being caught in front of a tractor trailer truck when its air horn is goes off.



Surely, the most commendable aspects of this event are the business and individuals that bring their trucks, equipment and employees to this event each year. Purely volunteering their time during a Saturday, they show up with clean polished trucks, free give aways and a smile. These folks are the Ray Kinsella's (Kevin Costner's character) of Colchester's Touch-A-Truck event. We could not "build it" without them!

Thank You to Our Winter Carnival Financial Donors!

All Phase Auto Body, All Seasons Excavating, American Legion Post 91, Bauer, Gravel & Farnham, Bayside Bakery, Bevin's Door, LLC, Brault's Manufactured Homes, Chamberlain Construction, Champlain Cable Corp., Champlain Chiropractic Services, Champlain Consulting Engineers, Coates Island Marina, Colchester-Milton Rotary Club, Costco Wholesale, Crowley Construction Company, Cummings Electric, Dean Brigante's Farmstand, Deborah J. Mitchell & Associates, Inc., DJ's Tree Service & Logging, Inc., Dr. Anna Bolanis, Family Dentistry, E&S Electric Company, Farrington Auto Transport, Gardner Construction, Greg Clairmont Associates in Real Estate, Kelly's K-9 Cookies, Marina at Marble Island, , Marriott Residence Inn, Mazza's General Store & Deli, Merchants Bank, Mike's Auto Parts, Partner Tire & Service, Pension Works, People's United Bank, Pepin Memorials, Rebecca Collman, M.D., Red Leaf Software, Rycandon Mechanical, Inc., Saba Marine, LLC, Shadow Cross Farm, Shaw's Supermarkets, Sheppard Custom Homes, Sleepydog Kennel, The Colchester Sun, The Moorings, Inc., The Planet 96.7, The Small Engine Company, TK Landscape Architects, VNA of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties, Woodland Shores Park

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“OPTIMIZING THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING”



www.colchestervt.gov

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community. Recommend to a friend or family member to become involved in Colchester Pride!

Some benefits of volunteering with us are: learn new skills, teach others, gain experience, meet new people, be involved in your community, and improve your health.



Volunteers receive custom t-shirts for most events

Our variety of volunteer opportunities will allow you to pick what best fits into your schedule...we are flexible.

Check out where you can volunteer by visiting www.colchestervt.gov

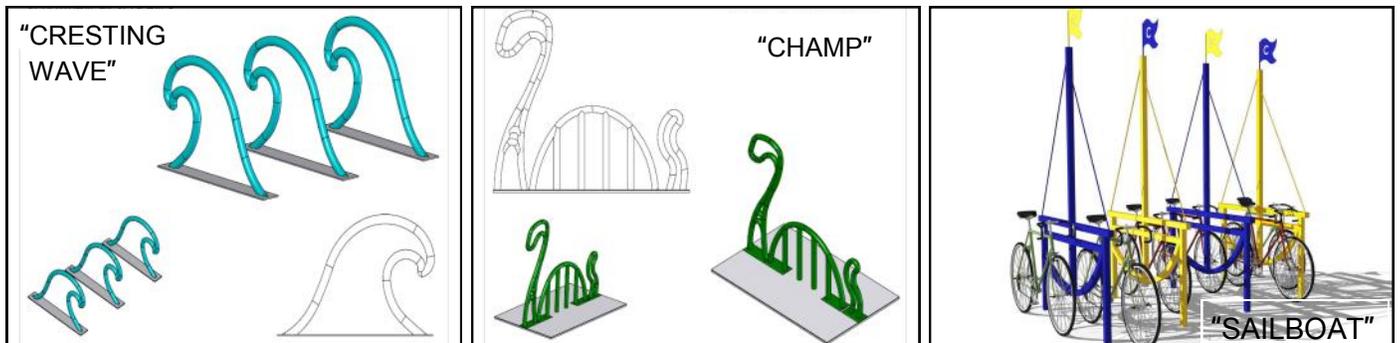
Current Annual Volunteer Opportunities:

- Causeway 5K/15K Running Race
- Colchester Triathlon
- 4th of July Celebration
- Winter Carnival
- Youth Sports Coach

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Community Bike Rack Project - Update

By: Glen Cuttitta, Director (Parks & Rec)

The Colchester Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to announce that three designs were chosen for the Community Bike Rack Project, dubbed “Colchester Rides.” Five design submissions were displayed at the Winter Carnival on February 6 & 7 to be voted upon by community members and visitors. The three winning designs are pictured below, with rack installation to be completed by July 1, 2015.



Volunteers are encouraged to share their stories and submit to the Colchester Pride Newsletter! If you are interested in writing an article, please contact Derek Mitchell at dmitchell@colchestervt.gov or recreation@colchestervt.gov