



# Municipality of Port Hope

## Staff Report

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### Report Title: Parks, Recreation and Culture Year in Review

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**Report to:** Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

**Date of meeting:** March 1, 2022

**Report Author:**

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**Department responsible:**

Parks, Recreation & Culture

**Report Number:** PRC-03-22

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### Recommendation:

Receive for information.

### Highlights:

- Highlights and notable achievements of Parks, Recreation and Culture in 2021.

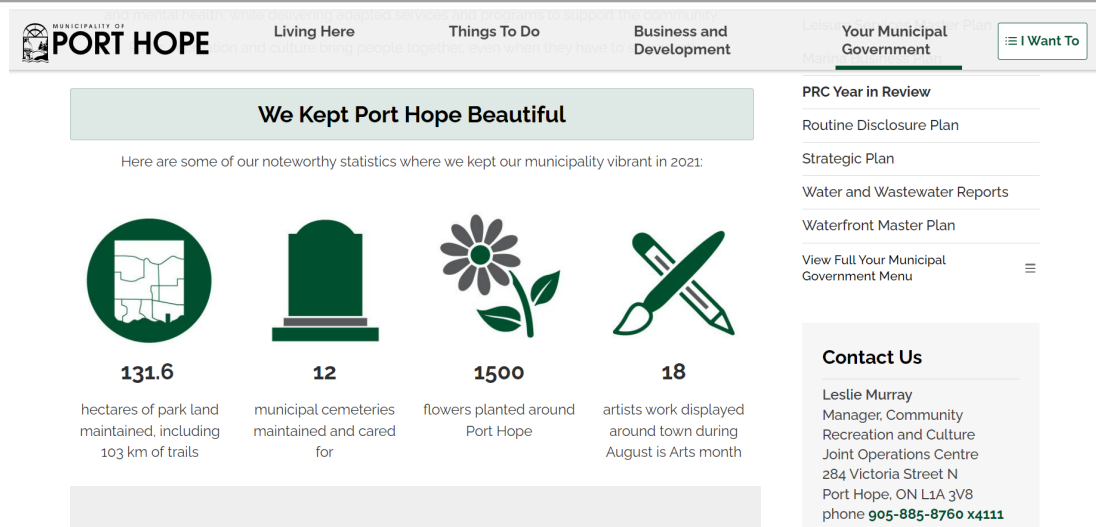
### Background:

Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) strives to encourage active, engaged and healthy lifestyles through participation in parks, recreation and culture by working with community partners, building internal capacity and delivering inclusive infrastructure, programs and services.

The Port Hope Strategic Plan and Leisure Services Master Plan are used to guide strategic priorities and plans within the department. Additional resources such as the Cultural Plan and Age-Friendly Community Action Plan help guide staff in decisions relating to programming and events. These plans help ensure that priorities are aligned with the needs of the community.

By taking pride in offering quality programs and services, PRC would like to share some highlights and impacts from 2021 and future objectives for 2022 through the Year in Review. This year the annual report has been launched and promoted online and is available for viewing and sharing <https://www.porthope.ca/en/your-municipal-government/prc-year-in-review.aspx>

The intent of the report is to celebrate community participation and the commitment of the Municipality to recreation and leisure opportunities.



The ongoing pandemic has challenged the recreation sector to continue to develop creative and unique methods of delivering programs, events, and experiences. Changing guidelines throughout 2021 have necessitated nimble planning to facilitate quick transitions between virtual, hybrid and in person offerings. The benefits of recreation, culture, nature and parks are evident in promoting all dimensions of health through this pandemic. Staff strive to balance community needs and expectations, while navigating changing requirements, capacity limits, vaccine passports and facility closures. PRC staff adjusted their regular methodology for program delivery quickly and effectively while continually consulting with public health and neighbouring municipalities. It has been a departmental focus to promote engagement and participation despite compliance requirements.

## Discussion:

We kept Port Hope beautiful.

- Parks staff maintained 131.6 hectares of park land and 103 kms of trails, installed 18,000 festive lights and planted 1,500 flowers around Port Hope.
- Work began on development of a Waterfront and Riverwalk Master Plan to develop long term plans for some of Port Hope's most beautiful areas.

We took things outside.

- Outdoor fitness programs, Pop Up Parks programs and community challenges brought programming to residents in their own neighborhoods.
- Play readings, music concerts, art displays and theatre productions took place in outdoor locations to ensure access to the arts during closures of indoor spaces.

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- Playgrounds, splash pads, pickleball courts, tennis courts and beaches were kept open to provide opportunity for outdoor recreation and activity.

We found new ways to deliver the programs and services you love.

- 16,958 participants joined virtual events.
- 168 event partnerships fostered collaboration and cooperation.
- Modified operational models were used to offer swimming, skating, fitness, and other programs.

We focused on connection.

- 13 interactive challenges and seasonal activities brought people together when they had to stay apart and included activities ranging from hula hoop challenges to snow painting to photo contests.
- We opened the doors of our recreation centre to provide relief from the heat and the cold to those that needed it.

We asked our community to share their ideas.

- Waterfront and Riverwalk interactive map survey (round 1)
- Rotary Centennial Park consultation
- Arboretum Project public comments
- Outdoor Rink and Sports Pad survey
- Youth Needs Project
- Leisure Services Master Plan public comment

We celebrated our shared successes.

- Readers Choice Gold Award in the Recreation Facility Category
- 9 community members were named to the Port Hope Sports Wall of Honour
- 147 youth obtained leadership certifications in aquatics
- Celebrated Farley Mowat week and dedicated Farley Mowat Park in recognition of the incredible works of this local author
- Secured infrastructure funding for an addition at the Town Park Recreation Centre.

As the community continues to recover from and adapt to the lasting impacts of the global pandemic, the 2022 Objectives included in the report have been identified as priorities for the upcoming year. Staff continue to work to develop new programs, events, and services and to enhance and maintain parks and trails according to feedback from the community. Some examples of these objectives include:

- Development of Waterfront and Riverwalk Masterplan
- Construction to start on Town Park Recreation Centre Expansion Project
- Development of plan for outdoor refrigerated rink and multipurpose sports pad
- Creation of municipal youth strategy
- Cultural Plan review and consultation

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- Trail lighting and paving upgrades
  - Delivery of hybrid and in person events to engage the community
  - Community consultation and upgrades at Welcome and Chalmer's Parks
  - Development of Rotary Centennial Riverview Park
  - Work to commence on Port Hope Arboretum

**Financial Considerations:**

There are no noted financial considerations for this report.

**Communication and Public Engagement:**

The Year in Review will be promoted with social posts containing a link to the report on our website for public viewing. Additionally, the report has been shared with the PRC Advisory Committee.

**Conclusion:**

Parks, Recreation and Culture will continue to use creative methodology and established best practices to provide unique, impactful, and sustainable opportunities for residents and visitors. Consistent, responsible decision making in keeping with Provincial directives has positioned the department well for return to programs by maintaining public trust in our ability to provide safe and high-quality experiences through programs and events.

A return to traditional in-person services will be augmented by continued virtual and hybrid options where appropriate. Focus on parks and trails will continue, and both programs and events will encourage use of outdoor spaces for recreation.

This report aligns with the Port Hope Strategic Plan's Multi-Generational Community Opportunities priority by supporting the enhancement of the quality of life for our residents and by presenting a healthy, sustainable community that delivers multi-generational programming, facilities, and initiatives for residents of all ages.

**Attachments:**

None