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WESTMEATH & DISTRICT
RECREATION ASSOCIATION

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

To rent Community Centre Hall :
613-587-4559/613-587-4838 or email wdra@nrtco.net
Ice bookings: arenas@whitewaterregion.ca;
or call Township office M-F, 8:30 am - 4 pm , ask for Debbie

For Newsletter inquiries:
Email: wdranewsletter@nrtco.net or call 613-587-4438
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ENTRIES IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH
www.westmeathtoday.ca

FOR HALL BOOKINGS

Please call Marg Gervais

613-587-4838



ELECTRONIC VERSION OF WDRA NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in receiving the WDRA newsletter
electronically, please send a message to wdranewsletter@nrtco.net



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TOUR DE WHITEWATER UPDATE:

The **Tour de Whitewater**, scheduled for July 2021 has been **CANCELLED** due to COVID. However, the **Bike Routes** will be posted on the FACEBOOK T de W blogspot for informal rides beginning at the Rec. Centre. (Google Tour de Whitewater blogspot)

Also, from May 15 – September 15, **toilet facilities** will be available for community use. An **Accessible Portable Toilet** will be installed along the Ball Park fence, along with a picnic table for very small groups, to encourage outdoor activity in these Covid times. These are available for anyone in the community.

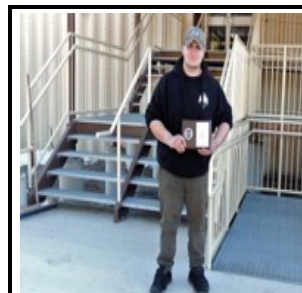
We hope to install cameras to discourage vandalism; **PARENTS PLEASE ASSIST US** with this one.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

TOUR DE WHITEWATER 2022

Saturday, July 9, 2022

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!



Jordan Drapeau

Receiving a
“Youth Volunteer
– 2019” award.



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For Immediate Release

RE: Whitewater Region supports local Outdoor Rink in Westmeath

Recently, a nostalgic looking sheet of ice appeared in Westmeath ball diamond this past winter. The project was spearheaded through the Westmeath & District Recreation Association (WDRA).

Over the past few months the impacts of Covid-19 has flattened the ability for larger social gathering and get-togethers. Despite the many challenges of Covid-19, the WDRA fostered a network of volunteers to help build a community outdoor rink.

The idea was originally presented to the Township's Parks and Recreation department and accepting of the project through the Community Recreation Grant. The WDRA applied for and received \$2500.00 to build and operate an outdoor rink for residents to enjoy.

Michael La Grotta, WDRA Program Coordinator said " Much thanks to the Township and the time and attention giving to this endeavor. It is with the continued support from our municipality that we are able to fund and execute such projects and activities in our small town. Westmeath is a special place with a strong culture of solidarity, and we pray for this passion to carry on for many years to come."

The Township also assisted with accessing water for flooding and donated the use of a portable toilet, located on the grounds for the winter months.

Mayor Moore also said "The project has been overwhelmingly successful and brought forward many willing and new volunteers in the community. We also feel it is important to keep people active during these times. We are proud of the people and the support of the Township."

The Community Recreation Grant helps support fee waivers, capital projects, operating costs and programming. The grant will continue with a fall intake to happen later this year. For more information on the grant, please visit our website at www.whitewaterregion.ca

-30-

Additional Information:

Michael Moore
Mayor
613 585 1609
mayormoore@whitewaterregion.ca

Jordan Durocher
Manager of Parks & Recreation
613 646 2282 ext. 122
jdurocher@whitewaterregion.ca



THE WDRA is looking for a volunteer BINGO coordinator to organize the volunteers to work at the BINGO in Pembroke. We are also looking for BINGO workers.

2 volunteers are needed to work once a month from 6—10 p.m.

For more information please contact

**Brenda at
613-587-4518 or at
wdra@nrtco.net**



MAY 9th, 2021

FAMILY NAMES by Bob Grylls

While picking blueberries at the Blueberry Ranch last summer, I was talking to a couple also picking. They lived on Greenwood Road, their last name was Green, and the gentleman played fiddle in the Greenwood Band.

Many places have colours in their names. For instance Greenland, the Red Sea, Yellowknife, Whitehorse, Baton Rouge, Black Bay, etc.

Top Ten Most Common Canadian Surnames

According to a recent study, the most common Canadian surname is **Li**. This name has a Chinese origin. It might mean "minister".

Number two is **Smith**, a surname popular in several countries. This name refers to the job of blacksmith.

Number three is **Lam**. This might be a variant of either the Chinese surname Lin, which means "forest", or the Chinese surname Lan, which may refer to a flower.

Number four is **Martin**. This name derives from the Latin first name "Martinus", which refers to the Roman god of fertility and war, who was named Mars.

Number five is **Brown**. This comes from the Old English or Old French word "Brun". It refers to a person with brown hair or a brown complexion.

Number six is **Roy**. It comes from the Old French word "rey", which means "king".

Number seven is **Tremblay**. It refers to someone who lived near a group of Aspen trees.

Number eight is **Lee**, (not to be confused with Li). This name comes from the Old English word "lea" and refers to a person who lives near a meadow.

Number nine is **Gagnon**. This name derives from the Old French word which meant "guard dog".

Number ten is **Wilson**, which is a patronymic name that means "son of Will".

Glancing through the Westmeath telephone directory, it showed these names in order of popularity; Gervais, Bromley, Ethier, Martin, Lacroix, Bertrand and Dupuis.

The Beachburg directory had in order, Robinson, Hawthorne, Regier, Wright, Price, Vereyken and Wilson.

WDRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The WDRA held their AGM virtually via Zoom on Monday, April 19, 2021 and would like to thank all those that took the time to log in and join us or to watch our Facebook Live feed. Elections were held for some Board positions and your 2021-2022 Board Members are: **President** - Brenda Grady, **Vice-President** - Darren Shackleton, **Treasurer** - Heather Fleury, **Secretary** - Beth Ethier, **Kitchen Manager** - Leatrice Norlock, **Bar Manager** - Marie McMullen, **Program Coordinator** - Michael La Grotta, **Directors at Large** - Bob Grylls, Blaine Sack and Laura Pelkey.

A very special thank you to outgoing Vice-President Neil Nicholson for your years of service, support and dedication to our community. You were a true asset and will be missed by all.