



Volunteer Newsletter

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Three Great Colchester Races!

Registration is now open for all three races, and volunteers are needed!

On February 1, 2018, registration opened for two of Colchester's most popular races: the Colchester Causeway Race and the Colchester Triathlon. 2018 will also see the return of the Muck It Up Adventure Race, for those athletes seeking an off-road race amidst Vermont's beautiful fall foliage.

The [Causeway Race](#) will celebrate it's 6th year on Saturday, June 2. This race is known for its unique setting: the 10ft wide path into the center of Lake Champlain. This no-frills race offers a 5K distance, 10K distance, and 15K distance. If you'd like to be a part of this event, but are not looking to run, volunteers are needed to help with registration check-in, racer guidance along the course, back-up timing, refreshments tent, and more!

The [Colchester Triathlon](#) will celebrate 34 years on Sunday, July 29. No major changes are expected for this race, which offers a 500 meter swim OR 1.5 mile kayak, 12 mile bike, and 3 mile run. Individuals and teams of up to three are welcome in this race.



Volunteers at the 2015 Triathlon

Call for Volunteers!

Colchester races require many hands to run smoothly, plus they are a lot of fun to volunteer at! Great energy, excited athletes, and you get a t-shirt. Let Mike know if you're interested in helping by emailing mlapan@colchestervt.gov or calling (802) 264-5648.

- ◆ 6th Annual Causeway 5K, 10K, & 15K Race: June 2, 2018
 - ◇ **25 - 30 Volunteers Needed**
- ◆ 34th Annual Colchester Triathlon: July 29, 2018
 - ◇ **90 - 95 Volunteers Needed**
- ◆ Muck It Up Adventure Race: September 29, 2018
 - ◇ **25 - 30 Volunteers Needed**

The Triathlon will again partner with the Vermont Senior Games Association for the triathlon event. Racers ages 50 and up and competing as individuals in a swim/bike/run category have the option to dual register. This year is a qualifying year, so those racers could qualify for the 2019 National Senior Games triathlon held in Albuquerque, NM! If you'd like to get involved, we are seeking a high number of volunteers to help with registration check-in and body marking, kayaks at the beach, transition zones, refreshments, and chip timing distribution and collection.

The [Muck It Up Adventure Race](#) will also make it's return this year, after a 4-year hiatus! This off-road race will be held on Saturday, September 29 and feature 6 miles of trail running, 7.5 miles of mountain biking, and 3 miles of paddling. This race is now open to individual racers (previously requiring teams of two). Registration is now open on [Active.com](#) and volunteers are needed for help with registration check-in, course guidance, transition zones, and refreshments.

We hope you'll join us, as either participant, volunteer, or spectator, at these events this summer and fall!

Other Upcoming Events

Save the Dates! In addition to the three big races, we also have the following events coming up this summer. We hope to see you there!

- ◆ 11th Annual Touch-A-Truck: May 5, 2018
- ◆ 4th of July Celebration: July 4, 2018
- ◆ Summer Concert Series: Thursdays, July 12, 19, 26, & August 2, 2018
- ◆ Movies in the Park: Fridays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & September 14, 2018

The Next Step of the Master Plan

Public Meeting Scheduled for April 10

Design Concepts will give another presentation during the Select Board meeting on Tuesday, April 10 with updates on the Master Plan. This meeting will be open to the public, and representatives from Design Concepts will present their work on new or updated elements, Bayside-Hazelett use, and potential phasing strategies. This will help Town administration to decide how to proceed with the park's redevelopment in the most efficient and affordable way possible. Citizen input is always welcome, and helps to set priorities with what to develop and when. All Colchester residents are cordially invited to attend and hear about the next steps! ***The meeting starts at 6:30pm in the Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Town Offices. (781 Blakely Road).***



Youth Basketball Season Wraps Up with a Couple Big Wins

Grades 5-6 Boys & Grades 5-6 Girls net State Championships; Grade 7-8 Boys make it to semi-finals

The Colchester Youth Basketball League wrapped up its 2017/2018 season on February 17, 2018. This program, which begins in mid-November, brought out over 280 youth athletes from our community, and enlisted the help of over 50 volunteer coaches dedicating time and energy to teams in grades Kindergarten - 8. Players in Kindergarten get their first taste of the sport through a six-week program called Kindergarten Basketball Academy, meeting Saturday mornings to practice skills and drills. Teams at the Grades 1 - 4 levels practice once per week and play games against each other within Colchester's program. Teams in Grades 5 - 8 have the opportunity to travel to neighboring communities for games, with many of them seeing success on the court this season.



Photo by Lee Stirling

One of Colchester's Grades 5/6 Girls teams, the Texas Longhorns, coached by Eric LeVasseur, went 9-0 this season, and won the State Recreation 5/6 Girls (continued on p. 2) (continued from p. 1) Tournament in South Burlington. They bested Shelburne in a close contest, ending with a score of 20 - 18. Colchester's Grades 5/6 Boys team, the URI Rams, coached by Dana Perrotte, also won the State Recreation Boys Tournament hosted in Burlington. Their game was also a close contest, ending with a score of 35-31 over South Burlington. They are the first Colchester team to win this tournament. Burlington has held this title for the past 12 years. Colchester's Grades 7/8 Boys team also did well in their tournament, making it to the semi-finals before losing to Burlington. Congratulations to all our coaches and players for an outstanding tournament weekend!

In a Letter to the Editor of the *Colchester Sun*, CYBL Coordinator Isaac Spivey wrote, "To all who gave their time, effort, and hard work, thank you for another successful year. We cannot run a league of this size without each of you, and we are excited to see the improvements our players made this year. You make a difference and your commitment to the program is crucial as we continue to grow a basketball legacy in Colchester. See you all next season, and thanks again for all the amazing memories in 2018!"



Colchester Girls 5/6 State Champions



Colchester Boys 5/6 State Champions

Colchester Parks & Recreation

"Optimizing the Experience of Living"

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Follow us on social media!



@ColchesterRec

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:

Adriane Martin, Chair
Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel
Jim Neary
Dick Pecor
Ethan Goedken [CHS Student Representative]

National Volunteer Month

April is a time for us to recognize all of the great work you do!

April is designated as National Volunteer Month, and provides us another opportunity to say "THANK YOU!" to all of our volunteers that work so hard throughout the year to give back to our community. Parks & Recreation works with over 150 volunteers each year, from Recreation Advisory Board members, to youth basketball and youth lacrosse coaches, to race volunteers, and Triathlon & Winter Carnival Committee members!

In a [3/25/18 article](#) posted in Western Canada's *Times Colonist*, Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation wrote, "the magic of volunteering is that it generates both economic and social value for everyone that it touches. While there certainly is economic value, volunteering delivers other outcomes that are harder to quantify, such as the ways it builds confidence, competence, and connections, in the way it builds community and, at the end of the day, the way volunteers create a more just and caring place to live. It's not just individuals that gain either. Families, organizations, neighbourhoods and our whole community each share as benefactors of all this generosity. When you think of it this way, one week hardly seems enough to celebrate such an amazing gift to us all... When we volunteer, everyone benefits. This April 15 to 21, take some time to consider how volunteers are making a difference in your life and the lives of the people you care about. You might even consider volunteering yourself."

A number of local businesses have offered gift cards to help us recognize our volunteers and thank you for all of the hard work you do! We will randomly select a winners throughout the month of April to receive these gifts, so keep an eye on your email each week. It could be you!

We truly appreciate all that you do for us!



Thank you to all of our volunteers! Our events depend on you to run smoothly and successfully, and we appreciate your dedication year after year!

