

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Municipality of the County of Antigonish Launches Mobi Chair at Pomquet Beach to Improve Accessibility

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish along with the Department of Natural Resources are working to make an Antigonish County beach more accessible for everyone. The recreation department received funding support from Communities, Culture & Heritage and the Nova Scotia Health Authority's Wellness Fund to help make this project a reality. Earlier this spring, 132.5ft of Mobi Mat was installed off the boardwalk to the high-water line, to help those who are in wheelchairs or have low mobility access the beach. The Mobi Mat is a lightweight, non-slip, portable, roll-out beach access pathway. The beach project will allow for a highly accessible transition from boardwalk to beach to water for individuals in a wheelchair or individuals with low mobility. There is another 83ft of Mobi Mat which will be installed soon.

On July 2nd, Antigonish County Recreation held a launch for the Mobi Chair which will allow people with low mobility to go into the water. A Mobi-Chair is a high quality, floating beach wheelchair that provides a seamless transition from boardwalk-to-beach-to water. The Mobi Chair will be available all summer at Pomquet Beach. Some of the lifeguards have had training on how to assist with the transfer of individuals from their wheel-chair into the Mobi Chair.

On hand for the launch was, Antigonish County Recreation Director, Marlene Melanson, Physical Activity Coordinator Vishalle St. Pierre, Warden Owen McCarron, Councillors Gary Mattie and Remi Deveau, participants and staff from CACL, Antigonish Community Transit, Pomquet Beach life guards- Emma Robson and Rebecca MacDonald; as well as Meghan MacGillivray, PhD candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences.

Recreation Director, Marlene Melanson said, "as a recreation department we strive to make our programs and services as accessible as possible within the resources that we have available. We have an extensive equipment loan program which includes a second Mobi Chair which will be available for loan from the Recreation office, standard and adapted PFD's, 2 adapted bikes and much more (see selection attached). Over the last several years we have also offered inclusion support staff at our summer day camps, we are working hard to break down barriers to inclusion. We also provide inclusion support in our swim programs as well as afterschool programs."

“Creating accessible opportunities and improving accessibility to public spaces is very important to our Municipal Council” says Warden Owen McCarron.

The Department of Natural Resources has also done extensive work to make the Pomquet Beach more accessible, including upgrades to the washrooms and change rooms and the addition of an adapted picnic table.

Pictures of the Mobi Chair can be found on the Municipality of the County of Antigonish Facebook Page.

For more information please contact Antigonish County Recreation at 902-863-1141.

Please forward any questions to Marlene Melanson
Marlene.melanson@antigonishcounty.ns.ca
902-863-1141





HIPPOCAMPE: A Hippocampe is an all-terrain wheelchair that gives its rider the freedom to go anywhere and is designed to enable everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. The Hippocampe gives the rider accessibility to difficult terrain such as beach, snow, sand, mountains and swimming areas. This all-terrain wheelchair is lightweight, compact, waterproof, buoyant and can be pushed or self-propelled. The tires can be replaced with skis for easier travel over snow. The Hippocampe has a weight restriction of 250-300lbs. There is one available.



FRE DCP16: This tricycle is small enough for an average 7-year-old, but adaptable to fit most kids in their early teens. Direct drive and low gear ratios make pedaling easy for a beginner, yet challenging for and aggressive rider. Inseam 20"-26" maximum of 150lbs



TRIAD TMX T-5: Is a robust tricycle for older children, it is fitted with 20" wheels and has a caliper brake with parking brake feature. It is suitable for children with an overall height of 47" (120cm) to 57" (145cm) and maximum recommended weight is 150lbs.



WALKING/TREKKING POLES: Nordic walking/trekking poles help you propel forward and upward while providing traction and stability. These new trekking poles have bell shaped hand grips for more stability and support. Nordic walking is a total body version of walking that can be enjoyed both by non-athletes as a health promoting physical activity, and by athletes as a sport. The activity is performed with specially designed walking poles similar to ski poles.



PFD – Personal Flotation Device: Antigonish County Recreation offers a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Loan Service to the public. Adult and child PFD's are available in four different sizes: infant, child, youth and adult. PFDs can be borrowed from Antigonish County Recreation free of charge. This service is offered year-round and PFDs are available on a first come, first served basis. PFDs cannot be reserved due to the high volume of requests.



PFD-A Adapted PFD-A combines the safety of other PFD's while also providing extra head support. They allow the user to float while lying on the back. These PFD's are very difficult to overturn because of their large surface width and they do not dip the head into water. They are safe, easily adjustable and fun! They are available in the following sizes: 1xxs, 1xs, 1s, 1m, 2lre are 13 Trekking available and 21 walking available.



LIFEJACKET LJ-A This lifejacket supports the upright position for disabled person. Lj-A is used by all people able to put themselves alone in the vertical on the water. This vest helps at the ventral position. It provides superior stability to the front. In case where the person suffers from spasms or from underdeveloped bottom part of the body, it is suggested to use the PFD-A model for poly-handicaps.



COMMUNITY BAGS: These bags are great for family reunions, fun days, birthday parties and any other event in which you would like to have equipment for children. Bags may include skipping ropes, balls, parachute, pylons, and/or hoola-hoops. Bag contents are subject to availability.



SNOWSHOES: Snowshoes can be borrowed for up to one week at a time and are available on a first come, first served basis. They cannot be reserved due to the high volume of requests. There are approximately 75 pairs varying in size available.



SNOWCOACH: Everyone can get out this winter with the Snow Coach sled! This is a great sled for those who need lateral support and who have good head, neck and trunk control. This sled features a padded seat, safety straps, raised back support, a head rest and steel runner. Not only is this a great sled for winter fun, it is also nice for anyone helping out the sledder since it comes with push handles at the back. There are 2 available.



SLEDGES: Sledges are used to allow participants to enjoy a game of hockey or just go for a glide on the ice in a seated position. A push bar allows the rider to be pushed or the rider can self-propel using two sticks with picks. These sledges are great for riders with limited mobility or compromised balance. There is also a wheel kit that transforms the sledge into a floor hockey sled. There are 3 sledges available, 3 sets of hockey sticks and 1 wheel kit.



SKATES & HELMETS: Multiple pairs of youth and adult hockey skates as well as figure skates are available for use. Hockey helmets for both youth and adults are also available for loan.



YOGA MATS: Yoga mats are specially fabricated mats used as an aid during the practice of hatha yoga to prevent hands and feet slipping during asana practice. They are also commonly known as non-slip mats, non-skid mats or sticky mats. There are 12 yoga mats available.