

Banook Facility Report 2020

FACILITY

As the Past President, I first want to acknowledge the unprecedented conditions the board has had to navigate to maintain the viability of the Banook Canoe Club. A huge kudos goes out to the board with a special mention to Kim and Emily for their efforts to manage to get the doors of Banook open again and provide a safe and fun summer of programming to the members of our community. While we still have a long road to recovery, Banook Canoe Club is surviving through Covid.

Although we formally did not have a Facility Director, I have continued my efforts in this area as I entered into the Past President role. In the 6 months prior to Covid-19 shutdown, we successfully completed three significant improvements to Banook.

1. Replacement of unserviceable and obsolete furnaces with heat pumps (October 2019 to February 2020) - Halifax Community Grant (\$12,500) for the electrical work. Banook is now oil free and has air conditioning!
2. Lifeguard and Senior Room Wall Repair (October 2019) - \$2,000 contribution from District 6 - Deputy Major Mancini
3. Replacement of some hall doors and ramps (October 2019 to February 2020) - \$15,000 contribution from Provincial Grants (NS Community Access-Ability Program & NS Community Recreational Capital Grant)

In addition to these facility improvements, a dedicated committee of members formed a committee called the Banook Facility Improvement Committee. The main focus of this committee is to improve the drainage, accessibility, and safety around the club. Our initial efforts were focused on a large provincial grant called the Recreational Facility Development Grant. It was realized shortly after submission that we required more professional planning work to successfully initiate a series of large renovation phases. Over the past 6 months the committee has continued to hold regular Skype meetings and are excited about entering into some initial planning phase work with a local professional architectural/engineering firm, ZZap.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help complete a number of minor facility repairs this summer. Picnic tables were repaired and painted, a number of other items painted, a new salon door for the breezeway exit, and dock repairs. 2020 and 2021 may not see any major renovations but will see some minor facility improvements. In 2021, Banook Facility Improvement Committee is looking forward to sharing with members, alumni and community the future renovation plans for Banook.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoff Bennett
BCC Past President
Chair of the Banook Facility Improvement Committee