

Volunteer Resume – Peter Politis

2006 Forward

Having dedicated literally thousands of hours to volunteer initiatives, Peter has stood behind the mantra; If you want there to be a difference in your world, sometimes you have to become that difference. From recreation, to community sports, to search and rescue, and awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for volunteerism, Peter is a tireless volunteer for the community doing his part in making his community a better place to live.

Volunteer Resume – Peter Politis

Summary

- ✓ Cochrane Recreation & Special Events Committee
- ✓ Search & Rescue Volunteer Association
- ✓ Chair – 2009 Cochrane Winter carnival Task Force;
- ✓ Chair – 2009 Cochrane Summer Fest;
- ✓ Chair – 2009 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge;
- ✓ Chair – 2010 Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force;
- ✓ Commando Park Development Committee;
- ✓ Chair – 2011 Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force;
- ✓ 2011 Cochrane Summer Fest Committee;
- ✓ 2012 Cochrane Winter Carnival Committee;
- ✓ Chair – Cochrane Recreation & Special Events Board;
- ✓ 2012 – Cochrane Summer Fest Committee;
- ✓ Co-Chair – 2013 Cochrane Winter Carnival Committee;
- ✓ 2013 Cochrane Summer Fest Committee;
- ✓ Cochrane & Area Development Corporation;
- ✓ Chair – Cochrane Welcoming Committee;
- ✓ Recreational Hockey Coach
- ✓ 2014 Cochrane Summer Fest Committee;
- ✓ Chair – Volunteer Recognition Board
- ✓ Billet Family for Junior A Hockey Players

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Chair - The World Under 17 Hockey Challenge Task Force

2009

After the Recreation Committee successfully won a bid for Cochrane to be one of the partner venues with Timmins to host the World Under 17 Hockey Challenge, Peter was elected to Chair the World Under 17 Task Force. The committee of seven charted a course to organize three games of international hockey right here in Cochrane involving many challenges and requirements. With teams from around the world like Team Russia, Team Ontario, Team Czech Republic, Team Western Canada, Team Pacific, and Team Finland, competing right here in Cochrane, the community was treated to a very unique and memorable experience. While giving up over 80% of the gate receipts to Timmins as the fee, and thanks once again to the dedicated volunteer workforce, the Task Force still managed to put on a world class event and generate a very healthy profit. Hockey Canada and Timmins both expressed accolades toward Cochrane for how organized and well managed the event was, citing their interest to have Cochrane involved again if there is ever another opportunity.

Cochrane Recreation and Special Events Committee

2007 to 2010

Municipal Committee of Council responsible for Advisory for planning recreation and special events in the Town of Cochrane.

Other Recreation Initiatives Include:

- Develop an annual recreation plan;
- Establishing a skate sharpening service at the arena with the most respected skate sharpener in the region, satisfying a much desired need and closing the door on a very turbulent situation. Purchasing \$5,000 in equipment and construction at no cost to the Town and generating \$1,200 per year in rent income to the Tim Horton Events Center;
- Bar tending functions that generated some \$12,000 in revenue for recreation programs in Cochrane;
- Re-Organizing the Events Center Canteen and turning a town run \$30,000 / year deficit into a volunteer run \$6,000 / year profit for the Town, while providing an additional \$15,000 profit for the community recreational volunteer groups;
- Establishing an outdoor hockey rink within one month of starting the new mandate at no cost to the community satisfying a long outstanding unrealized opportunity under the previous recreation regime;

Search & Rescue

2010 to Present

As a member of the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association, Peter has dedicated a great deal of time and resources to training and certification programs like, survival training, first aid, health assessment, search and rescue techniques, mapping and navigation. On his own time and

cost, he's effectively prepared himself to be in a position to offer assistance to the Police and other families in need.

Chair - The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force

2009

Nominated by the Recreation and Special Events Committee to seek out a group of key community members who would take on the challenge of resurrecting the fabled Winter Carnival. He was elected Chair of the eleven person Task Force by the new group who immediately began to develop a winning strategy together. With an aggressive marketing campaign and a mantra of empowering the community to determine for itself what it wanted to do and take direct charge for of driving the outcome for themselves, Peter and the Task Force resurrected the once fabled event. With over 65 events and an estimated 5,000 people over the grand weekend, along with unprecedented media coverage, Cochrane and its Winter Carnival were clearly back on the map.

Chair - The Summer Fest Task Force

2009

As part of the Recreation Committee initiative to create a signature summer festival in Cochrane that would be similar to the Winter Carnival, Peter was nominated by the Committee to spearhead the project. He again sought out key members of the community while inviting others who were interested to join. The Summer Fest Task Force consisted of fourteen committed community members. Elected as the Chair, Peter and the Task Force researched, planned and created the "Live Like A Northerner" Summer Fest. Again through aggressive marketing and renewed interest in the community taking charge of its own affairs, the Summer Fest was a smash hit that not only showcased our northern way of life, but the beauty and potential of our community, while also giving everyone a chance to unwind before another long winter. With an estimated 5,000 people taking part, including an incredible 1,500 on the Peninsula for the evening Beach Party, people from around the Region enjoyed traditional northern amenities like a Pickerel fish fry and corn roast, horse shoes, an ATV Mud Bog, a live concert, and the only Dragon Boat Races north of New Liskeard.

Chair - The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force

2010

The Winter Carnival Task Force elected Peter as the Chair and together they embarked on building upon last year's great success. Setting a goal to be one of the biggest Carnivals in Northern Ontario the group again initiated an aggressive marketing campaign, empowered the community to take charge and get involved, and invested the new resources accumulating in the Recreation Program to create one of the most successful Winter Carnivals in recent memory. With over an estimated 7,000 people taking part and 80 amazing activities such as, world class ice sculpting, Pond Hockey, the Polar Bear Dip, the Smash Up Car Derby, numerous club events, an outdoor dance on the Lake, and an incredible \$50,000 fishing derby, the 2010 Carnival Task Force built upon the previous year's success and turned the previously struggling event into the second largest Winter Carnival in all of Ontario in just two years.

The Commando Park Committee

2010 to Present

Peter along with five other concerned and enthusiastic members of the community are currently working together to plan, organize and drive the development of Commando Park into a recreational and pleasure park capable of supporting Cochrane's major festivals and recreational activities. The group is working together to assess ideas like a Pavilion hosting a Canteen, Washrooms and an Interpretive Center; a Water Park; creative landscaping; sitting areas; power supply; and a picturesque photography area.

Chair - The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force

2011

Continuing the event's growth reaching over 85 events, solidifying its regional status and maintaining its status as one of the largest Winter Carnivals in Ontario.

Chair - The Cochrane Summer Fest Task Force

2011

Working to expand the key events like the dragon Boats and the Mud Bogs and increasing marketing to continue to solidify this festival as a regional event.

Director – Cochrane and Area Community Development Corporation

2011

An instrument created by the Town to help create economic development in the community. Responsible for managing the Town's world class tourist attraction, the Polar Bear Habitat, along with various economic development activities.

Chair – Cochrane Welcoming Committee

2011

A group created by Peter to bring together all the facets of community services that could be impacted by the town's sudden economic and physical growth. Communications were established between stakeholders to ensure support is provided where lacking and that a business case is developed to present to the government where custom numbers are used to justify their support for growth impacts.

Chair - The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force

2012

Continuing the event's growth reaching over 90 events and continuing to maintain its status as one of the largest Winter Carnivals in Ontario.

Chair – The Cochrane Recreation and Special Events Board 2012 to Present

Chair 2012 - 2015

Peter has played a key role in the creation of the Municipal Board status, continuing the evolution of the recreation program he has been instrumental in resurrecting to this point. The Board is an innovative approach to recreation that sees the Community Services Manager take direction from a board of volunteers, while also seeing the Town Council delegating its authorities to the Board to actually direct the recreation and special events program in the community.

Peter's planning background has led to an annual recreation and special events plan being created by the Board, introducing new recreation programs as a result of the plan and the new revenues generated from the festivals that are now dedicated to recreation – Baseball, Lake programs, acquisition of assets and efficiencies in the Events Center complex have been realized in the first year alone.

Some achievements of the Board through summer of 2014:

- Generating a \$275,000 Recreation program from a \$30,000 municipal investment;
- The North's only Bike Share Program where unwanted bicycles are refurbished and made available for free to the public;
- The North's only doable neighbourhood pilot;
- Established water craft rentals for the public providing access to Kayaks, Paddle Boats, and Canoes;
- Established a permanent water slide for the public to use for free;
- Established public BBQ's around the Lake;
- Increased tables, benches and sitting areas;
- Brought Junior "A" Hockey to Cochrane establishing both an economic and social boost.

The Cochrane Summer Fest Task Force 2012

Introducing Log Carving and an expanded Kids Zone, while escalating the regional status of the event.

Co-Chair - The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force 2013

Continuing the event's growth reaching 98 events making this the second largest Winter Carnival in Ontario.

The Cochrane Summer Fest Task Force 2013

Continuing the event's growth adding water slides, the first annual Smoke on the Water BBQ Contest and moving the concert out of the arena on onto the lake where over 1,000 enjoyed outdoor music on a high end professional stage.

The Cochrane Winter Carnival Task Force 2014

Continuing the event's growth reaching 98 events making this the second largest Winter Carnival in Ontario.

The Cochrane Summer Fest Task Force 2014

Continuing the event's growth adding water slides, the first annual Smoke on the Water BBQ Contest and growing the outdoor concert on the lake – wrist bands sold increased from about 1,000 to over 1,700.

Chair – Volunteer Recognition Board 2014 - Present

The newly formed Board's mandate is to:

- Organize all volunteers in the community and generate a data base where local community groups can access their required help.
- Recognize a volunteer of the month;
- Recognize two volunteers per year (one past and one present).

Recreation Hockey Coach – Cochrane Minor Hockey Association

2000 to 2011

As a father of an eleven year career hockey player, Peter has dedicated countless hours in the local arena and in other regional arenas, with many other kids and parents both supporting and coaching hockey. He has dedicated every weekend in that eleven year span to his son's interest in hockey, while also being a mentor and role model for the many other children who he's coached. Peter believes hockey is a great medium for teaching children the values and attributes that will serve them well in their development. As a coach, Peter would frequently go above and beyond what was required, dedicating extra time to providing his players opportunities at spending time together away from the rink learning about and enjoying our outdoor northern way of life.

Billet Family for Two of the Junior “A” Hockey Players

2014 - 2017

Hosting two 19 year old Junior “A” hockey players as part of the billeting program. Helping the two young men realize their dream while providing the guidance and safety they need while away from their families.