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**DECEMBER 1, 2015**  
**PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

Council approved in the 2015 financial plan resources for the Town to complete a Parks, Recreation and Culture master plan. The last master plan was completed in 2001, and with many changes over 15 years the plan required an update, to provide direction as it relates to services and facilities which the town operates.

In September 2015 the department issued a request from qualified consultants to assist the Town in developing a new Parks, Recreation and Culture master plan. The Town reviewed the submissions and awarded the contract to GDH Solutions. GDH Solutions has completed many Parks and Recreation master plan reports in the province as well as Arts and Culture master plans, Facility master plans, and Needs Assessments. GDH Solutions is supported by Outland Design Landscape Architecture, a firm very experienced in parks planning and design.

GDH began work on our master plan in mid-November, with the initial phase being review of relevant plans, data collection and a site visit. The objective during the coming months for GDH along with Town staff, will be to connect with stakeholders and various community groups and individuals to gain a better understanding of the community needs relating to Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Department staff will provide Council with regular updates as this project proceeds.

**SCOPE OF WORK:**

Parks, Recreation and Culture staff will be working with the consultant to assist them in gathering information from the community over the next few months. This process will coincide with staff providing the consultant information that will allow the consultant to conduct a complete review of all aspects of department's services and facilities.

