

## Community Building in the Resort Village of Coteau Beach

Table #2 - PARCS Convention 2010 - Members Fair

The backbone of the Resort Village of Coteau is our Community Club and Plus 50 Club. Our Clarke Pavilion Centre was built over 30 years ago by our grandfathers and is the hub that brings people together for BBQ's, Dances, Socials, and pancake breakfasts. It is a common element in cabin owners' lives. So when this building was in need of over \$30,000 in repairs, we were fortunate to receive financial assistance by way of a grant to replace the roof and floor. The whole community came together to provide the volunteer labour to do the work. It was great to see everyone working together for a common goal.

The Coteau Beach Community Club executive took on the challenge of raising \$32,000 for new playground equipment. This included fundraising events such as dances, pizza sales, pancake breakfasts, raffles, festival weekends and barbecues. Many residents got involved; especially the children who were really excited about raising money. They contributed by organizing a cookie and juice sale, wood sale, hot dog lunch, face painting and toy sale. We placed a "goal thermometer" and photos of the future equipment at the playground site so that everyone could be up to date on the progress. This proved to be a huge incentive to all.



We also reached out to individuals and businesses. Donations over \$200 will be noted on a donation plaque to be mounted at the playground. The response to the call for donations was amazing and \$17,000 was received.

The new equipment arrived in early May and we held a work bee which drew 42 volunteers including welders, installers and people preparing lunch for the volunteers. It was great to see the children getting involved with the installation. Some small children were standing on the sidelines watching and waiting. People were chatting and visiting while working together. It was truly a community project and a demonstration of the community spirit at Coteau.

The real reward can be seen and heard at the park. The children just love the new playground equipment.

They have plenty of room to play with something for everyone, rock climbing, slides, climbing bars. Not just the little kids, it keeps the older ones busy too. It provides peace of mind for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles knowing that we now have safe equipment.

We are very proud of Our Community of 120 families who raised \$32,000 in just over one year.

As a thank you to our community and volunteers for repairing the Clarke Pavilion, fundraising and building the playground, we hosted the first July 1 Canada Day celebrations in 25 years. We were so pleased to have over 300 children, adults and seniors take part in the celebration.

