



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
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ANNAPOLIS COUNTY ONE OF ONLY SIX COMMUNITIES SELECTED FOR NATION-WIDE PILOT PROGRAM

ANNAPOLIS CO. –The Municipality of the County of Annapolis is one of only six communities to be selected from across Canada to be part of the Canada Gets Active Program; a nation-wide pilot project aimed at getting Grade 5 students active.

The program involves a Grade 5 Physical Activity Pass which will allow students free access to participating facilities at designated times, a free water bottle, and free rides to recreation facilities on the King's Transit buses for students and chaperones. Also, students who use their pass at least five times will earn a free t-shirt.

“There are about 200, Grade 5 students attending schools, or being home-schooled, throughout Annapolis County,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “That is 200 of our young people being given the opportunity to become more active and, in turn, developing a healthier lifestyle. What an honour it is for us to be selected to participate in this nation-wide project that's focus is to improve the lives of our young residents.”

Annapolis County Active Living Facilitator, André Bouchard said that after submitting a letter of interest, the County was chosen for the pilot project. He, along with a staff member of Annapolis Valley Health Promoting Schools Program, travelled to Ottawa in September to meet representatives from the other pilot communities. Once there, they participated in fine-tuning the research component, which will involve tracking the use of the passes as well as a student survey before and after the program.

“The Grade 5 Physical Activity Pass is our newest initiative from Club 400 The Order of Active Living as part of the Annapolis County Active Living Strategy,” explained Bouchard. “We will soon be ready to distribute the passes to Grade 5 classes in the schools. Packages will be sent home with students to explain the program to parents. Then we will visit the schools to conduct the first student survey. Upon completion of the survey, students will receive their passes and a free water bottle,” explained Bouchard.

All Grade 5 students are welcome to participate. Parents of home-schooled children are encouraged to contact André at 532-0266 for an information package.

The following recreational facilities in the area will be participating in the Physical Activity Pass program – The Lifplex Wellness Centre; the 14 Wing Greenwood Fitness & Sports Centre, 14 Wing Greenwood Indoor Pool, 14 Wing Greenwood Open Gym; Annapolis West Education Centre Bouldering Wall; Bridgetown & District Memorial Arena (skating); Lawrencetown Youth Arena (skating) and Middleton & District Arena (skating). People can learn about the designated times by going to the County of Annapolis Club 400 website (www.annapoliscounty.ns.ca/club400).

“The County is very fortunate to have close partnerships with many organizations that assist in making this area attractive for such initiatives as the Canada Gets Active Program,” said Warden Newton.

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association is also recognized by the County of Annapolis for their contribution and support in successfully obtaining this program.

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A list of recreational facilities participating in this area can be found on the County of Annapolis Club 400 website (www.annapoliscounty.ns.ca/club400).

The County would also like to recognize the contribution and support shown by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association in successfully obtaining this program.