



Town of Twillingate youth gives back to community through rec job

B RANDON DOVE HAS FOND MEMORIES of playing sports every summer while growing up in the Town of Twillingate.

That's why when he saw that the community was hiring a recreation assistant to help organize and implement programs for local kids, teens and seniors during the summer of 2023, he knew he wanted to apply.



TOWN OF TWILLINGATE,
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Canada

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Recreation Team



Recreation students having fun while hiking Rockcut Twillingate Trails

“When I saw the opportunity, I remembered how I used to be involved in programs when I was a kid,” Dove says. “I wanted to help other kids have those same experiences, and be part of the team that helps provide that to the community.”

The university student was hired as the town’s recreation assistant over the summer, which was a position funded from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association’s Youth Employment Experience (YEE) program. This program, funded by the Government of Canada, is designed to build skills and remove barriers to employment for youth. The program further builds capacity in the parks and recreation sector by providing mentorship support to each youth throughout their work experience.

In his role, Dove worked closely with the Town of Twillingate’s recreation director, Grant White, to deliver sports and recreation programming for people of all ages and abilities – such as the community’s Kidkicks Summer Program and Kids Rockcut Hiking Program which creates hiking and environmental awareness for kids and teens.

He also helped implement a new physical activity program for local seniors and met frequently with the community’s recreation committee.

“There were a wide variety of activities I would go and help with – anything that just needed an extra set of hands,” Dove says.

He adds that the job experience taught him patience, and how to be more flexible, when working with the town’s

youth – which was very valuable experience for his career path to becoming a teacher.

“Anything can happen with kids, so it taught me how to stay calm and do the right thing, and make sure nothing gets out of hand,” he says. “This job helped me get used to experiencing teaching youth.”

As Dove’s supervisor and mentor, White says he brought many valuable skills to the role – including the ability to work as a team or independently, and was always keen and open to learning new things.

White also noticed that Dove gained more confidence and independence in the role throughout the summer.

“Initially he relied on me more, but as the weeks and days went on, he was certainly quite capable of working independently without me and taking the bull by the horns,” White says. “Brandon became somebody I could rely on heavily.”

He adds that the job opportunity was very beneficial for everybody in the Town of Twillingate – which is a town of roughly 2,000 people and where resources can be limited.

“We are thankful that we could be a part of this program. Without it, there were things that we probably wouldn’t get done within the community,” White says. “Having Brandon helped to make sure everything ran smoothly. It was really great to have him.” 🍁