



2015 Micro-Grant Recipients

1. **Hummingbird Habitat Enhancement and Education, Island Nature Trust:**

This project will help bring awareness about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and how to conserve this migratory bird through plantings, complemented with outreach activities. Native shrubs and perennials will be planted, supplemented with horticultural species (perennials and bulbs) to provide sources of nectar and attract insects, both important food for hummingbirds. Island Nature Trust will cooperate with the City of Charlottetown staff to:

- Initiate habitat enhancement of the City of Charlottetown park system for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird;
- And, provide educational opportunities for local residents, and the visiting public, including tourists, to learn about the conservation, biology and habitat requirements for this treasured migratory bird.

City funds, in part, will be used to help purchase some native shrubs and perennials as well as horticultural bulbs and perennials that are known to attract hummingbirds. These will be utilized to develop a hummingbird-friendly bed and enhance existing beds and habitat within Victoria Park. Micro-grant funding will also be used to conduct three public awareness sessions aided by a guest speaker, a hummingbird expert, and coordinator of the Ontario Hummingbird Project. The presentations will target local residents, naturalists, gardeners and visitors. Please note: no invasive species will be purchased with City funds.

2. **Seedlings and Saucepans - An Intergenerational Gardening and Food Program, Lyndsay Moffatt:**

This project will bring together elders (60+), young adults (16-30 years old) and young children (4-6 years old) to learn about gardening and cooking, and to celebrate local food. The project will take place in October, November and December 2015 and will include time for sharing stories and songs about gardening, making food together, learning about eating seasonally, and planting garlic at the Farm Centre Legacy Garden. The project will include three kindergarten classrooms from Prince Street School (approx. 45 children) and 23 elders and 22 young adult volunteers from the community. This project will address environmental, social and cultural aspects of the City's sustainability plan. It will address issues of food security as it will cast an inner city school as a hub for learning about growing and preparing local food. It will feed the development and maintenance of social networks and create new social networks between elders, youth and children, as

well as different organizations and institutions, newcomers and long- time residents. It will support winter cultural experiences, promote traditional cultural knowledge (eg. food preparation) inclusivity and active lifestyles by encouraging children, youth and elders to get outdoors and appreciate the change in the seasons.

3. **Restoring Biodiversity to Public Spaces, MacPhail Woods:**

As part of the PEI 2014 celebrations, MacPhail Woods began planting a ten-acre Confederation Forest on the Upton Farmlands property. This year, MacPhail Woods will continue the planting on that site and if possible, expand the plantings. The site borders on an existing provincial property designated under the Natural Areas Protection Act. MacPhail Woods will plant a mix of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns and involve the public, including school classes and local organizations, in the plantings. The mixture of native species will be attractive to wildlife and provide excellent seed sources to increase biodiversity in the neighbouring properties. MacPhail Woods will also be installing more nest boxes for tree swallows and black-capped chickadees, as well as creating some brush and sod piles for butterflies and amphibians.

4. **Dodge the Bullet, Murphy's Community Centre - Charlottetown Afterschool Program:**

The Teen Zone will make a short informational film entitled, "Dodge the Bullet". The film will be testimony of young people who have become involved in addictive behaviours and can demonstrate how it has impacted their personal lives. The film will be beneficial in that it will expose youth to the pitfalls of choosing the wrong path and how a person can get on the right path. The reason for such a film would be to educate youth about how such an event can happen in a person's life. The goal in creating the film is to assist youth in guarding themselves against going down such a road.

5. **Community Food Security Project, PEI Food Exchange:**

The PEI Food Exchange is a grassroots community group formed in 2013 as a response to the Household Report on Food Security showing that PEI had one of the highest rates of food insecurity in Canada.

Since 2013, the Food Exchange has harvested non-commercial crops ("gleaning") on small Island farms and has delivered 16,000 pounds of fresh produce to service agencies for those in need. The Food Exchange also facilitates food skills workshops to help ensure people have the knowledge to use the produce. The Food Exchange encourages people to grow their own food by hosting gardening workshops, facilitating garden exchanges, and providing online gardening information. Through its website and Facebook group, the Food Exchange provides information so that eaters can connect directly with farmers to buy sustainable food.

PEI Food Exchange wishes to continue to offer food skill workshops, accessible to all, using locally sourced foods prepared in a manner that preserves nutritional content, using methods and ingredients affordable to those on low and fixed incomes. The organization seeks to expand the gleaning program & the major cost of which is transportation. It is desirable to start preserving some of the gleaned food so it is available during winter months. The organization envisions doing this through a community kitchen (preserving parties). Finally the organization will aim to continue to host and co-host events that encourage individuals to grow their own food, seek alternative sustainable food markets (CSA's, buying groups), and encourage dialogue to identify actions that can improve food security in Charlottetown.

6. Fusion Charlottetown Launch and Visionary Session, Fusion Charlottetown:

Fusion Charlottetown will launch as an organization on June 4 from 7-9 p.m. at the PEI Brewing Company. The launch event will be an exploratory project to discover what business, NGO, political leaders and young professionals (aged 20-40) dream of for Charlottetown. At the event, there will be two large blackboards that ask "What is Your Dream for Charlottetown?" and "What is Your Dream for Fusion Charlottetown?" There will be profiles to show the impacts of individual young professionals have in our community.

Fusion Charlottetown will be an organization that provides a place for young professionals between the ages of 2 and 40 to come together to complete positive projects in our city. It also facilitates younger people learning to serve as volunteers and board members. The overarching theme of the organization is positivity and understanding that government cannot provide all the answers and change needed in a community. Fusion groups already existing in Saint John, Halifax, Fredericton and Bangor have created a lot of great energy to celebrate what is already happening in those communities and encourage more positive change.

7. Wild Child PEI - Phase II, Sierra Club:

PEI Sierra Club initiated the PEI Wild Child program to act on the issue of 'nature deficit disorder', dealing with the need for children to experience nature first-hand for themselves and the knowledge that increasingly children are disconnected from nature in their day-to-day lives. Wild Child educational content focuses on local species and their habitats, encourages children to develop familiarity with the outdoors, and is designed to inspire a sense of wonder and appreciation of nature. Through physical play and education, the Wild Child educators lead children in enthusiastic games and quiet activities that reinforce basic ecological concepts and help them learn about and enjoy wild spaces they can find all around them.

Due to high demand, PEI Wild Child has surpassed its expected number of childcare centres receiving the program, and has more unfulfilled requests, both in the wider Charlottetown area and from other centres in Queens and Kings Counties. Wild Child is getting positive feedback and appreciative reviews for engaging children, teaching them about local species and habitats, and increasing outdoor physical activity. PEI Wild Child will expand its program to cover more childcare centres in Charlottetown and beyond, providing free-of charge "nature immersion" programming to Island children.

8. Community Raised Planters, The Mount Continuing Care Community:

The Mount Community Council will be constructing a raised patio enclosed by planter walls. The project will be focused on accessibility, and will feature enough room to allow wheelchair access and to accommodate a significant amount of sitting space.

The benefits of this project will be both aesthetic and practical. The patio itself will be ornamental in nature, while also providing a space for leisure, social gathering, and for community events. The patio's planters will be used to grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Edible produce from the planting space will be used as a small supplementary food source in The Mount's kitchen.

The project will be constructed in The Mount's front terrace area and will be accessible to residents with limited or impaired mobility. The project will be positioned near trees to make use of their natural shade.

The development, construction, and upkeep of the project will be a joint effort between Mount staff, community volunteers, the Sisters of St. Martha at the Mount, and The Mount's residents. This project has the potential to evolve into something much larger over the course of the future.

9. **Connecting Entrepreneurs through Social Media, Startup Charlottetown:**

Social media can seem like a daunting pool to wade through, but it doesn't have to be. By providing three, two-hour training sessions, followed by 'tweet-up' networking events, Startup Charlottetown will be able to help SMEs find their footing in the world of social media. The training sessions will provide attendees with step by step training from initial account creation, through network expansion and finding or creating great sharable content that matches their business goals. The 'tweet-up' networking events to follow each session will give attendees hands-on practical experience with peers to use the skills they've learned and to develop their social networks in real life.

Although social media is widely used, many people are unaware of how to make it work best for them in business. By providing training in the use of social media we will assist local entrepreneurs in driving their business in a cross-sector, collaborative way. Social media allows professionals from any field or expertise to connect, and by providing a physical location for them to meet in person, business relationships can be fostered and nurtured.

10. **Food Community Workshops, Christopher Sallie:**

The Food Community Workshops are designed to work with local businesses to provide participants (boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17) with the opportunity to explore different career paths and open their eyes to different opportunities of a food-centric career. From lamb farms to apple orchards, working with a forager and butcher shops; the goal is to broaden the horizons of our participants at no cost to them.

This project meets the goals and objectives of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan in the following ways:

- Social inclusion and interaction: This program is available to boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17 at no cost.
- Security: We will work to address issues of food security through skills training and opening doors to potential career opportunities in food service.

It is the project goal to provide kids with an alternative to sports and the arts that can encourage them to consider careers in food service and provide them with a mechanism that can allow those passions to flourish.