



FCF Hosts Community Dialogue: “Building On Our Community Strengths”

Fundy Community Foundation (FCF) hosted its first community dialogue providing a chance for the many non-profit groups and organizations in Charlotte County to get together and have meaningful discussions about how they can work to improve life in their communities.

“Communities thrive and grow when you focus on what works and build on community strengths”, explained FCF President, Skip Wolf. “The Fundy Community Foundation hosted this event to provide a safe place for people to speak freely about issues that are important to them, to find out more about our community strengths and to come up with some bright ideas for building on those strengths. The event also served as a means to raise the profile of the foundation among communities, to let people know about the community services we have provided aside from raising endowment funds and holding grant-making programs”.



John Castell, Charlotte County Benevolent Society – exhibit at non-profit “trade show” at Community Dialogue.

Just over 100 people attended the event, which was held on October 26th at the Blacks Harbour School. The day was organized into facilitated workshops; the morning session was to determine community “passions” or major areas of interest, and to brainstorm community strengths that serve these interest areas. During the lunch break, a non-profit trade show was held, where approximately 40 groups and organizations had displays showing what they do. The afternoon session broke into more facilitated workshops in each of seven major subject areas of interest that were identified in the morning sessions as priority issues for Charlotte County. These were, transportation, economic development, youth, family support, seniors, community

identity (heritage, cultural diversity, environment), and networking (community partnerships and sustainability of programs).

Overwhelmingly the message came through from the community, that FCF is an ideal organization to provide more opportunities for groups to come together to develop strategies to work together on issues of common interest. Networking and coordinating was a very big issue, and FCF already has the beginnings of a directory of non-profit groups and organizations in Charlotte County. This directory could be made available on-line for anyone to use. FCF was specifically asked to convene more workshops around the issues of transportation, seniors and youth.

What Was Said:

“This was a great idea, well organized! Congratulations, hope to see more, thanks!”

“What a great idea to do this! Thank you! Great group discussions and facilitation. Made some great contacts.”

“This has been a most beneficial event. The first of many similar events I hope. A great wonderful networking tool!”

“This was excellent and has been needed for a long time. Should do this again soon. Thanks so much!”

“Great ideas, good contacts, super dialogue. Thank you, a job well done!”

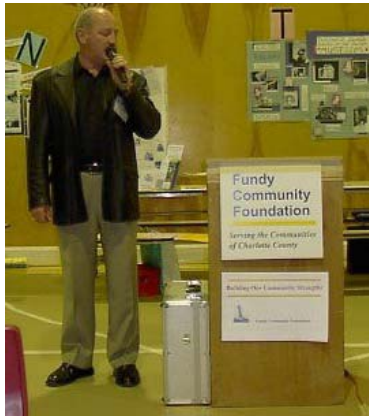
A lot of bright ideas were generated out of this dialogue, and they are shared in the proceedings. FCF is not in a position to take action on all of these bright ideas, but by bringing people together in the first place, publishing results and sharing contact information the foundation can play a catalytic role in putting some of the bright ideas into action.

Next Steps: FCF will host another community dialogue focused on the topic area of seniors. The intent is to host a community dialogue for the purpose of facilitating groups and organizations, seniors, and other stakeholders in developing a better understanding of issues facing seniors in our communities and seek community-based solutions to challenges facing our seniors’ population. Planning for the community dialogue will begin in early January 2003 with the intent to host the dialogue in February or March 2003.

Community Dialogue: Next Steps Cont'd:

FCF is also committed to hosting another community dialogue specifically relating to the issue of transportation in Charlotte County. The intent is to host this dialogue in April or May 2003. The purpose of this dialogue will be to bring community stakeholders together to focus discussion on transportation issues, and develop a preliminary plan of action to provide community-based solutions to the transportation challenges in Charlotte County.

FCF will host a third community dialogue involving youth, for youth, although it is not certain that this dialogue will take place before 2004. The Foundation will explore opportunities for partnering with existing initiatives that bring youth together in Charlotte County, and will form a planning committee of youth representatives, community volunteers and directors in working out the details of this event. The timing of the event will depend on Foundation resources and opportunities for partnering if appropriate.



Fraser McMullin, Principal Blacks Harbour Elementary School acts as volunteer facilitator

FCF is open to exploring the idea of hosting a full-time position of volunteer coordinator for Charlotte County. As the Foundation lacks the resources to hire additional staff at this time, an ad-hoc committee of volunteers will be struck to flesh out a detailed job description and seek opportunities for funding this position.

FCF will also refine and update its own database of non-profit groups and organizations serving the communities of Charlotte County with an objective to make this information accessible via its website. This information will be a valuable resource for people wanting to connect with groups doing work in areas of similar interest. It will also prove a valuable resource for individuals looking for ways to donate dollars locally in support of non-profit work that is important to them.

These are all tangible results of this first community dialogue hosted by FCF. Other next steps depend on the initiative of the people who attended the dialogue and others who wish to build on the bright ideas that were expressed. Clearly this is the beginning of a new role for FCF in supporting the work of the non-profit sector. The Foundation is committed to working within its means to provide as much support as possible to non-profit groups particularly where collaborative efforts can lead to positive long-term change in our communities.

Building On Our Community Strengths: proceedings are available upon request (call 506 529-4896) or by visiting our website at <http://www.fcf.nb.ca>

TIP (Teens In Philanthropy) 2002-03



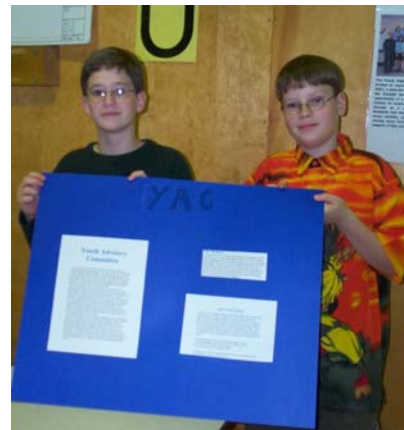
After a successful pilot program with six middle school students forming the first Atlantic Canadian Youth Advisory Committee for a Youth In Philanthropy Program, six more youth have come aboard forming the group "TIP" (Teens In Philanthropy). The group serves as a Youth Advisory Committee to the FCF Board of Directors. Their mandate this year is to

disburse \$5,000 in grants to non-profit groups or organizations serving the communities of Charlotte County. TIP members are: David Raye, Shawn Seeley, and Rhiannon McVay of the St. Stephen Elementary School, Cayleih Robertson, Mike Arsenault, and Casey Lindsay of the St. Stephen High School, Katie Logan and Catrina Haun, of the Sir James Dunn Academy, and Brandon Shepherd, Felicia Huckins, Sarah Moses, and Catherine Small of the Grand Manan Community School.

The group met for a one-day planning session to develop their strategies for grant making. The group opted to "piggy-back" off the FCF spring grant making session and review proposals, make site visits and make recommendations for funding. This approach has the added benefit of exposing the TIP participants to a broad spectrum of community-based initiatives and allows them to develop a better understanding of community issues in general.

The group is also looking at ways in which they can work together to raise some funds to place in a permanent Youth In Philanthropy endowment fund which would generate grant making dollars for youth to disburse year after year.

Fundy Community Foundation has earmarked \$2,000 of its grant making dollars for TIP to disburse. The Tecolote Foundation donated an additional \$2,500 for the program. \$500 were available from the previous grantmaking session of the Youth Advisory Committee.



TIP members David Raye and Shawn Seeley attend Community Dialogue: Building On Our Community Strengths

FCF Receives \$100,00 Gift to the Folsom-MacMorran Scholarship Fund!



Leslie Cuthbertson, Executive Director and Ray Peterson, Vice President receive cheque for \$100,000 from John MacMorran

Mr. John MacMorran of Pomeroy Ridge gave \$100,000 to the Fundy Community Foundation to be placed in the Folsom-MacMorran Scholarship Fund, which was established by Mr. MacMorran in 1998 and now totals \$133,201. The fund provides financial support to students of Pomeroy, Scotch and/or Basswood ridges graduating from St. Stephen High School. The capital of the fund is held in perpetuity by the foundation, and is invested by an outside investment firm. Only the investment income is disbursed annually for scholarships.

Mr. MacMorran explains:

"I grew up in Calais, Maine, during the Depression. My father had died when I was eight years old; and my mother took in boarders to pay the bills. I wanted to become a schoolteacher, but we were very poor. Upon the advice of the Methodist minister, I asked Bowdoin College about financial aid and after taking a competitive exam I won the State of Maine Scholarship, paying almost all of my expenses.

With my Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowdoin, and my Master's from Boston University, I taught 43 years, 21 of which as head of school in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Benjamin Pomeroy, my mother's great grandfather, was the first settler on Pomeroy Ridge and his daughter married Luther Folsom from Machias, Maine. At about the same time, grants of land were given to settlers on Basswood Ridge; and my father's family, the MacMorrans, cleared land for their property. Although I was born in St. Stephen and grew up in Calais, I have always felt an appreciation for the communities of my ancestors.

Therefore, I decided to establish a scholarship fund that would help deserving students from Pomeroy, Scotch, and Basswood Ridges, and at the same time could honor the families of my father and mother.

The Folsom-MacMorran Scholarship Fund is to provide support to students from Pomeroy, Scotch and/or Basswood Ridges. Only if no suitable candidates apply from these ridges would students

from St. Stephen proper or elsewhere in Charlotte County be considered. The St. Stephen High School prize/award committee selects the scholarship recipients.

Students are not expected necessarily to be at the top of their class, but good enough for college admission and must have excellent character and show real financial need." John F. MacMorran

Recipients of the Folsom-MacMorran Scholarship Fund award to date:

Ms. Krista Cumberland, Scotch Ridge, NB \$1,500: University of New Brunswick, Bachelor of Science Nursing degree program, 2000.

Ms. Jaime Caldwell, Pomeroy Ridge, NB \$750: Acadia University Bachelor of Science, Biology, 2001.

Ms. Rebecca Linton, Pomeroy Ridge, NB \$750: Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Animal Health Technology, 2001.

Ms. Heather Brown, Little Ridge, NB \$500: Dalhousie University, Bachelor of Science Nursing degree program, 2002.

Ms. Katie Blakley, Lawrence Station, NB \$500: Memorial University, Bachelor of Science degree program with intent to study Pharmacy, 2002.

Ms. Danielle Dinsmore, Pomeroy Ridge, NB \$500: St. Thomas University, Bachelor of Social Work degree program, 2002.

FCF Broadens Base of Community Support

This past year, as part of a campaign to broaden FCF's community base of support, Directors and Executive Director, Leslie Cuthbertson have been meeting major employers throughout the county. These one-on-one meetings have been beneficial in spreading the word about what Fundy Community Foundation does, and how it serves the communities of Charlotte County. "Once we have an opportunity to explain the three basic areas of foundation work – donor services, broad-based grant making for the communities of Charlotte County, and community service and support for non-profit groups and organizations, most people see right away that what we offer is a great resource for the people of Charlotte County" explains Cuthbertson. In addition, the Foundation has sought the continued support of a number of private foundations with interests in Charlotte County.

"What we have been asking for is a short-term investment in the long-term sustainability of the foundation" says Skip Wolf, FCF President. "While our assets are approaching the first \$1M mark, we still have a way to go before we reach our short-term goal of \$5M. As we obtain our operating revenues by charging a 1% administration fee, once we reach the \$5M

mark we will be close to reaching the point where we no longer need outside support for our operations. In the meantime, we need help”, Wolf explains. To date we have received pledges of support from The Sir James Dunn Foundation, Stolt Sea Farms, Lake Utopia Paper, Charlotte County Credit Union, Connors Brothers Ltd., Heritage Salmon, and Fundy Aquaculture. In addition, the Fundy Community Foundation is grateful for the continued support it receives from the Tecolote Foundation.

“While we have not yet reached our overall target for operational funding, we are confident that that target will be met as there are still a number of community partners who have not been reached or have not responded to our request for support” explains Leslie Cuthbertson, Executive Director.

“We are very pleased with the responses we’ve been getting” Wolf says. “Clearly there is a better understanding of what the community foundation can do in addition to donor services and community grant making. Our role as a catalyst for collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life in Charlotte County is becoming more recognized and we intend to continue to deliver on this mandate.

Summer Fun Fan Club Pilot Project a Great Success!



Summer Fun FAN Club Participants

This year, thanks to the vision and hard work of Cynthia Bartlett and other community volunteers, the Summer Fun FAN Club held its first ever summer camp for children neurological impairment (autism, developmental delay, etc.). Fundy Community Foundation played an instrumental role in assisting Ms. Bartlett in identifying community partners and developing a funding proposal so that the camp could take place. In addition, FCF provided a grant of \$1,500 for the project.

The camp was attended by nine children of Charlotte County, each had individual supervision and were exposed to a great number of activities specifically suited to their special needs. Ms. Bartlett coordinated the delivery of music therapy, art therapy and movement therapy programs and a curriculum of a variety of activities and field trips. “This was a first time opportunity for these children, two of whom had never before been placed in care outside the home. We plan to build on this program and expand on what we did last summer”, explained Bartlett.

Roots of Empathy Program Launched



Baby Gabrielle meets students

The Charlotte County Roots of Empathy program was launched this fall with a training session of facilitators who will bring volunteer parents and their infant children (aged 3 months and up) to classrooms of kindergarten students throughout the county on a regular basis. The facilitators, with the cooperation of the parents and the baby show children how infants respond to

certain stimulus and various toys. They learn how babies grow and develop and how they communicate their needs. “Over the course of the year the students become quite attached to the babies and develop a real empathy for them. The overall intended result is to build the basis for having empathy, thereby reducing bullying and developing long-term parenting skills for the future” explains Chandra Leavitt, program coordinator. FCF provided a grant of \$1,000 for this project.

Fundy Community Foundation Community Report, December 2002

For more information about Fundy Community Foundation, including how to establish a fund or how to apply for a grant, contact us at:

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