

## Fundy Community Foundation – Grant-making Stories

As FCF's community endowment funds grow, so does the potential to build on an already very successful grant-making program in Charlotte County. FCF has two grant-making sessions per year in the spring and fall respectively. The average grant size is in the order of about \$1,000. FCF's Board of Directors, consisting of community-minded people from throughout the region do their best to support local projects that make efficient use of community resources and show promise of long term benefits to the communities of Charlotte County. Here are just a few of our grant-making stories.



### Grand Manan Community School Car Club.

FCF provided a grant for "Thumper", a racecar to be overhauled and refurbished by the Grand Manan Community School Car Club. The catch was that in order to belong to the club, students had to remain enrolled in school. This grant bought the graduation of a class of "at risk" students, and taught valuable lessons of teamwork and good workmanship.



### Summer Fun FAN Club

A mother with an autistic son found that there were many other children in the region with similar disabilities and absolutely no opportunities for special care or therapy, and no respite opportunities for parents.

She formed alliances with the Kiwanis Club and the Charlotte County Benevolent Society and with some assistance from Fundy Community Foundation prepared a fund raising proposal to host a summer day camp for children with severe neurological disabilities. Over the course of three or four months, she successfully raised approximately \$30,000 to host the first ever summer camp for disabled children in Charlotte County.

The children received one-on-one supervision and engaged in daily activities and outings around the peaceful seaside setting of St. Andrews. Some of the children who attended had never before spent time outside parental care, not even in public school and they were 10 and 11 years old. FCF provided a grant that year to help get the program started and in 2003, the camp was offered once again – building on the success of the previous year.



### St. George and Area Food Bank

This grant was in continued support of the operational costs of the St. George and area Food Bank which provides emergency food assistance to low-income families in times of crisis. The Food Bank is run by volunteers and provides employment for 15 mentally challenged adults. In addition to providing food the Food Bank also provides Christmas hampers, school supplies, diapers, formula, clothing, furniture, nutrition services, income tax preparation, and operates the Christmas "Adopt-a Family" program. FCF was pleased to be able to provide financial assistance to this valuable community organization.



### **“Roots of Empathy” Program**

Roots of Empathy is a parenting program for young children which was developed in Toronto and has been implemented in Charlotte County for the last two years under the leadership of Chandra Leavitt of the N.B. School District 10 Healthy Learners Program.

Trained facilitators bring volunteer parents and their newborn infants into elementary school classrooms on a regular basis throughout the school year. The facilitator shows the children how to interact with the baby, and the children learn how the baby responds to certain stimulus and toys.

The baby visits are combined with activities aimed at getting the children to express what they have learned through their interaction with the “class baby”. Facilitators had several stories to share about their experiences with the children.

“One grade 6 student submitted a picture of a boy with a pierced chin, an image that has negative connotations among many adults, yet this boy was holding a baby. The image of the moment was very

positive and compassionate. A grade 3 girl, excited that Roots was to occur in her classroom that day stressed to her parent that she needed to wear red because “babies love red”. Another grade 3 student requested to read the baby a story. Even though this was not in the curriculum outcomes it was allowed. The baby sat in the middle of the blanket and showed the class her attentiveness to being read to and the illustrations in the book. One parent sent a note to school the day after one of the first baby visits. The note said: “I don’t know what you taught my son yesterday but when he came home after school, he treated his baby sister a whole lot better”.



### **Charlotte County Boys & Girls Club Library**

The Charlotte County Boys and Girls Club renovated what used to be a sound booth at the St. Stephen arena into a library and after-school study room for members of the Boys and Girls Club. Many children have limited “quiet time” opportunities to get their homework done or simply to read after school. The development of this library is a valuable asset to the many young people in need of after school activities in the St. Stephen area. FCF was pleased to provide a grant in support of this initiative.



### **Deer Island Community Playground**

Until recently, the children of Deer Island did not have access to a community playground. The community of Deer Island pooled its resources to obtain sponsorship and volunteer labour to build one. The project was backed by many parents, school staff and community volunteers. It also had the support of many local businesses and other Foundations working together to provide a much needed safe, enjoyable recreation facility for the children of Deer Island.