

Notes from North End Roundtable, Feb. 10, 2015.

Dawn MacFarlane – Wee Care Centre – weecare@ns.aliantzinc.ca . Have 72 children in an inclusive child care environment. Twenty-five to 30 per cent of the children, 6 mos – 6 years, have special needs. Physiotherapy, music therapy and occupational therapy are delivered onsite, reducing stress and the number of appointments for families. for children. The biggest challenge – funding; wants to be considered under the province’s early intervention program instead of ECE; has been lobbying, meeting with gov’t for years on this issue. Under status quo, Wee Care is fundraising constantly.

Will be setting up training room in the basement. HMCS Iroquois will help; the room will enable Wee Care to do seminars, including through teleconferencing. Right now have a floor and willing labourers; still need gyprock and everything else.

Also looking for a space to hold a fundraising concert for 200 people. Possible collaboration with Northwood identified during roundtable.

Bronwyn MacKinnon – community developer with HRM – mackinnb@halifax.ca; supports volunteer groups; does board training; organizes an annual volunteer conference each fall and volunteer awards (nominations now closed). Also offers Step Up to Leadership, a 10-week volunteer training program; spring session is coming up. Can do a custom one for a group. March 26 will start at Spencer House on Morris St., from 6:30-9 Thursdays. Happened at Needham in the fall; try to move locations each time.

Jan Catano – Halifax Community Health Board – catano@ns.sympatico.ca. Deadline for diversity bursary recently closed; for the first time, Capital Health will give financial support to Black Nova Scotians, Aboriginal Nova Scotians and people with disabilities for secondary education in the health field. Blood collection review is underway. Capital Health District wants to know how it should change the way it collects blood for testing (locations; hours; etc.). They are doing a consultation that must be finished by March 31, as Capital Health will then cease to exist. Survey will be on website. Encouraging the group – Pathology, etc. – to connect with NECC.

Marietta Wildt – 100 in 1 Day – mwildt@evergreen.ca . 100 in 1 Day (<http://100in1day.ca/halifax/>) is happening June 6; 2nd annual. The goal of this festival of civic engagement is to facilitate positive social change by giving a platform to people who are passionate about something. It is all organized by volunteers. Currently building volunteer groups; training/ recruiting volunteers on photography, graphic design; if you want to do something on June 6, consider being part of the festival. Looking for some core volunteers, particularly in graphic design or photography.

Also volunteers with Trade School Halifax - all barter based; workshops on wide variety of topics (like crocheting 3-D fruit; a hit!); people who like to share skills; more than 30 workshops so far. Poster for next workshops is at www.necchalifax.ca/posters

Leah Crowell– MSVU student doing a practicum with NECC/ Veith House– leahcrowell@live.com. Currently creating Veith House/NECC calendar of activities to distribute through the community. Hosting free Friday morning drop-in at Veith House preschool, 9-11:30.

Linda Lloyd – lindagllloyd@gmail.com - been coming to Veith House for 20 years; citizen with disability. Member and supporter of NECC. Hard to get around in snow.

Sharon McVicar - ReBoom at Northwood – Sharon@reboom.ca.

ReBoom has been busy starting community programs at Northwood's new Ivany Place location in Bedford; challenging because it is isolated. If anyone has ideas or contacts in West Bedford area, open to partnering.

There is a great deal of winter programming out of Northwood Terrace location. Detailed program and updates at ReBoom.ca. Some posters are also on www.necchalifax.ca/posters

Valentine's Sweetheart Dance happening Feb. 14 in Harborview lounge; fully operating bar, but mellower than downtown. There are also regular dances on Wednesday nights; caters to 50+ but all are welcome.

Dance lessons – square, round, line and contra – for \$3 Feb 11, 25, March 11, 25. Bridge lessons. Cribbage night. Chair Yoga class. North Street Singers, directed by Paul Simons. Meditation on Saturday mornings; Friday evening Meditation and World Music.

Once people connect with one program, they'll often connect with others. It's a great place to hang out in the North End for older adults; most ReBoom members live in the community, not at Northwood. Open to all; affordable. Aimed at improving quality of life, reducing isolation.

Sunday Miller – Africville Heritage Trust – ed@afriavillemuseum.org.

Have a couple students from St. Mary's; planning to work with summer camps – half-day or a full-day – to bring kids from the area to have an experience of what childhood would have been like in Africville; roundtable members may get a call.

Hope to have signs up from Novalea to direct people to walk from the end of the Bus #7 route this spring. Had a good walk with some Africville descendents last July.

Also the International Decade for People of African Descent just began.
<http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/>

Nicholas Williams – Halifax Recreation – williamn@halifax.ca; 902-490-4633 . Recreation coordinator at Needham Centre. Pool still scheduled to re-open for mid-late February.

Opportunities for youth. To register, contact Nicholas or David "Mookie" Magloir at George Dixon (902-490-4550) or Lillian Ash at Citadel Community Centre (glasgol@halifax.ca or 902-490-3894).

This Thursday, Feb. 12, at Citadel, running a leadership workshop with the SeaSchool, involving mast-raising, 3:30 – 5:30. Can take up to 28 kids, ages 13-18.

Feb. 16 – taking youth, ages 13-17; on a field trip to the Navy; meeting at George Dixon at 11:15.

Looking for youth for March break overnight experience – March 17 – 19, for youth ages 12-17; partnership with SeaSchool. Skill-building, teamwork. Have done some work on boats; last year it was at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Open to referrals.

Stan Levy – Mulgrave Park United Baptist church; bonnieb@ns.sympatico.ca; trying to involve church in community and vice versa. New support group with Caregivers NS starting on Thursday March 12, 2-4pm @ Mulgrave Park Church; runs 2nd Tuesday of each month. See full details on poster at www.necchalifax.ca/posters

*** Please note that the email for Brenda Sangster of CaregiversNS was given incorrectly in the January notes. Reach Brenda at projects@caregiversns.org ***

Kate Wright – Brave, Division of Bryony House – kwright@iambrave.ca; iambrave.ca Offering Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for girls 6 – 11 who are being bullied or having behavioral difficulties; also offering SNAP (Stop Now and Plan) – an evidence-based program for girls; if you know a family this may benefit, please help them to connect; no wait list. Initial contact has to come from a parent and parents play an active role.

Kelly Adamson – Community Justice Society
Kelly.adamson@communityjusticesociety.org . Two Halifax volunteer info sessions coming up – Friday, Feb 13, and Thurs, Feb 26; if you know anyone who is interested, please refer. Recruiting primarily for restorative justice conference facilitator position. Dartmouth sessions are also scheduled for this month. Poster at www.necchalifax.ca/posters

Bob Parker – Community Child Welfare Board in Halifax – Halifax.cyf@gmail.com ; been a defunct organization for a while in Halifax. Idea is to liaise between community and the Department of Community Services; have a contract to meet with the minister twice a year; planning a event for April 18, 1:30 – 3:30 at North End library to relaunch board. If you're interested in child welfare, child poverty, please attend. Relaunch.

Also (wearing hat as staff for StudentsNS), Feb 11th at the East Preston Cultural Centre there is a talk on accessibility to secondary education with a second presentation happening in the North End soon. At MSVU in March there's a conference related to accessibility of post-secondary education for aboriginal students: <http://www.msvu.ca/asc>

Lisa Roberts, North End Community Circle, necchalifax@gmail.com Still working to upgrade Veith House kitchen. See latest post at www.necchalifax.ca for list of donations required. We have secured a volunteer to help revamp the space.

Via the Ecology Action Centre's Food Program: There is a seed share coming up at Citadel High, in the cafeteria, March 4, 4-6p.m., for all school and community

gardeners. Please bring seeds if you have some to share, but come even if you do not.

Wonder'neath (<http://www.wonderneath.com>) is still opening its doors to the community alternating Fridays/ Saturday for art-making from 2 – 7 p.m.. There are snacks, materials and artist facilitators. It's on a second-floor and it's not accessible. The next dates are Feb. 14, Feb. 20, Feb. 28. They are above Russell Foods on Ilseville St.

Their success is remarkable: more than 50 people dropping in per session. Worth reflecting on how people respond to programs that don't address "needs," but rather invite them to be creative with others.

A reminder from Jennifer Watts, District 8 councillor, that she'll use participatory budgeting again to distribute her capital funds. Think of capital projects that you can pitch to fellow residents.

From Common Roots Urban Farm:

Host Volunteers needed on the Common Roots Urban Farm (corner of Quinpool and Robie) between April and October to greet visitors and give information about the Common Roots project, while helping to complete some necessary farm tasks. This is a great way to meet people, and learn about urban agriculture from multiple angles. If you are friendly, approachable, excited to be outside every week and interested in food, gardening, farming and community development, please contact Berni Duda at [902- 473-4179](tel:902-473-4179) or berni.duda@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Learn more about the Common Roots Urban Farm by clicking on http://partnersforcare.ca/urban_farm

Next roundtable: March 3, 9 a.m., at Veith House