

The Public Good

The newsletter of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

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Introducing the Dartmouth North Community Van

Tuesday January 17, 2012 was a radiant day in spite of the overcast skies. The Public Good Society of Dartmouth joined with Councillor Jim Smith and Joe Gibson of the Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia for the official unveiling and inauguration of the Dartmouth North Community Van. Frances Drolet-Smith, Chair of The Society, observed that "This van can be seen as an extension of our current Connections That Work Project. It provides a wonderful way to strengthen our community, as it is the catalyst that brings several community groups together and provides interaction among community groups."

In his press release, Councillor Smith stated "this is a fantastic opportunity for local groups to enhance their activities, lower their transportation costs, and provide additional services to their group members."



The new Dartmouth North Community Van

Thanks

The Public Good Society would like to thank Councillor Jim Smith, HRM District 9, for his vision, financial support and participation in making the Dartmouth North Community Van available to our organization and its many partners serving the citizens of Dartmouth North.



Jim Smith presents a cheque for purchase of the van to Ralph MacKenzie, Joe Gibson and Dennis Pilkey

... Thank you to the Public Good Society for their support and diligence in making this dream come true. It is a very exciting new service and opportunity for Dartmouth North resident groups. Special thanks to the Freedom Foundation for their positive attitude and support...without which this project would not be taking place."

It was the vision and support of HRM Councillor Jim Smith that made this much needed service possible. For the last six years, Councillor Smith has been providing transportation to Stair's United Food Bank recipients alleviating the struggle of carrying home their groceries. Ralph MacKenzie, a Society Board member, worked with Councillor Smith at the food bank and speaks highly of the Councillor's commitment to this grass roots service. When Councillor Smith suggested the idea of a community van, Ralph was quick to

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If you are interested in discussing your organization's potential use of this important community asset, please contact:

Ralph MacKenzie

Chair, Community Van Management Committee,
The Public Good Society of Dartmouth,
P.O. Box 262, Stn. Main,
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Y3
Phone: 434-3081
E-mail: ralph.mackenzie@ns.sympatico.ca

Thanks to funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, the "Connections that Work" project will continue helping people in Dartmouth until March 2012.

Community Van Helps Non-Profits

Alice Housing provides safe second stage housing and supportive counselling for women and children leaving domestic violence. Part of our comprehensive slate of programs involves recreational days for both the mothers and their children. During the holiday season and during the Summer, we are tasked with providing transportation to families so that they can participate in both social gatherings in their honour or Beach days at Rainbow Haven. Both activities involve Alice Housing renting a passenger van at a considerable cost. By participating in the Community Van program, we will save a significant amount in van rentals each year; money which can be diverted to other programs of the organization.

- Joanne Bernard, Executive Director,
Alice Housing



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take up the challenge. After many meetings, a lot of planning, and commitment of strategic partners, the Society approved the addition of this community service to its programs. In addition, the Society committed to pay for the first year of insurance coverage, one of the major obstacles to be overcome.

Not surprisingly Stair's United Food Bank was the first community group to benefit from the van. According to Ralph MacKenzie, when the van was introduced at the food bank, "the room erupted in a spontaneous round of applause. Everyone, including the volunteers providing the service and the clients receiving the service, were grateful to have access to such a valuable resource." On one of his trips he was able to drive four people home, with their much needed groceries, at the same time. He observed that "seeing the community van operating and the impact that it will make on the community is fantastic".

The van will be managed through a co-operative agreement of the Public Good Society of Dartmouth and The Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia. The Community Van is for use of qualified organizations serving the residents of Dartmouth North, located in HRM District 9.



The Public Good Society Board Members

"The Public Good" is published twice a year by The Public Good Society of Dartmouth.

For more information on the Society see our web site at www.publicgoodsociety.ca.

The Society can be reached at:

* E-mail: thepublicgoodsociety@gmail.com

* Phone: 902-476-0785

* Mail: P.O. Box 262, Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 3Y3 Canada

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Councillor Jim Smith

District 9 - Albro Lake-Harbourview
VP, Union of N.S. Municipalities

PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

490-4692 (Office)
229-8887 (Cell)

Jim.Smith@halifax.ca

Follow me on twitter @CouncillorSmith 