

The Public Good

The newsletter of the Public Good Society of Dartmouth

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Public Good Society Welcomes Two “Newbies” to its Board

The Public Good Society has seen two new volunteers join our Board of Directors in recent months. Neil Cook and Ralph MacKenzie have become enthusiastic new members of the Board and have both already contributed a lot of time, effort and brain power to the Society.

This issue of “The Public Good” features profiles of our two new Board members. Making these profiles a bit more creative is the fact that we have had each of them interview and write the story about the other.

Neil Cook — Making a Difference

Neil Cook wants to make a difference in his community. Upon completing university, Neil wanted to become involved and was looking for some way to make a valuable contribution. As one of the newest members of the Public Good Society, he hopes to do just that.

He is a long time resident of Old Dartmouth and his interest and background in the field of health has led him to the Public Good Society. He is curious as to the relationship between health and social issues. Neil’s background assists him in understanding the social issues that impact upon one’s personal health. When asked if the mandate and activities of the Public Good Society were what he expected them to be, his response was, “yes and much more.” Neil feels that the future of the Public Good Society lies in engaging the community to become involved. Neil says, “Creating awareness, building a strong membership base and organizing the community members in a substantial way is crucial to meeting the society’s vision and promote its social cause.” He feels that this can be achieved through the proper use of new technology, social networking and engaging youth. Neil understands that the established program, Connections That Work, is an extremely valuable and effective program within the Public Good Society.



The 2010 Board and resource people of the Public Good Society of Dartmouth, with Neil Cook, second from left and Ralph MacKenzie on the right

He is confident that the organization is ready to move to another level and continue to broaden the services that it offers to the local community.

Neil finds his involvement to be a rewarding experience and enjoys working with the dedicated group of board members who all share his goal of making the community that he cares deeply for, a better place. He is looking forward to working with the board to make this happen.

Notes from the Public Good Society

- Thanks to funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, the “Connections that Work” project has been extended until March 2011.
- Since our last newsletter in November more and more people have been taking advantage of the Public Good Society’s services. Every month new clients are referred to a range of at employment related services in the Dartmouth community. Some are able to move on from this to become employed. Many others have been moved closer to employment thanks to the Society’s services.

Ralph MacKenzie Retired Teacher with a Purpose

Ralph Mackenzie, a 40-year resident of Dartmouth and retired school teacher, wanted to fill his free time with purpose and intention and became interested in the Public Good Society. His experience in working with students and parents is valuable and is demonstrated in his strong ability to listen and work with a variety of people.

He has been involved in the activities of Margaret House which provides hot meals to those in need and saw the Public Good Society as an extension of his current role as a volunteer. "I saw an ad in a community newspaper; an invitation to attend an annual Public Good Society meeting". I arrived and was impressed by the speakers, presentations, and the work of the Society.

Ralph's interest in the Public Good Society involves supporting the marginalized populations who live in Dartmouth. There is always a need to enhance supports for people and especially these community populations. One of the main projects that the Public Good Society is responsible for is "Connections that Work". The Connections that Work project is a flagship of the Public Good Society, but the work of the Public Good Society is much more than that; there are affordable housing issues, social concerns relating to health and wellness.

Ralph is modest in identifying his contribution as a Board volunteer when asked, "It's hard to say, I bring a work ethic, a commitment to improve existing supports for people locally". The Board is made up of a strong group of committed and passionate individuals.

When asked about the future of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth, Ralph says "I would like to see the Society in-

The Public Good Society In the News

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth has received positive coverage in the media and in community publications on since the last issue of this newsletter in November.

- ◆ The Connections That Work Project and the Society was covered by the Halifax Chronicle Herald and the Community Herald during the month of April, including a large front page photo in the Community Herald. The article primarily deals with how the project works through food banks to assist clients, and Project Facilitator Kevin Little's role in that.
- ◆ Mike Savage, Member of Parliament for Dartmouth/Cole Harbour included an article about the Public Good Society in his Fall 2009 "Community Report" to his constituents.

involved in providing many sub committees who will support the marginalized populations of Dartmouth". His vision of the future of the Public Good Society involves supporting those in need assistance with a variety of issues which could include affordable housing, health support, tenancy issue support, and possible transportation support.

Ralph's ability to pitch in and do whatever is required, commitment to the social well-being of others, and his skill with working with people offers great value to the Public Good Society of Dartmouth.

"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.

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