

The Public Good

The newsletter of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

November 2012 * Vol. 4, No. 1

Working Together — For the Dartmouth Community

Metro Non-Profit Housing and The Public Good Society of Dartmouth are joining forces to open a Dartmouth based office for the Halifax Housing Help (HHH) program. On October 19th, 2012, The Society and Metro Non-Profit signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlined their respective roles in the setup and operation of the office.

Homelessness and affordable and safe housing have been identified by The Public Good Society of Dartmouth's Board as areas for involvement. The Society has hosted two workshops related to housing as well as receiving feedback on housing from it's Connections that Work Outreach Facilitator. In addition, the housing issue has been a subject of ongoing discussion at Board meetings and also at several special meetings.

Working with HHH to establish this office will be the Society's first direct involvement in a housing initiative. The Society's Connections that Work project and the Dartmouth North Community Van will provide key support to the Dartmouth office. Funding for the office is being sought.

Halifax Housing Help was formed in 2008 by a partnership between Metro Non-Profit Housing and Direction 180. Since its formation, HHH has helped over 600 people with their housing problems. They focus on helping people with urgent housing needs as well as working with clients to keep them in more stable housing situations. Maintaining very good working relationship with landlords is key to their operations.

HHH programs provide a unique holistic response to the desperate need of people who require access to longer-term housing and housing people who have been at serious risk of home-



Carol Charlebois, Metro Non-Profit Association with Tess Warner, Halifax Housing Help on the left and Frances Drolet-Smith and Dennis Pilkey, TPGSD on the right, sign the Memorandum of Understanding

lessness. Most HHH clients are single person households, although their status sometimes changes. HHH programs are client centred and participant focused.

At its Annual General Meeting on November 19, 2012, the Society plans to release a discussion paper entitled "Housing that Works - In search of the Gap". This paper provides background information on housing that is being used to support the Society's strategic planning.

"The Public Good" is normally 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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All donations are eligible for a Charitable Tax Receipt.

Thanks to funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, the "Connections that Work" project will continue helping people in Dartmouth until March 2013.

Well Done, Jim Smith!

In October, TPGS Board Chair, Frances Drolet-Smith, wrote to thank Jim Smith for his tireless efforts as Councillor on behalf of the residents of the former District 9, Albro Lake-Harbourview. She noted that Jim's commitment to his constituents was reflected in the significant improvements made in residents' lives during his incumbency, particularly in his efforts in assisting TPGS to acquire the Dartmouth North Community Van. "This acquisition fits so beautifully with our goals of identifying gaps in service and building on what's working in the community . . . (and) has enabled us to forge new partnerships with other non-profit groups."

The letter also thanked Mr. Smith for his "unwavering support of our work and of the community as a whole" and acknowledged the Board's sadness at hearing of his decision not to re-offer in the civic election. "We are confident that you will continue to enhance the lives of others in whatever way you choose next," wrote the Board Chair, extending best wishes to Mr. Smith in his future endeavours.

Community Van Update

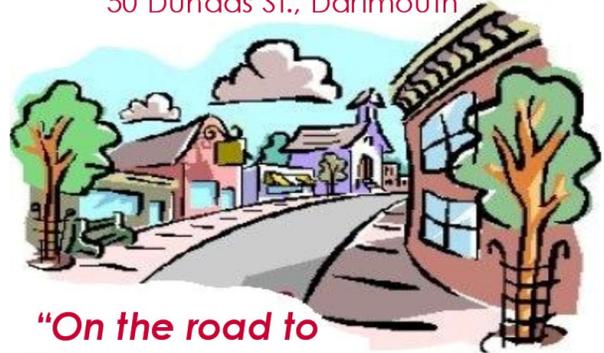
The Dartmouth North Community Van continues to be a tremendous support to the residents of our community. Since the van began operation in January 2012, it has provided transportation to well over sixteen hundred residents and logged almost five thousand kilometers. Currently there are four registered community groups approved to use the van. Stair's Food Bank, First Baptist Food Bank and The Freedom Foundation Of Nova Scotia have been using the van on a regular basis.

The van management committee is currently seeking other non profit community groups that are interested in this affordable and easy to access means of transportation. For more information relating to the operation of the Dartmouth North Community Van, please contact Ralph MacKenzie at 222-0174.

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth
cordially invites you to attend our

Annual General Meeting
Monday, November 19th, 2012
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Christ Church Parish Hall,
50 Dundas St., Dartmouth



**"On the road to
a collaborative approach
to homelessness"**

with guest speaker
Claudia Jahn,
Program Facilitator,
Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia

Refreshments will be served

R.S.V.P. Margie Vaughan by November 15th, 2012
margie.vaughan@hotmail.com

Housing and the Election

The Public Good Society is working to address housing issues in our Dartmouth Community. We also wanted to know what the Mayoralty candidates in the recent election would say about housing and what their efforts would be to support safe and affordable housing in the municipality should they be elected. The Public Good Society of Dartmouth submitted a question for the Mayoralty Candidate Forum that took place at Christ Church on September 17th. The question we asked was:

- What role do you see the municipality playing in Dartmouth around the issue of homelessness and the provision of safe and affordable housing?

HRM's new Mayor Mike Savage was at the Forum.

The 2nd Annual Housing and Homelessness Conference will further address these issues on Nov. 22nd and 23rd.