



### **1) Project Title: Therapeutic Horticulture: A Natural Way to Nature Resiliency**

Therapeutic horticulture is well documented as an effective therapy for those dealing with mental health issues. Although Therapeutic Horticulture is widely practiced in Europe and some regions of North America, there are no publicly accessible resources on Prince Edward Island. The Legacy Garden's Therapeutic Horticulture Program will support young adults with physical and mental disabilities including autism, PTSD, and addiction recovery. In addition to teaching many important life skills such as growing, harvesting, and preparing healthy foods, program activities also promote environmental awareness and stewardship by teaching individuals the importance of protecting and preserving natural resources.

### **2) Project Title: Wildflower Seed Mixes as a Source of Invasive Species Introductions**

Invasive species are one of the most significant threats to biodiversity loss worldwide. Wildflower and pollinator mixtures are often sold in poorly labeled seed packets that either do not specify the species composition or use common names, which can identify multiple species. As such, wildflower seed mixtures can be a source of non-native and invasive species, which negatively impact urban biodiversity. To address this concern, the PEI Invasive Species Council will screen a variety of wildflower seed mixtures readily available within Charlottetown to determine their species composition. The organization will also develop resources for the public including a factsheet and native wildflower mixtures. They will also hold a native pollinator and wildflower workshop to inform the public about the issue with wildflower mixtures and what they can do to make informed decisions when planting wildflowers on their properties.

### **3) Project Title: Enhancing Community Food Resilience in Extreme Weather Events**

Climate change is leading to increasingly frequent and extreme weather events. Post-tropical storm Fiona in September 2022 and the extreme cold period in the winter of 2023 have illustrated that our emergency preparedness in terms of food security needs improvement. Enhanced community food resilience will help us anticipate, prevent, absorb, and adapt to the impacts of various stressors in a way that ensures sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all. Through this project, Food Exchange PEI will invite members of

Charlottetown neighbourhoods to gather, prepare, and eat a meal together. At this meal, participants will discuss their food experience, identify gaps in supports, and brainstorm possible solutions. These gatherings will be held in two Charlottetown neighbourhoods. The experience of cooking and sharing food is critically important in building community resilience. PEI Food Exchange will also meet with other local non-profits such as Charlottetown Mutual Aid and 4 Love 4 Care as well as representatives from municipal and provincial government to understand their experiences supporting the community during emergencies.

#### **4) Project Title: Fitzroy Street Tiny Art Gallery – Artist Walks and Talks**

The Fitzroy Street Tiny Art Gallery opened at 295 Fitzroy St. in Charlottetown in July 2022 and houses a combination of curated professional exhibits, and community artwork exchange. Emerging and amateur artists have the opportunity to display and distribute work, and professional artists have a space in which to play and experiment with small scale works. The Gallery engages and inspires residents and visitors of all backgrounds and demographics. The Gallery prioritizes accessibility in that it serves all ages and is barrier-free for participating. This year, the Gallery is partnering with Upstreet Craft Brewing in the construction of two additional tiny gallery spaces, to be placed at their Taproom and Craft Beer Corner locations. This microgrant will fund a series of Artist Talks and Walks with exhibiting artists, touring the three locations and discussing their work and process.

#### **5) Project Title: Bike Tool Lending Library**

Through extensive outreach efforts, Bike Friendly Communities has been working to understand what they can do to help people choose cycling as a primary mode of transportation. One identified barrier is lack of access to the proper maintenance and repair tools. The upfront expense of investing in tools and equipment to keep a bike in working order has been cited as a blocker when people are considering making the shift from a recreation cyclist (cycling occasionally for fun) to using cycling as a primary mode of transportation (cycling regularly for purposeful trips). The Bicycle Tool Lending Library will provide community members with easy, no-cost access to bicycle maintenance tools. Bike Friendly Communities will create four tool kits that include all of the tools and materials required to carry-out bicycle repairs and maintenance activities. Additionally, each toolkit will include an instruction manual with visual guides to build knowledge of bicycle repair and maintenance skills within the community. These kits will be available for rent at no cost at the PEI Public Library Service.

#### **6) Project Title: Watering the Patchwork**

The Patchwork Community Garden is a new community garden in J. Frank MacAulay Park. Started by a group of newcomers, in partnership with Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI and the City of Charlottetown, the garden seeks to create a space of belonging, welcoming everyone from all backgrounds to share their stories in community

while having access to a garden plot to sustainably grow healthy foods for their families. To make the community garden more environmentally friendly, sustainable, and efficient, this project will improve the use of irrigation water in the community garden with renewable energy and collected rainwater. It will involve installing solar panels on the existing tool shed's roof to power a pump that will distribute the rainwater collected in rain barrels to the garden.

#### **7) Project Title: An Oral History of the Great George Street Gallery (1978-1990)**

Artist-run centres took off as a movement across Canada in the 1970s and, as their name implies, they are often vibrant community spaces for artists to gather together, showcase their artworks, experiment and learn skills, and build their professional careers. The Great George Street Gallery (GGSG) operated as an artist-run centre in downtown Charlottetown from 1978-1990 before it lost its national funding and subsequently closed its doors. For this project, this town is small (TTIS) will present a public panel discussion with three to four individuals who were involved with the GGSG to share their experiences and memories of the gallery, alongside projected historic photos and articles. Information about the GGSG is largely unavailable to the public, existing only within personal archives of those who were involved and in the UPEI Robertson Library's Island archives. In uncovering more about the GGSG, we look to share and preserve an important moment within local artist culture.

#### **8) Project Title: STEAM PEI's Food Science & Sustainability Event**

STEAM PEI's Food Science and Sustainability Event will be a youth (all ages) and family focused event that will offer participants a free opportunity to learn and explore food science and sustainability through agriculture, foraging and food preservation activities and workshops. The event will incorporate activities and workshops such as: fermentation experiments, designing a sustainable farm using LEGO, making a mini greenhouse using recycled/reusable materials, an Indigenous knowledge workshop on food sustainability, a sustainable foraging workshop, and workshops on food preservation. The event will be held in celebration of World Food Day in October.

#### **9) Project Title: The Art of Water Security: A Public Talk and Workshop**

Kirstie McCallum has been commissioned by researchers from the University of Victoria to develop a new work of public sculpture that explores nature-based solutions to climate challenges. The project, Cloudwell, is a sculptural rain catcher that gathers moisture from the air and funnels it into a ceramic vessel that filters the water for drinking. This artwork will be included in a research report called "Scalable Nature-based Climate Solution (NBCS) Community Toolkit for Climate and Water Security from Environment and Climate Change Canada." This microgrant funded project will create an opportunity to share Cloudwell with the community in Charlottetown. Partnering with Beaconsfield Historic House, the PEI Watershed Alliance, the UPEI ClimateSense Program, and the Canadian Centre for Climate Change & Adaptation, Kirstie will facilitate a public talk and workshop about water security

on Prince Edward Island called "The Art of Water Security." This event will ground Kirstie's involvement in this national research project in local issues related to sustainable water use in PEI and help build relationships at a local level. Such projects become a valuable platform for initiating grass-roots conversations about climate change and conservation.

#### **10) Project Title: Mutual Aid 101 – Building Caring, Radical & Sustainable Community**

Mutual aid is solidarity-based community care that recognizes that society isn't created justly or equitably, despite having the capacity and resources. It focuses on non-hierarchical structures, fostering reciprocal relationships, earning trust, community education, and self-determination. It recognizes that we have a responsibility to care for one another and, through collective action, we can create radically caring, intentional, and thriving communities for everyone. Although the concept of Mutual Aid isn't new, it is to many in Charlottetown. With this project, Charlottetown Mutual Aid will create a four-week education and community-building program to be delivered once in the summer and again in the fall. It will introduce the concept, principles, and history of mutual aid and its importance, particularly in today's climate. The program will provide a foundational understanding of historical and systemic oppression, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and the harm reduction principles informing mutual aid organizing. These concepts are key in climate justice, sustainability, and community-building efforts.

#### **11) Evaluating the Sustainability of Groundwater Abstraction in Charlottetown**

Excessive groundwater abstraction and changes in climatic variables can lead to reduced stream flows during dry periods, which can have a significant impact on the health of a watershed's ecosystem. In Charlottetown, the extraction of groundwater can have a negative impact on stream flows, especially since groundwater is a significant contributor to annual stream flows. Therefore, it is crucial to evaluate these impacts on stream flow to ensure sustainable water use and preserve the health of the ecosystem. The proposed project will employ multivariate time series analysis to investigate the impacts of climatic variables (including precipitation and temperature) and groundwater abstraction at Union, Suffolk, Brackley well fields on stream flows in Winter River in Winter River watershed and Miltonvale well field on stream flows in Coles Creek in North River watershed. This project is significant as it will provide critical information to water supply and watershed management decision-makers in Charlottetown. The project's results will help to identify the impact of municipal groundwater abstraction and climate change on watersheds and provide recommendations for sustainable groundwater management. This information will be essential for developing strategies to ensure sustainable water extraction and protection of the aquatic ecosystem for long-term watershed health.