

Names of Groups within the community (**minimum requirement of four supporting groups**) who have partnered on this nomination:

1. Beacon House Interfaith Society (Food bank)
2. Lake District Recreation Association
3. Cobequid Cultural Centre of the Arts Society
4. Fultz Corner Restoration Society (Fultz House Museum)
5. Sack-A-Wa Canoe Club
6. Sackville Business Association

I acknowledge that if mine is the winning community, my submission in its entirety will be made available to the public and other program sponsors through the Communities, Culture and Heritage website and my story will be used for other related marketing and promotional purposes for the Community Spirit Award Program.

Additional information collected for the administration of the Community Spirit Award program will only be used for the purpose for which it was obtained and will be managed in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information, Protection of Privacy Act*** of Nova Scotia.

SACKVILLE NOVA SCOTIA, COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION

It's 7 pm on a Friday night and representatives from 10 different community groups have shown up for a meeting to discuss submitting a Community Spirit nomination.

"There aren't many places where you could get this kind of a turn out on a Friday night before March Break," local municipal Councillor Steve Craig said to the crowd.

Welcome to Sackville.

1) "To me, it's a family, that's what I feel about this community," said Crystal MacPherson, Sackville resident and volunteer with the Sack-A-Wa Canoe Club.

All of the volunteers gathered around that meeting table on March 7 felt the same way.

This is a community that was built by volunteers, filled with people who give freely of their time to ensure we have recreational facilities/activities and cultural/artistic pursuits to both participate in and enjoy.

Others take care of those who are most vulnerable, providing food and clothing to the less fortunate through places like Beacon House, or offering programs to our seniors' clubs at the **Sackville Heights Community Centre**, a place that became a reality thanks to volunteers determined to have a community meeting space.

There are other tireless volunteers who ensure we maintain a strong connection to our history via places like the Fultz House Museum, and organizations like the award-winning Sackville Rivers Association dedicated to ensuring the protection of our local rivers and woodlands for the enjoyment of future generations.

2) One of the local groups that has long-helped foster our community spirit is **The Sackville Community Development Association (SCDA)**. The objective of this volunteer group is helping "make Sackville a better place to live."

It started in 1997 when a group of volunteers got together and recommended, among other things, that we create a community celebration for Canada Day to try and bolster community spirit and pride.

Sackville Patriot Days was born. This multi-day celebration now includes many activities: concerts, a teddy bear picnic, skateboard jam, family movie night, a dance, baseball and fishing tournaments, fireworks and a Canada Day parade.

Volunteers work all year to plan this festival, which attracts tens of thousands of participants and spectators every year. As our community grows, so do those numbers.

The SCDA hosts Canada Day Citizenship courts, where new Canadians are sworn in and welcomed to Canada.

The SCDA also created and maintains the **Memorial Rose Hedge**, intended to beautify the entrance to Sackville. They maintain a Memorial Rosebush Registry in which they record the names of citizens who have been honoured by the donation of a rosebush in their name. This hedge has now completely replaced a rusty chain link fence that was on the property and adds to the beauty of Sackville Heritage Park.

The group's latest initiatives include the creation of a **Sackville mascot**. (Sackfilly the horse is a nod to Sackville's horse racing and farming past). The SCDA also hosted a community Christmas lights competition and supported the local business association's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The SCDA works with other community service groups and clubs to achieve the common goal of making Sackville a hometown to be proud of.

3) "There are very few communities that have a community-owned recreational facility. They are usually all municipal. Here we have what the community did by itself," said Bob Rines, president of the **Lake District Recreation Association (LDRA)**.

This local volunteer group owns and operates the Sackville Arena and is dedicated to providing sport and leisure facilities, quality programs and services for community use.

The first major project LDRA undertook was building the Sackville Arena. After the community identified the need in 1971, the LDRA developed strategies to finance the project and plans for its construction. Two years later the arena, with seating for 1,300 along with a mezzanine area, was completed. Over 85% of the \$850,000 needed to finance the project was gained through LDRA fundraising.

"This is where the community really started.. Pretty near all the recreation facilities we've had in Lower Sackville we've had our hand somewhere in it. We have a facility that was put there by the residents of this community without major tax dollars and the community looks after it well," Rines said.

"From September to May, at least 5,000 people go through the arena every week.. I've seen our region mature and grow because of that facility. We need things like the arena to create good, positive activity and to make sure our children, seniors, that every age group has a gathering place."

LDRA's social commitment is also realized through annual recognition of all volunteers through the LDRA Volunteer Recognition Dinner and its facilitating the final selection for **Sackville's Volunteer of the Year**. April 2014 marks the **35th Annual Sackville Volunteer Recognition Dinner/Evening** hosted by the LDRA.

LDRA also gives funds to a student taking post-secondary studies in the leisure and recreation field. There are three representing the three local high schools.

4) More than 250 volunteers (combining both retail store and the food bank) ensure the smooth operation of Sackville's **Beacon House**.

"We feed and help to cloth approximately 650 families per month on average. That equates to about 1800 + persons. This has a huge impact on our community," said Beacon House site manager Rod Rowlands. "We also provide school supplies in August and September to assist families. This can have future bearing on helping children to stay in school and get a better education.. We also ensure that we have a coat program for every member of (those) families from October to March to get them through the winter."

Beacon House is an interfaith society. Sackville has an unusually high number of churches for its population, and all denominations pool their resources to support the larger community.

"The church communities have been working together for almost 30 years delivering a very unique service to this community," Rowlands said. "Working with other organizations like the Sackville Business Association, the schools, and other groups, we build on ideas and resources to build on common goals."

Beacon House encourages youth groups to visit the facility, offers special projects that allow youth to volunteer, and hires summer students. Local schools regularly set up successful food drives, creating an awareness among students that there are those in need for whom securing enough food is a struggle.

"Seniors make up a sizeable proportion of the food bank clientele. They are often lonely, widowed, and certainly in financial difficulty," Rowlands said. "At Beacon House we treat them with the same dignity and respect that all clients receive. They do need more time as they enjoy the social contact, we all know this and do our best to be there for them. They have so much to share."

5) Sackville's successful **Weir Rockin'** annual summer rockfest is further proof that a few people can do great things.

In 2006, a group of Sackville volunteers formed a committee whose members have created one of the region's most successful annual outdoor rock concerts. The event takes place at Weir Field in Middle Sackville.

The first concert in the summer of 2007 was a sell-out. The opening act was local favourite MacGillvray Brothers, with headliners April Wine rocking the crowd and planting Weir Rockin' squarely in the hearts of many local music fans.

With the infrastructure taking shape, the committee decided to keep going. Weir Rockin' returned in 2008 featuring bands Chilliwack and Haywire. This time Jon Mullane and Under the Sun filled the opening act spots.

By 2009 word about the event had spread. Fans were scheduling summer vacations around Weir Rockin' and a buzz had surrounded the event. In August of that year, the show was kicked-off by long-time Sackville favourite, Chambermade. After

Chambermade got the crowd primed, rock legends Harlequin took to the stage, followed by Canadian rock legends Trooper.

What started off as a long-shot, has now become a staple of summer for the people of Sackville and surrounding areas. Run entirely by volunteers, Weir Rockin' has quickly been tagged as one of the best-run events of the summer season.

6) Greg Fenwick is a community volunteer best known for his role as Sackville's Official Town Crier.

Greg is passionate about the art of town crying, and despite holding down a full time job spends a great deal of his own time and money travelling throughout the community, province, and beyond to represent and highlight our community and our province's rich past.

7) For the past 53 years, the Sackville Kinsmen have contributed greatly to the fabric of our community. Their contributions include a beautiful fountain that stands in our well-used Acadia Park and the swimming pool at the Sackville Sports Stadium. They also own their own facility and are gracious about sharing it.

The Sackville Kinsmen are spear heading an exciting initiative, ironing out construction details for an all-inclusive Splash Pad (water park) for the community. This long-awaited project is scheduled for construction this year.

They also support The **Sackville Library's** after school "**At Risk Children's Program.**" Attendees sometimes need help with school work or they just want a safe place to hang out and have a bite to eat. The Kinsmen also with a local school promoting anti-bullying at the school, walking alongside the students throughout Sackville with signs designed by the students themselves.

Each year, the **Kinsmen Community Bowl** provides an entertaining football game between our two local high schools, with the gate proceeds going to bursaries for students attending both of those schools.

The Kinsmen's "**Tabs for Wheelchair**" program helps supply medical equipment to many in our community, including those who couldn't leave hospital without it. The Kinsmen also host an annual complimentary "**Heritage Night**" dinner and dance for our local seniors.

When Kin Canada recently held a National Day of KINDness, Sackville members paid parking for the first 100 people at the Cobequid Community Health Centre (our local hospital) and served coffee to the local firefighters on duty that day. The only thing they asked was that people receiving their kindness pay it forward. "It was so encouraging but not surprising to witness so many Sackville residents pitch in with their own acts of kindness," said president Ernie Hunt.

8) The Sackville Photography Club began in 1988 and has grown to include 160 members. This group has been actively involved in the local community and throughout HRM.

They've assisted with fund-raising and have provided photos for countless non-profit endeavours to use in brochures, web sites and other awareness vehicles.

The club has helped more than 35 groups, many for several years running. These organizations include the Canadian Cancer Society, Easter Seals, the Cobequid Community Health Centre, Scott Manor House, the Sackville Legion, and many sports and volunteer groups. They also provide free photos to other community-based initiatives, including libraries, RCMP, and park groups.

The club regularly teaches various aspects of photography to the general public through classes held by local community groups. Members also organize many photo field trips to places throughout the community and provide photos to the groups or property owners afterwards.

Once a year the club hosts a photo exhibit at the Sackville Library to encourage membership and provide an opportunity for the public to view the work of its members.

The club is always open and looking for new photographic opportunities anywhere in the community to continue helping various groups by providing them with images they can use. The club and its membership also help support the Acadia Hall where they hold their meetings. In fact, as with most community groups in Sackville, they work hand-in-hand.

The Sackville Photography Club provided the Wi-Fi for Acadia Hall and also gave a substantial donation to the hall's renovation fund.

9) Sackville's history and community pride is also well reflected in our Cenotaph, located at Sackville's Heritage Park.

The Cenotaph has a beautiful history of its very own, harkening back to Second World War Veteran and resident Abe White. White served with the Princess Louise Fusiliers overseas and with the first Special Force in Italy and France. He dreamed of a new Cenotaph for Sackville. Although he never had the opportunity to see that dream fulfilled before he passed away, his theme 'Hands Clasped in Friendship' serves as the basic design of Sackville's completed Cenotaph.

He proposed the **Royal Canadian Legion, Calais Branch 162 Sackville** obtain a stone from every country where Canadian service personnel are interred. In all, 73 countries are represented. It was Abe's notion that by assembling these stones in a Cenotaph, we would symbolically 'Bring our boys Home.'

The centre stone is the Canadian Coat of Arms, the provincial and territory stones form the arms, drawing you in to view the 73 engraved country stones, hence 'Hands Clasped In Friendship.' The light that shines atop the Cenotaph represents the Eternal Flame of Remembrance.

Following its dedication, the 'Lest We Forget' Cenotaph in Sackville received an international award for its construction. In 2000, a stone from Nunavut was dedicated at the Heritage Park in proximity to the Cenotaph by Lieutenant Governor Myra Freeman.

Sackville's Cenotaph is packed as far as the eye can see every Remembrance Day, regardless of the weather, as people flock from throughout the community to pay their respects.

10) "I can't think of anything the embodies more of a sense of community spirit than a group of people getting together to do something just because they love it," said Stacey Moore of the **Eventurous Theatre Company**.

In 2007-2008 a group of people interested in performance art got together with the intention of putting on a play or show. "We did a show (*Wonderland! The Musical Misadventures of a Girl Named Alice*, in 2008), it was a great success, and so we turned ourselves into a community group."

The Sackville-based not for profit community theatre group has more than 70 members and has staged at least one major production each year for residents of Sackville and beyond to enjoy.

11) Just like the community as a whole, the Sackville business community is a close knit and supportive group of individuals.

"A long standing member of the community (once) told me a story about how, years earlier, they were going to lose their commercial property to tax sale and how a number of prominent members of the community stepped up and helped save their property," recalled Michelle Champniss of the **Sackville Business Association**.

"This was a good example of how the community of Sackville takes care of one another. I've seen many more examples since."

There's a lot of history in the Sackville business district. Businesses like Sportwheels, Kaisers Sub and Payzant's Home Hardware have been a part of the landscape for more than 50 years and are still owned and operated by the original families.

"Many older residents have told me how if it weren't for Payzant's fronting them credit to build, they never would have been able to own a home of their own and how as a result, to this day they are still loyal customers," Champniss said.

A March 18 article in The Chronicle Herald highlighted Payzant's generosity for not going after homeowners for money owed by a bankrupt company.

That is how people take care of each other here.

"Many new businesses have opened up shop in Sackville and have adopted the Sackville 'code of business' - work hard to provide honest, good service and realize that being an integral part of the community means you have a responsibility to the community," Champriss said.

"This is seen in all of the amazing support we see from businesses. Support like the business association's recent food drive which resulted in more than 1,500 pounds of food for the local food bank."

12) The Cobequid Cultural Centre of the Arts Society (CCS) is an all volunteer group actively working towards the establishment of an arts centre facility in the community.

Formed seven years ago, their goal, simply stated, is "to promote, support and encourage the visual and performing arts in the Greater Sackville Area."

"There are no limits when it comes to diversity among the artistic community here in Sackville," said CCS president Anne Foster.

Writers, photographers, musicians, multi-media artists, actors, singers, dancers, potters and gifted speakers representing all ages, ethnicities and cultural heritage backgrounds are active not only in the community and among the CCS membership. They also serve on the society's 15-member Board of Directors.

The society actively partners with and supports community theatre, school artistic presentations, local choirs and The Sackville Community Band.

"The number of community volunteers in Sackville who are committed to these endeavours makes us proud and humble. We are blessed," said Foster.

Long term goals for the CCS include getting the word out that the Arts are alive and thriving in Sackville.

The society sponsors "House Concerts," one of which was hosted by award-winning photographer Sherman Hines and featured local artists Paul Eisan and Floyd King.

They also hold fundraising dances that serve to highlight talented local bands.

This marks the second year the society is offering a bursary to a local graduating student pursuing a post secondary education in the Fine Arts.

"Arts and Culture tell the stories that allow us to claim our heritage and history and show our spirit. They are vital to any community," Foster said. "They unite people, teach us the value of creativity to living a healthy, fulfilled life and accept any and all within their sphere whether performers, participants, volunteers or ... Lovers....Of The Arts!"

13) The non-profit Fultz House Museum is the welcoming entrance way to Sackville. Constructed in 1858, it stands to this day as a testimony of the community spirit.

In 1979, the house was in the hands of the provincial government and faced a demolition order to make room for an extended highway. Sackville and area residents rallied together to save the historic house. Volunteers established the **Fultz Corner Restoration Society**, successfully leased the property, and opened the museum on July 1, 1982.

The museum enables visitors to experience over 200 years of our community's history. Beyond the house itself, the museum's collections have expanded to include an original cooperage (removed board-by-board from the Grace property in Middle Sackville) and a working replica of A.J. Smeltzer's Lower Sackville blacksmith shop.

Volunteers ensure artifacts are kept in working order. In previous years, mannequin production workshops were held here. Coopering sessions have also taken place inside the cooperage.

More than a dozen groups within the community help out, contributing to the preservation of the museum grounds and its history. The grounds have become a special location for weddings and graduation photos and for families and groups who enjoy relaxing, walking, or taking photographs on the well-tended grounds.

The Fultz House is the epicentre of some of Sackville's finest summer events. The season kicks off with the traditional baked bean luncheon and reaffirmation ceremony on Canada Day. Tuesdays would not be complete in Sackville without the summertime Fultz House teas.

"Sackville's heritage has brought many to become more aware of the community and its rich history.. That has caused other individuals to get involved in other groups or (reach) out to others in the community," said Fultz House president Elmer Grove.

14) The Sack-A-Wa Canoe Club was founded in 1978. As a competitive club, its year-round athletes pursue high performance training, Florida spring training, and provincial and national competitions. The club's location in the heart of Lower Sackville provides a family-centred environment for paddlers aged 8 through to adult interested in recreational paddling. This combination of competitive and recreational paddling has allowed the club to provide strong summer and year-round programs on First Lake. They include paddling, running, soccer and beach volleyball.

The club also runs a popular Paddle ALL program for individuals (children and adults) with disabilities. Athletes from the regular program volunteer to assist paddlers and coaches with this great program.

Sack-A-Wa hosts the annual Atom Bomb Regatta, which brings in 2000+ athletes, family members and coaches to the First Lake area of Sackville. To host this successful

event, the club works with many local businesses and organizations, including the Kinsmen Club, Sobeys, Tim Hortons, St. Frances By the Lake Church, the Knights of Columbus, St. John Ambulance and the RCMP.

Sack-A-Wa athletes recently took part in the powerful Acadia Park art piece sponsored by the Sackville Rotary Club with local artists Joseph Landry and Brian Gazeley. They are working with the Friends of First Lake to continue the trails system around the lakes of Lower Sackville in use by the community year-round. The club also has plans to host a trail run.

Young athletes also volunteer elsewhere, doing things like handing out water to Sackville Sneaker Shredder participants and cleaning up Metropolitan Field after the annual Sackville Relay for Life cancer fundraiser. That event has raised more than \$1 million since its 2004 inception.

15) The original purpose of the 1924 Acadia Recreation Club (Acadia Hall) was to provide an area and hall for community picnics and special events. This has been carried on by the members of the club throughout the years and is still the theme today. Club members are still all volunteers, with the executive and the hall managers not receiving a cent for the operation of the hall.

The club also keeps costs low for the community groups of Sackville and surrounding area. Regular users of the hall include the local Taoist Tai Chi group, The Church of the Nazarene, the Sackville Photography Club, the Mayflower Garden Club and the Warm Wishes Charity Quilters.

Acadia Hall's volunteers have undertaken significant development on the property in recent years. A community park has blossomed and includes a bandstand, walking trails and gardens. The club's volunteers are also working towards securing all-inclusive playground equipment for the site.

16) The Sackville Rivers Association (SRA) is a volunteer-based community group in existence since 1988 with approximately 200 members. The group is concerned with the health of the Sackville River Watershed. The SRA has undertaken many projects, ranging from salmon habitat restoration to lobbying (successfully) for flood plain zoning and protection.

Its efforts are concentrated on protecting and restoring salmon habitat, rebuilding salmon habitats through restocking, and educating the public through its two in-classroom programs.

Those educational programs, River Rangers and Fish Friends, provide hands-on learning for local schoolchildren, allowing them to gain an appreciation for and understanding of our local environment.

The association is also working on developing a watershed management plan for the Sackville River Watershed, has spearheaded the completion of a local trails system and is leading the way for other trail connections along the watershed.

17) We are also blessed to have the **Friends of First Lake and the Second Lake Regional Park Association (SLRPA)**. These groups have protected and ensured the construction of community trails and woodlands in our community for everyone to enjoy. After decades of advocacy, SLRPA was successful in its bid to have the province recognize the Second Lake Trail as a provincial park. Thanks to these volunteers, it officially became Nova Scotia's newest provincial park on June 26, 2013.

18) These are just a few of the many dedicated and established community groups in Sackville. New volunteer groups are cropping up all the time to meet the needs and demands of our growing region.

This past year saw the creation of the **Metro Skateboarders Association**, spearheaded by 17-year-old Sackville High School student Brandon Cutting. A local **Sackville Youth Association** also formed this fall with the assistance of Councillor Steve Craig.

Another group is planning a **Sackville community garden** that will provide fresh produce for the community and introduce families to the joys of growing their own food.

This February, the Sackville Business Association brought together many community groups to form a special committee. After that first meeting, those organizations committed to bringing back the **Sackville Winter Carnival** just in time for our new February statutory holiday in 2015. They continue to meet regularly.

Cobequid Radio Society volunteers have spent the past three years working on obtaining a license and are paving the way for a Sackville-based non-profit, volunteer-run radio station that could be on air as soon as this summer.

Perhaps Michelle Champniss of our business association summed it up best when she said: "Sackville's most important asset is its people and their sense of community."

Groups mentioned in this submission are just a sampling of the volunteer organizations that make our community what it is and shape the positive direction in which it's going. We'd also like to highlight the work being done by so many others, including, but certainly NOT limited to: The Sackville Seniors Advisory Council, Sackville Lions Club, Chebucto Track and Field, Cobequid Community Health Centre Foundation, Lakeshore Curling Club, Sackville Waves Aquatic Team, Sackville Blazers Junior B Hockey, Sackville Ringette Association, Riverside Community Centre Association (Sackville Minor Baseball), Sackville Minor Hockey Association, TAISO Gymnastics, RCMP Citizens on Patrol, Sackville United Soccer Association, Sackville Masonic Lodge #137, 3036 Sackville Army Cadets, RCMP Stetsons and Spurs (youth group).