



SUSTAINA-palooza

2016 Envision Riverview Micro-Grant projects!

"Grants such as these are important because it shows residents that their municipal government supports local initiatives to better the environment- both socially and ecologically. It also enables groups like ours to leverage those funds to create an even more impactful projects ..."

~ Christine McLaughlin, Executive Director Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance

The Blythwood Ave. Little Free Library!

Riverview resident Dinah Horseman wanted to bring people together in her neighbourhood to promote the free exchange of books and the ideas found in them, and to encourage physical fitness. Dinah wanted to introduce people to the concept of the little free library, and start a movement of little free libraries all over town. She approached a local builder to build and install a little free library on Blythwood Avenue. Local community members were extremely supportive, donating so many books that Dinah had to pull some out to save for later. Seven months later, in January, the library is a bit snowed in, but still getting traffic. "Lately I've heard folks describing where they lived by referencing their proximity to the free library, so the word is out. Though we may not have known each other before, now we have a free library in common, and that's a start."

Citizen Shift

Riverview High School students Luke Richard, Matt Downing and Mike Hill wanted to make biking to school more accessible. They wanted to increase physical activity for



students and community and reduce carbon emissions by decreasing the number of students arriving/departing school in motorized vehicles. They purchased and installed an additional bike rack at the high school that would be available year round for community members and students as well as helped organize the Citizen Shift Bike to School event in May 2016 where students, teachers, community members, RCMP and Town of Riverview staff all participated.



Mill Creek Nature Park Bio-Blitz

Riverview High School student Brittany Henry received an Envision Riverview micro-grant to organize and host the first Mill Creek Nature Park community bio-blitz! A bio-blitz is an intense search of wildlife in an area (like an inventory) with the goal of encouraging sustainability through community involvement. The Bio-Blitz took place over 2 days. Brittany and her peers partnered with Fundy National Park interpreter Denis Doucet, Friends of Mill Creek community member Daniel Delong and with members of the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance team to complete an aquatic blitz and a terrestrial blitz of the park. In total over 20 people participated in the blitz. The inventory from these two days can be found on the iNaturalist app!



Riverview High School Courtyard Design and Community Garden

A team of RHS students pitched to design and implement a courtyard & garden concept for the currently highly visible yet underperforming courtyard school space. The students partnered with Verdis Design to create a space that is flexible in its function and programming. The courtyard design includes a memorial to past teacher Vince Sutherland and will take advantage of the vertical height for the potential to showcase pieces of art. The Envision Riverview micro-grant was used to support phase 1 of this multi-year project which will incorporate the use of local materials, reused/recycled materials and create opportunities for 'green' elements (i.e. vertical gardens, climbing green, etc.).



Tiny Houses

RHS students presented their vision for Tiny Homes in Riverview to support sustainable development and were

awarded the Envision Riverview micro-grant to present 'Tiny Houses – Big Learning – Brilliant Futures!' A luncheon where Grade 12 Riverview High School Environmental Science students and STEM/STEAM* educators met with Green Visionaries to hear about the successes of Broad Based Technology Lab's Tiny House initiative and to provide input on the direction of the program. "Green Visionaries" are professionals with a range of sustainable business ideas and experiences. They provide thoughtful input on what is needed to advance the current Tiny House Big Learning program to be more competitive in the rapidly expanding eco-savvy market of sustainable tiny infrastructure products: from houses to offices to retail shops, hotels and vacation getaways and more! The students have since been invited to submit an article to OFF Grid East Coast ezine.



Waldweg Forest School Snowshoe Adventure

Waldweg Forest School aims to connect children to the outdoor physical world; to establish an on-going relationship with nature. Waldweg received an Envision Riverview micro-grant to purchase snowshoes for their students so they can continue grow and extend their programming to children and families.



Raining Rain Barrels in Riverview

The Petiscodioc Watershed Alliance used their Envision Riverview micro-grant to engage residents with simple tools to reduce storm water run-off in the Town of Riverview. The preliminary goal was to distribute 20 rain barrels to residents, but that goal was far exceeded thanks to support from RBC's Blue Water Project which increased the impact of the project to a total of 250 collapsible rain barrels! The PWA hosted two events in Riverview, where over 100 people participated. With the installation of these barrels, hundreds of thousands of liters of water will be retained on land in which the benefit is twofold: free water for gardening/washing AND reduced flooding! We feel that the project was a success because our community does want to help the environment and will enthusiastically do so if given the tools and knowledge.



Informed water management will reduce instances of flooding, erosion, and property loss. As the climate changes and land use patterns continue to favour unsustainable practice, our communities are increasingly at risk. Conserving ecologically significant areas such as wetlands and Acadian forest are critical components to a healthy and safe Town.



Valuing Food Incubator Kitchen

Green Eye Co-op received an Envision Riverview micro-grant to increase food skills while creating value added foods for farmers and food banks by recuperating foods that would otherwise go to waste. Five Community Food Mentors, volunteers from United Way and a full time coordinator ran the program throughout the summer and fall season. From the amount of food salvaged, a profit of \$5000 was generated from the sale of transformed food that otherwise would have gone to waste. The Valuing Food Incubator Kitchen was an exploratory project to understand the feasibility of this type of social enterprise. "The interest and support we received was nothing short of overwhelming. (We learned) that with an appropriate facility, storage capacity and dedicated transportation... there is limitless potential for creative development and economic growth that would stem from partnerships, entrepreneurship, and self-employment."



Water Awareness!

Riverview High School student Zoe Leblanc was the recipient of the Envision Riverview **"Co-operators IMPACT Youth Micro Grant"** for her Water Awareness project. Zoe built an art installation out of plastic water bottles to use as a large temporary art installment where the audience was able to learn about bottled water.

The number of bottles used represented the population of the school. Zoe purchased and installed a fountain with a bottle refill station that is easily accessible to students and others who happen to be in the facility thereby reducing consumption of bottled water at Riverview High School.

