

Summer Street: A Volunteer's Perspective

by Al Farthing

I could write a pretty good sized book about the many wonderful things that I experience as a volunteer at Summer Street. But in a nutshell – the employee-trainees and staff touch my heart with warmth!

Human culture has a heavy interest in being a winner, presenting a winning appearance, being at the top, the best, the strongest, the most wealthy. This quality pushes some to excellence of accomplishment, but for a large number of folks it seems to break the spirit, leading to illness of body, mind, and soul. Somehow the task seems just too hard to achieve.

In keeping with this line of thinking, many avenues of achievement would seem to be closed to people who live each day with some level of disability. Yet oddly enough, there never seems to be an atmosphere of doom, gloom, or depression when our employee-trainees come in to work. Rather, there is much laughter and bantering...in short, a pretty buoyant community atmosphere.

The employee-trainees are gracious and enthusiastic when welcoming visitors and volunteers. Life has been hard for some and for a few remains very difficult. But despite this, joy and laughter echo up and down the halls each day!



MISSIONS & BELIEFS...

The mission of the Summer Street Industries Society, a community supported, not-for-profit organization, is to provide skill development opportunities, enriching the lives of people with mental challenges through guidance, goal achievement, training and work experience.

"My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life." – Miles Davis

Support Summer Street

YES! I wish to support Summer Street.
Enclosed is my donation.

- Please forward me information on Leave A Legacy
 Please forward me information on volunteering

\$20 \$100
 \$50 \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Summer Street

72 Park Street, New Glasgow, NS, B2H 5B8

Tel. (902) 755-1745 Fax (902) 755-1956

Email info@summerstreet.ns.ca www.summerstreet.ns.ca



Realizing Potential Together

Newsletter Fall 2006

Helping Others

My favorite saying is “more tabs, more money”. I have a very positive attitude, I love helping people, and I refuse let limitations

stand in my way. Hi, my name is Archie Kontuk; my passion is collecting pop tabs. My collection started over 20 years ago when I heard about a family who was collecting pop tabs to purchase a wheelchair for their young daughter. I became very excited about this project because I too spent 12 years of my life in a wheel chair. What started out as a small project eventually became my passion. I would scour the streets of Trenton looking for tabs and was never disappointed even if I found just one. Friends and family members came on board to help collect the tabs. Several years ago I asked the students of Dr. W.A. MacLeod School, for help with collecting the beverage tabs.

The news about “My Passion” spread quickly to other local elementary schools as the students collected the tabs and presented them to me at the end of the school year. Churches and other organizations began calling, asking how they could donate their tabs. My desire to help, by collecting tabs, has spread across Canada and into the United States as one friend told another, and another and another.

Are you aware that it takes 3024 tabs to make up a pound, and I receive \$.50 for every pound?

I still believe that every little tab makes a big difference.

I have proven this as I have assisted in purchasing 11 wheelchairs and donated them to people within Pictou County. Many thanks to all who have donated pop tabs you have helped make my dream become a reality.

To contact Archie:
poptabs@hotmail.com



Archie

Employee Rep Committee

by Loretta

Loretta, Michele, Kendal, Adam and Marion are the committee members. We meet every Monday and have discussed many things including setting rules for the committee, personal outcome measures and a code of ethics (how we should treat each other). We take information back to our groups and ask for suggestions and ideas.

Computer Grads

Recent graduates of a six month Computer Literacy Program offered at Summer Street and sponsored through the Workplace Education Program.

1st row: Paul Fraser, Sherri Wolfenden, Michelle

Zuethoff, Judy Treen, Robert Boivin. 2nd row: Alison Reeves, Kyle MacDonald, Jancie Chisholm, Sherry Sanders, Cecil Lawrence.

Missing from the photo: Adam Smith, Rose Green, and Mike DeCoste.



Computer Grads



Annual Report of the Executive Director Summer Street June 2006

Summer Street is dedicated to assisting individuals challenged with an intellectual disability in achieving personal goals and aspirations. I am pleased to report that we are beginning to experience the benefits and challenges associated with our transformation into a person centered organization. We are working with 134 individuals and although we continue to struggle with how to assist the 18 individuals waiting for opportunity I am confident we will find a solution soon.

Together in 2005-06 we achieved the following:

- Personal Outcomes Measures continues to be our primary influencing philosophy
- we organized and hosted a provincial conference on rights which attracted over 300 people to the two day event
- we continue to encourage and support staff to creatively implement new educational/training approaches

- we continue to promote team building and offer specialized training for staff
- we added to our management team and staff structure
- we implemented the first phase of our three year volunteer enhancement project increasing volunteer resources by over 300% (the equivalent of 3 staff positions)
- we maintained our partnership with over 40 businesses
- we continue to pay down the long-term debt through the efforts of the Foundation and the generosity of our major benefactor the United Commercial Travelers
- we furthered our partnership with the Kin Family of Clubs, Rotary and the United Way
- we furthered our partnership with Chignecto District School Board and continue to cooperatively work toward the implementation of successful school to community transition plans for students
- we developed a partnership with North Nova Education Center resulting in 20 students regularly volunteering their time in return for academic credit
- we strengthened our partnership with residential services through our mutual interest in POM
- we maintained active membership in Directions Council
- we created new opportunities in music, art, healthy living and computer skill upgrading

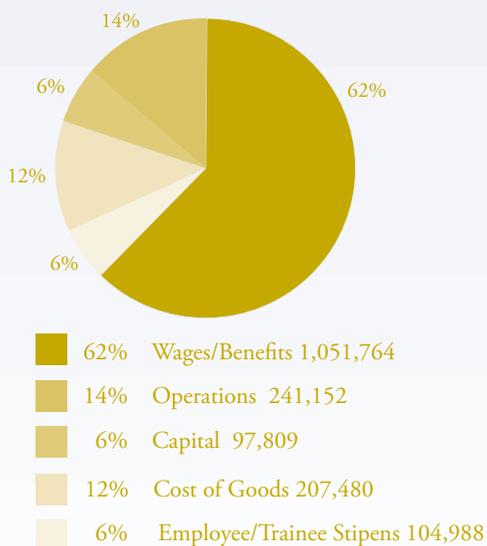
- we supported 45 individuals in community based settings
- we delivered 180,000 hours of support, education and training in pursuit of our mission
- we established a trust fund in support of our work effectively creating three potential designations for donations and fund raising activities

None of these successes would have been possible without the commitment and dedication we enjoy throughout the organization. I know I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with excellent volunteers and staff and I believe we are making huge differences in the lives of the individuals we are working with.

Many thanks to our volunteers who work on committee and board helping to set strategic direction through good governance practices. Many thanks to our staff and volunteers who each and every day carries through on commitments to employee/trainees. Many thanks to our donors, supporters and Nova Scotia Community Services without whom much of our work would not be possible. Many thanks to employee/trainees for sharing their aspirations with us and helping us become better people.

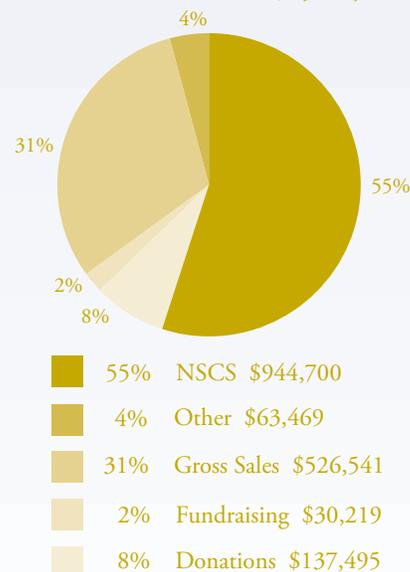
Bob Bennett
Executive Director

Statement of Expenses - \$1,703,193



Total 1,703,193

Statement of Revenue - \$1,702,424



Total \$1,702,424

ENABLE Our Future

For confidential information on how you can make a difference through a planned gift and at the same time take advantage of potential tax savings please contact info@summerstreet.ns.ca



Realizing Potential Together

Volunteering at Summer Street



"One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things." – Henry Miller

"More tabs, more money"
- Archie Kontuk

"Nobody will believe in you unless you believe in yourself." – Liberace

"All people want is someone to listen." – Hugh Elliott

Pop Tabs in Action

My name is Archie Kontuk. For over 25 years I have collected pop tabs and through the sale of these tabs donated wheelchairs to people who need them. As a child I used a wheelchair for 12 years. In 1993 I heard about a family collecting pop tabs to raise money to purchase a wheelchair for their daughter. I decided that it would be a great idea to help and I've collected pop tabs ever since. This has been a wonderful experience for me and together we are making a real difference. Families, schools, church groups, campgrounds and businesses throughout Nova Scotia and as far away as British Columbia and the United States have collected and sent me tabs. Thank you for collecting pop tabs and helping me help others.

How you can help

- Pop tabs may be sent in any size format, such as a sandwich bag, garbage bag or even a truckload! I appreciate every single tab you send. I take them to the local bottle exchange and all the money we raise goes right into buying wheelchairs. Check out the numbers below and you'll see how busy - and successful we've been!
- 1 lb of pop tabs = 50¢
 - 1 lb = 3032 pop tabs
 - Transporting wheelchair is valued at approximately \$500.00 or 3,032,000 pop tabs.

Phone 1-902-755-1745
Fax 1-902-755-1956
www.summerstreet.ca
info@summerstreet.ca

How many wheelchairs has Archie bought, or to buy, and donated with pop tabs?

10 11 12 13

