

# Opening minds and creating change.

## 1968- 2018



"We exist to create and facilitate opportunities for people with intellectual disability, one person at a time".

Executive Director, Bob Bennett



Summer Street has a lot to celebrate this year as we mark our 50th anniversary. There was a time when opportunities were more limited for adults with intellectual disability. Change was set in motion in 1968 when a group of parents began what would become Summer Street. The Parkdale Activity Centre opened with 9 young adults and 1 staff person.

Today with 200 clients; over 30 staff; 2000 donors; thousands of customers; and a network of partners, Summer Street is a vibrant part of the community. We offer a full spectrum of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our clients. "We're a person directed organization", says Director of Services, Dorothy Doyle "helping clients achieve a work life balance based upon personal interests and choices is our priority".

*I have had the amazing opportunity to see how much an individual can thrive when given the right tools and support. The dedicated and caring staff work tirelessly to ensure each individual has the best chance to live the kind of life they choose. It's an incredible environment.*

Summer Street Society President, MJ Saunders





*Many clients have been with Summer Street for years and some are now transitioning into retirement. Everyone has a different idea of when they would like to retire and what that means. In 2016 we introduced a retirement program that provides various options for our aging clients.*



Over the years Summer Street has gone through a number of name changes that have usually reflected our philosophy or mission. It began with the The Parkdale Activity Centre. From there it became the Kinsmen Opportunity Centre, Summer Street Workshop and then Summer Street Industries. Today it's simply Summer Street, a name that suggests hope, optimism and a place in the community.



**It all began** in 1968 when a small group of parents got together and opened the Parkdale Activity Centre. Doors opened with 9 young adults and 1 staff person.

By the 70's along with other new programs, social enterprises were introduced. Baking, the wood shop and catering were the main initiatives.



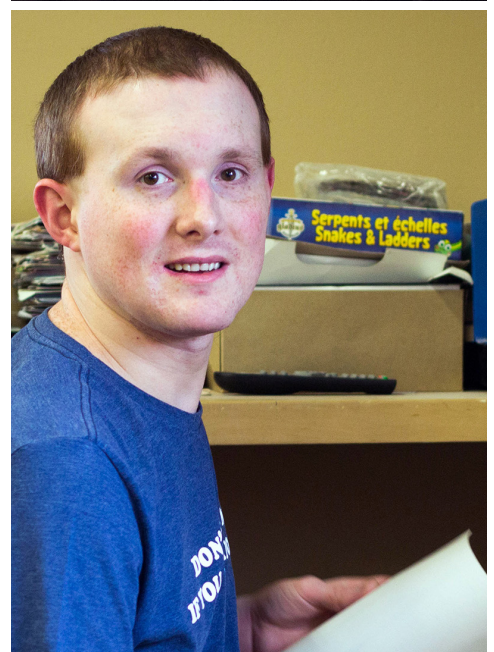
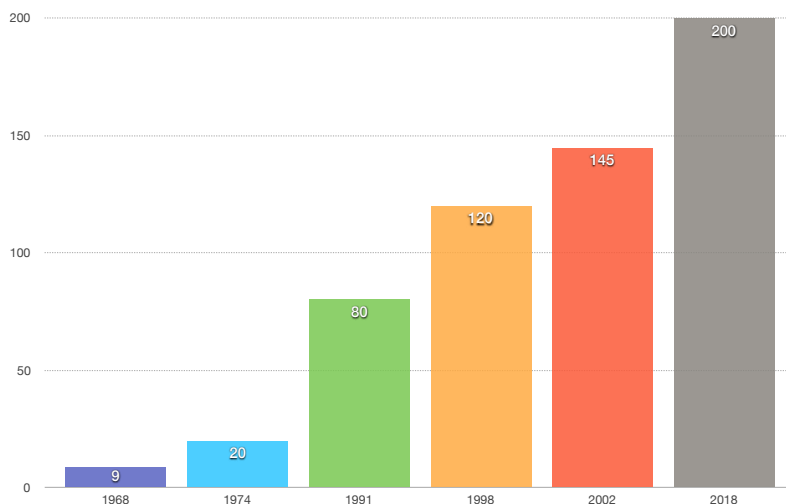
In 1986 programs began to expand and life skills were introduced. Clients also learned to use public transportation increasing new access to employment.

# Our vision

Summer Street was founded by a group of parents who wanted to create a better life for their sons and daughters. They could not have imagined how the organization would evolve or the extent of its impact. Consistent through the years has been a determination to challenge barriers and open doors.

Today we are driven by the desire for an equal playing field where everyone is treated with fairness and respect – including adults with intellectual disability. The idea of creating the most inclusive community imaginable may seem lofty or overly ambitious. We believe it is a realistic long-term vision and have made it part of our strategic planning. When you look back over the past 50 years it's not so hard to imagine. The generosity and will of the people of Pictou County are making it possible.

**Today Summer Street provides 200 clients with a wide range of opportunities both in-house and throughout the community.**



Summer Street Foundation was established in 1990. Since that time they have raised millions of dollars for new infrastructure and programming.

A major shift occurred in 2004 when a person-centred approach was adopted as the primary influencing philosophy for programs and services.

In 2008 the Client Council was established as a voice for clients. The group championed the first Bill of Rights and became spokespersons throughout the province.



# Finding balance

Our direction comes from the people we serve. This means we meet the unique and diverse needs and desires of individuals as much as possible. Our spectrum of services take into account personal interests and varying degrees of ability and independence.

Although programs range from personal care and health to social skills and employment there is considerable interconnection. On any given day a client might participate in a day program, volunteer in the community and later work as an employee in one of our social enterprises. While this might meet the expectations of one client it could be out of the question for another. We are always working to provide a wide enough range of opportunities to include everyone.

As new skills are developed, levels of independence, desires and opportunities can change and new doors open. Our goal is to provide choices that help each client achieve a meaningful work life balance of their choosing. At the end of the day, all outcomes are measured by whether or not we have improved a client's quality of life.

For more information email Dorothy Doyle: [dorothy@summerstreet.ca](mailto:dorothy@summerstreet.ca)

*In 2008 the mandate to respect the rights and abilities of everyone led to the creation of the Summer Street Client Council. The Council serves as a united voice for clients and ensures that staff, management and the Society Board understand their priorities.*

### Day Programs

Day programs enhance quality of life including education, literacy, health and well-being. Healthy lifestyles are promoted through individual and group counselling, fitness, nutrition, and personal health (emotional, sexual, self-esteem and relationships.)

Opportunities provide for social engagement and community volunteering.

### Social Enterprises

Our Social Enterprises offer training and employment in a variety of business and service settings on-site and in the community. Each unit requires both basic and unique skill-sets and give clients the opportunity to discover what they enjoy doing and where they can excel.

**Vocational Services** Our vocational services offer training in work skills and work-related interpersonal skills, habits and attitudes required to be successful in any work setting. Our approach includes work place education, wellness and pre-employment experience (volunteering, career exploration, job sampling, job shadowing, mobile work crew and work stations).



**Summer Street Works** We assist in identifying career paths and providing support to clients. Together we explore interests and identify potential employers. One-on-one job site training and follow up may be included. We also help employers understand the many benefits of hiring adults with intellectual disability and provide ongoing support.

I have the right to  
**PRIVACY** and  
**FREEDOM** during  
breaks **THE RIGHT**  
**to CHOOSE**  
programs and activities  
**WORK IN A JOB**  
I choose **TO BE A PART**  
of Summer Street  
committees **THE RIGHT**  
to **SELF ADVOCATE** to  
make **my own**  
**DECISIONS**  
to **SET MY OWN GOALS**  
I have the right to  
**FRIENDSHIP**  
I have a right to a  
**SUPPORT PERSON**  
who is **SUPPORTIVE**  
**I have**  
**RIGHTS**

The Client Council was instrumental in developing a Bill of Rights. They meet annually with the Board to review and assess how successfully we are meeting the goals identified.



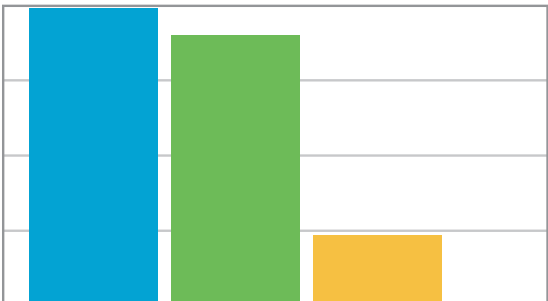
# Generosity

As everything has evolved at Summer Street so has the role of community. People donate time and expertise, monetary gifts, services and everything from cars to houses. Service clubs, especially the Kinsmen and UCT have been great friends and supporters on many levels.

Volunteer Board members meet regularly to provide governance, oversight and financial stewardship. Other volunteers share their time, skill and talents helping with activities and events.

Businesses and organizations are involved through employment and volunteer opportunities. In 2017 our clients wages exceeded \$700,000 and clients also spent over 14,500 hours volunteering. Community-based programs offer a sense of value, dignity and inclusion.

Our social enterprises which provide training, employment and revenue depend and succeed only through community support.



**Foundation Funds Raised \$464,623**

- Fundraising 48%
- Donations 43%
- Investments 9%

**In 2016, over 50 people gathered at Summer Street to discuss evolving for the future.** Participants from inside and outside the organization worked toward a relevant long-term vision.

The tone was set by the Client Council who shared emotional accounts of their lives. Stories of connection combined with the realities of alienation and barriers.

Topics covered education and training, inclusion, transportation and income issues. Working groups focused on key subjects and brainstormed ideas for moving forward. Results from the day became the foundation for a 3 year strategic plan.

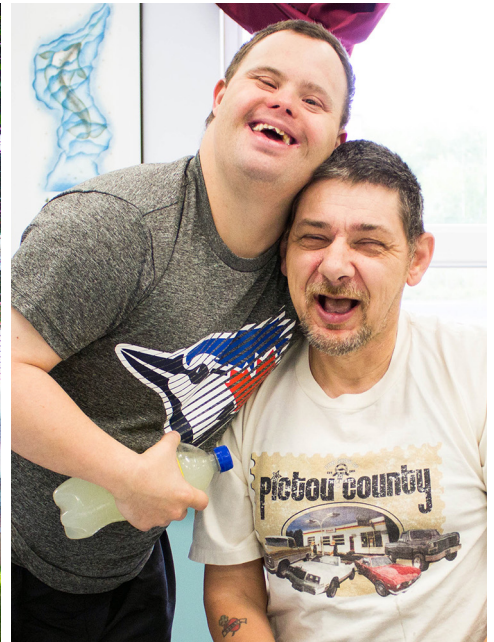


**Make an enduring impact through planned giving.**

Planned gifts can take many forms. These include gifts of cash or investments such as bonds, mutual funds, GICs and shares. Summer Street can also accept gifts of life insurance or property. Talk to your accountant, lawyer or financial planner to learn more about planned giving and tax benefits now or for your estate. For information call Bob Bennett at 902-759-6693.



The Summer Street Golf Scramble is one of the country's most successful charity golf tournaments and a great indication of Pictou County generosity.



*"As a family we are aware of the importance of providing opportunities for people with special needs. Our parents, Fraser and Sylvia supported activities as far back as the 1970's. We are proud to support Summer Street by gifting our family home in memory of our parents."*

*Sandra, Susan, Alan Matheson*

*"It is because of donor generosity that Summer Street has become one of the most progressive, client focused organizations in the province."* Summer Street Foundation President Michael Corkum



## 50 Years of Leadership - Summer Street\* Presidents

1963-1966	Betty Kennedy	1994-1996	Marilyn MacKean
1967-1968	Ernest Sutherland	1996-1998	Anthony Conway
1968-1971	Joe Stewart	1998-2000	Peter Grant
1971-1972	Fred MacGillivray	2000-2002	Rob Roy
1972-1979	David Wallace	2002-2004	David Whittemore
1979-1980	Nina Clarke	2004-2006	Chris Morrison
1980-1981	Bill MacPherson	2006-2008	Bradley Jardine
1981-1983	Ray Wagg	2008-2011	Michael Corkum
1983-1984	Brent Higgs	2011-2012	Cindy Stevens
1985-1988	Susan Ryan	2012-2013	Paula Irving
1988-1989	Robert "Red" MacKean	2013-2014	Jennifer Swinemar-Murray
1989-1990	Russ Oehmen	2014-2016	John Potter
1990-1992	Roger Swarbrick	2016-2018	Mary Jane Saunders
1992-1993	Bob White	2018 -	Lisa MacDonald
1993-1994	Bob Ballantyne		

*\*During this time names changed a few times but the quality of leadership was always consistent*





# Shared values

There is a definite sense of well-being when you walk through the doors of Summer Street. People here genuinely care for one another and it shows. A lot has changed since 1968 but the strong desire to improve quality of life is still at the heart of everything we do.

To help clients get the most out of programs and life it is essential that management and staff know how to think outside the box. "Our team is well-trained, innovative and flexible in their approach to individual clients," says HR Director, Kim MacKinnon. "Volunteers provide additional support and share skills that allow staff to enhance programs and services." The Society and Foundation Boards assist and direct management in key areas requiring governance and oversight.

Other critical partnerships also contribute to Summer Street's success. A common mandate with the Department of Community Services ensures a collaborative approach in service delivery.

We are also a member of Directions Council of Nova Scotia. The Council assists agencies in delivering services that promote the abilities and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the everyday activities of their communities. The association allows everyone to benefit through shared knowledge and best practices.



## Summer Street Society

An open-minded, forward thinking board provides Summer Street with good governance. The Society meets annually with the client council and takes into account their recommendations when establishing organizational vision and direction. Working closely with the Executive Director the board sets strategic objectives for the organization.



## The Summer Street Foundation

With some of the county's top financial minds as volunteers our Foundation is much more than a fund-raising body. The Board invests and manages funds and provides financial stewardship and oversight. They are also responsible for planned giving, capital campaigns and our annual golf scramble.



## Trophies and Awards

Whether recognizing athletic achievement, individual accomplishments or promoting your organization, we are your one stop for awards, gifts, promotional items and personal engraving.

Summer Street is committed to providing quality craftsmanship in a timely fashion at a competitive price.



# Everyone wins

Social enterprises offer goods or services with both financial and social returns. They provide an easy way for communities to support diversity and positive change. Like any business the key to success comes through offering quality products and services at competitive prices.

Our businesses provide training and employment to over 200 clients; help balance and improve quality of life; contribute to annual revenues; and support our full range of programs.

Some enterprises have evolved through natural fits with our clients and facility. Others come from taking advantage of the right opportunities when they arise. Often businesses approach us when they see the potential for a win-win project. We're always up for new ideas and with a great workforce and management team are able to take advantage of many of these opportunities.

For more information email Liz LaPier: [liz@summerstreet.ca](mailto:liz@summerstreet.ca).





### Catering Services

Summer Street offers exceptional catering both on and off-site.

Our customizable packages and large facilities are perfect for weddings, banquets, meetings and conferences. Our chef and team can prepare delicious appetizers for small groups or full course meals for special events.

### Space Rentals

With over 6000 square feet of flexible, fully accessible space we can host anything from private meetings to large banquets. The main hall can be divided into four separate meeting areas accommodating from 20 to 400 people. Catering is provided with a seating capacity of 325 and available for lunches and coffee breaks.

**30% of our annual revenue comes from social enterprise.**

### Quality Used Clothing (New Beginnings)

Our "gently worn" used clothing store offers quality clothing and accessories generously donated. Items are carefully selected and then given new life. Donations of gently worn clothing, outerwear, accessories and footwear are gratefully accepted.

### Summer Street Works (Employment Services)

Our job developers meet with employers to discuss opportunities and good matches. Prior to placement, clients receive training in job skills, work related interpersonal skills, habits and attitudes for success in any work setting.

Client's have a wide range of skills including: production, customer support, food services, janitorial, inventory stocking and landscaping. Hiring is made easy with clearly established expectations and work terms. Ongoing support is provided as required. Employment can be fulltime, parttime or through subcontracting. The Summer Street Works program currently includes 60 employers.



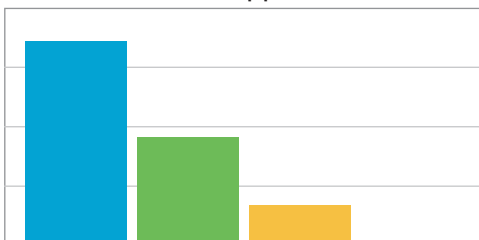
**Business Services** We offer a variety of support services that can save businesses valuable staff time. Services include inserting; month-end mailing and other bulk or promotional mailing; packaging everything from educational materials to grocery products; and shredding services.

*Our approach is based on helping each client find their ideal work life balance. Everyone at Summer Street is committed to this and it's reflected in everything we do. Our success is the result of the unwavering dedication of our management team and staff; the exceptional governance of our Society and Foundation boards; the people of Pictou County who choose to support our social enterprises, fundraising events and hire our clients; the Department of Community Services and the understanding and resourceful people who work there; our colleagues within Directions Council, Highland Community Residential Services, Riverview Home Corporation and, most importantly because our clients believe that we believe in them.*

*Summer Street Executive Director, Bob Bennett*



### Summer Street Support \$2,751,417



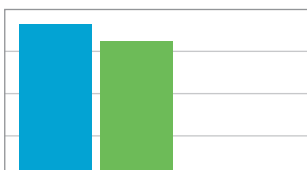
- NS Community Services 56%
- Summer Street Social Enterprises 28%
- Summer Street Foundation 16%

## 2018 Financial Snapshot

We continue to achieve our goals and mission due to the generosity of our donors and the ongoing commitment of the Department of Community Services. DCS is our most significant funding partner and we share a common person-centered vision for our clients. Other primary funding comes through the Summer Street Foundation and our social enterprises.

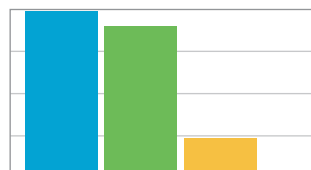
*Generous donors to this years Summer Street Scramble raised over \$255,000 bringing our all-time total over \$3,000,000! **THANK YOU!***

### Foundation Donation to Summer Street Society \$430,000



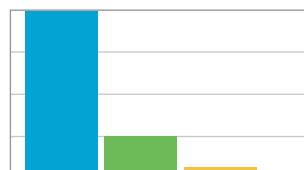
- Operations 52%
- Capital 48%

### Foundation Funds Raised in 2017 \$464,623



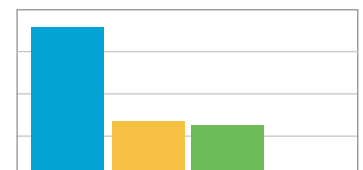
- Fundraising 48%
- Donations 43%
- Investments 9%

### Foundation Expenses \$487,250



- Donation to Summer Street 89%
- Fundraising and admin. 11%

### Society Expenses \$2,751,417



- Staff Wages and Benefits 55%
- Operations 22%
- Client Wages and Benefits 18%
- Capital 5%

Learn more, find out how you can help or just stay connected: [summerstreet.ca](http://summerstreet.ca)

902-755-1745 • [info@summerstreet.ca](mailto:info@summerstreet.ca)  
72 Park Street, New Glasgow NS B2H 5B8

