

Volunteering offers valuable experience

by Heidi Riley

At the Community Connector Volunteer Fair held at UPEI, organizations that depend on the work of volunteers met with students and others interested in making a difference in their community.

There are over 1,100 organizations on PEI that need volunteers for such activities as fundraising, administrative support, social media work, advocacy, education, management, and leadership.

Bobby Chandler was a volunteer Firefighter for 26 years, and now he is one of eight full-time paid firefighters working for the City of Charlottetown. "My father was also a volunteer Firefighter, and now my son is as well. I took a lot of courses, and worked hard to get a career position."

There are 34 fire stations across the province, with about 1,000 volunteers in total.

"There are currently 77 volunteer Firefighters in Charlottetown, and we want to keep that number," says **Cindy MacFadyen**. Volunteers go through an application process and attend fire school, followed by a written exam and a physical test to earn their Level 1 Firefighters certificate.

"It's quite a commitment," says Bobby. "It's about three months of classroom training two evenings a week, and then field work on the weekends. But the satisfaction of helping someone is definitely worth it."

The next intake for volunteer Firefighters will be in October 2018. An application package can be picked up at the fire station at 89 Kent Street, Charlottetown.



Bobby Chandler, Career Firefighter, and Cindy MacFadyen, Fire Prevention Officer, City of Charlottetown.

More organizations looking for volunteers

Arthritis Society: Call 902-628-2288 or visit www.arthritis.ca

Autism Society of PEI: Call 902-566-4844 or visit www.autismsociety.pe.ca

Badminton PEI: Visit www.badmintonpei.weebly.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters of PEI: Visit www.bbbspei.ca

Canadian Blood Services: Visit www.blood.ca

Canadian Cancer Society: Search **Relay for Life** on Facebook. Visit www.cancer.ca to fill out a volunteer form.

Canadian Red Cross: Visit the office at 29 Paramount Dr., Charlottetown or www.redcross.ca

Charlottetown Kinsmen Club: president@charlottetownkin.com or www.charlottetownkin.com/join

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program: www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer

Cystic Fibrosis Canada: Visit www.cysticfibrosis.ca

East Prince Youth Development Centre: Call 902-436-2815 or visit www.epydc.org

Engage PEI is looking for volunteers to serve on one of more than 70 boards, agencies, commissions or councils for the provincial government. They encourage men, women, and youth from across the Island to apply. Visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/engage-pei

PEI Girl Guides: Email peimembership@girlguides.nb.ca or visit www.facebook.com/GirlGuidesPEI/

Habitat for Humanity: Email admin@habitatpei.ca or visit the Habitat Re-Store at 365 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown or fill in an application online. Visit www.habitatpei.ca

Health PEI: Volunteers are needed at West Prince Hospitals and long-term care homes.

Contact **Andrew Ramsay**, Project Manager, Volunteer Services, 902-853-8692 or adrmsay@gov.pe.ca To apply, visit www.healthpei.ca/volunteer

Heart & Stroke Foundation: Call 902-892-7441 or visit www.heartandstroke.ca

Humane Society: Visit www.peihumanesociety.com

Junior Achievement PEI: Call 902-892-6066 or smacinnis@japei.org Visit www.jacanada.org

Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown

Visit www.facebook.com/Kiwanis-Club-of-Charlottetown-196823863669545/

Learning Disabilities Association of PEI: Call 902-894-5032 or email info@ldapei.ca Visit www.ldapei.ca

Let's Talk Science: Call 902-626-5840 ext. 0969 or email upeiits@gmail.com Visit outreach.letstalkscience.ca/upei

PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada: Visit www.peiinc.com

Stars For Life Foundation: call 902-894-9286 or visit www.starsforlife.com

Calendar of events – Dec 2017 to Feb 2018

Are you a woman on EI, working 20 hrs/wk or less, on social assistance, or have no income? Are you interested in exploring career options in trade and industrial technology sectors?

Check out **Trade HERizons** (a career exploration and college prep program). Application process is now open. Visit Women's Network PEI at www.wnpei.org or call 902-368-5040

December 14 & 15, 2017, 9:00 am - 12 noon: Business Plan Basics facilitated by David Gamble, Montague Rural Action Centre, Cost is \$20. To register, contact **Chantale Ansems** at 902-838-4030 ext. 221.

December 14, 2017, 9:30 am: Career in Trucking information sessions: Farm Centre, Charlottetown. Industry presentation followed by TOWES assessments. Prior to writing the TOWES assessment, individuals must pay \$150 for the cost of assessment and register 24 hours ahead. Contact PEI Trucking Sector Council, 902-566-5563

December 19, 2017, 11:00 am: East Prince Youth Development Centre will hold an information session for their upcoming program "Connection 2 Employment, Summerside" This is a 16-week employability program for youth ages 18-30. To register for the information session, call 902-436-2815. East Prince Youth Development Centre, Holland College Waterfront campus, Summerside offers case management, assistance with Skills PEI funding applications, resumé and cover letter development, and an updated job board.

January 8 to February 9, 2018: PEI Farm Technician Apprenticeship program - 2018 Training Block. This two-year program combines classroom learning with on-farm experience. Apprentices work throughout the year with a farm mentor and participate in five weeks of in-class training on PEI. To register to become a Blue Seal Certified Farm Technician, call the PEI Agriculture Sector Council 902-892-1091, 1-866-892-1091 (toll free).

Beginning January 8, 2018: Women's Employability Program: The program runs for 8 weeks in the classroom, 4 weeks with an employer for work experience. This program is available to all women seeking employment and wanting to enhance their employability skills while gaining meaningful work experience. Training allowance and child care and travel costs may be provided. Call East Prince Women's Information Centre, Andy Lou Somers: 902-436-9856, 902-439-7268.

January 8, 2018: Career Bridges will be starting in Charlottetown 902-566-2811, Summerside 902-436-5739, and O'Leary 902-726-3016. It is a unique and proven PEI based employment skills program that guides clients considering career change through a 12-week journey that starts by unlocking their inner strengths, moves on to teaching career skills, and then finally arranges for clients to put all of this into action in rewarding real-world work situations. Please apply as soon as possible.

January 9, 11, 16, 18 & 23, 2018, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Successful Business Basics (location to be determined). Cost is \$50. To register, contact **Chantale Ansems** at 902-838-4030 ext. 221 or chantale.ansems@cbdc.ca

January 11, 2018, 10:00 am -11:00 am: Safe Business is Smart Business: FREE session at the Montague Rural Action Centre and 1-2 pm at the Souris Rural Action Centre. Facilitated by Lori Wakelin. Register in Montague at 902-838-4030 and in Souris at 902-687-4084.

January 16 & 18, 2018, 9:00 am - 12 noon: Business Plan Basics facilitated by David Gamble, Souris Rural Action Centre, Cost is \$20. To register, contact Lori MacGregor at 902-687-4084.

TBA: Basic Computer Job Search Workshop: Do you need help with your computer skills? Do you avoid online job applications? Join a team member from Career Development Services who will help you navigate through your job search needs. To register for this free session, or if you have questions about this workshop, contact Emily at 902-626-3680 or erutledge@cdspei.ca Date to be determined each month. Location: Career Development Services, 160 Belvedere Ave., Charlottetown.

January 16, 2018: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Do you need money for school? Explore your funding options with Allan Fraser at Career Development Services, 160 Belvedere Ave., Charlottetown. To register for this free session, contact Patsy at chtown@cdspei.ca

February 1, February 15, and March 1, 2018, 7:30-9 am: Are you an employer facing a shortage of skilled labour? Join us for **Boots & Bacon**, a 3-session breakfast series for trades employers. Sessions will target **recruitment** and **retention** with a focus on gender diversity in the workplace. Sessions will support employers to advance their workplaces and their bottom line. To register, call 902-368-5040 or email admin@wnpei.org

February 26, 2018, CAPEI Youth in Trades Program-2018: The Construction Association of PEI has funding approval from Service Canada for a Youth in Trades Program to start in Charlottetown and Summerside. Information session: TBA. Call Construction Association of PEI, 902-368-3303.

DIGITAL CALENDAR

To stay connected with employment-related events, workshops and training, check our Upcoming Events at: www.employmentjourney.com

12 EJ

Dec/Jan 2018

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