



APRIL 2021

NAVIGATOR NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the PEI Community Navigators,
an initiative of CBDC West Prince Ventures

IN THIS ISSUE...

Welcome from
Maxine Rennie
PAGE 1

Western PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 2-3

Central PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 4-5

Eastern PEI
Navigator Update
PAGE 6

New Resident Poem
April Calendar
PAGES 7-8



Individuals and families who choose to settle in rural PEI offer **incredible value to the communities that they settle**. In each of our numerous communities dotting the coastline or the inland rolling hills of our Island, you'll find a diverse group of community members who settled in PEI or were born as Islanders, **coming together to help each other and create a prosperous and fulfilling life in Rural PEI**.



Message from Maxine Rennie Executive Director CBDC West Prince Ventures

Our Navigator Team has wrapped up a very successful winter of activities. Thank you to the many new residents and community partners who helped us to build welcoming communities through our skating, sledding, snowshoeing and cooking experiences.

With the arrival of spring, the PEI Community Navigators are set to bloom with exciting new activities. From garden projects to outdoor adventures, there will be lots of ways for new & longtime Islanders to connect with the Community Navigator in your region.

We are also pleased to invite you to visit our new website found at peicommunitynavigators.com - your guide to valuable Navigator services found in rural Prince Edward Island. Happy Spring!

~Maxine Rennie

Take The Leap of Faith! Never Give Up! Don't Wait...Chase Your Dreams!

***Meet Marian Eliot, Member of the Western PEI
Community Navigator Steering Committee and
Employer Representative for Royal Star Foods Ltd.***



Telephone: 902-853-3636
Email: Scott.Smith@cbdc.ca
Facebook Group - search for:
Western PEI Community Navigator

Office: 455 Main Street
Alberton, PEI

True words of wisdom. Big decisions are never easy, but sometimes you need to take a leap of faith and it will all be worth it. Don't give up, there will be bumps in the road, but don't wait... Be sure to take responsibility for your actions today, to make your dreams come true tomorrow!

Marian Eliot took a leap of faith five years ago when she made what her then employer felt was an irrational decision to quit her job in Dubai, UAE to take a new employment opportunity in her current new home of Prince Edward Island, Canada. This is a decision she does not regret!

Marian was born & raised in the small town of Compostela, Cebu, Philippines. She graduated high school and went on to attend university in Cebu City where she received her Bachelor in Business Management after four years of studies. Following graduation, at 19 years old her life journey took her to Taiwan for her first job. Although hired as a factory worker to apply stickers to LCD panels on cell phone screens, she was offered a promotion on her first day and turned it down. In time though, it seemed she was destined for another path when she soon found herself in different roles within the organization... After a year she had gone from daily production to the next level; she then transferred branches following an expansion and worked as a trainer, as well as with engineers in R&D, and on quality control. Three years later, she refused an extension and moved back home to the Philippines.

Her intentions were to return to school to take up her Masters, as she worked at a local call centre for a year... However, in time due to financial reasons she took an entry-level position as a reservations agent at a hotel company and moved to Dubai in the UAE. She spent the next 5 years there, once again quickly climbing the ladder as an e-commerce supervisor, assistant reservations manager, and finally as a revenue management executive. In 2016, desiring to be reunited with her son for good, she quit her job and came to Canada to work as a fish plant worker at Royal Star Fisheries (packaging lobster, working the line, and extracting meat).

After six months, she became an inventory clerk, and today she works in the office, cross training for a costing position and assisting the Human Resources Manager on paperwork to hire other foreign workers.

What has been the biggest change?

Marian came to Canada as a Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) in 2016, but in 2018 she received her Permanent Residency (PR). Even while in Canada, she visited the Philippines often, to ensure she always saw her son Ethan for a few weeks each year (just like she had done from Dubai). One of the last visits home before she got her PR status in Canada, Ethan hid in her suitcase and wanted to come back to Canada with her, but this wasn't permitted... That is until later that year when she received her PR status and then he was able to join her here!

It was a VERY happy reunion for them to be together again! Since then, Marian has applied for her Canadian Citizenship and hopes to write the test someday soon to make it official. In 2019, she purchased her own home in the Tignish area, which she now shares with two of her sister-in-laws who also now reside in Canada.



What is life like on PEI?

Marian loves this place. She loves nature, so she is very grateful to be here. Marian enjoys PEI's lush greeneries, landscape, and beautiful shorelines, which she had previously only saw in movies. Coming from a small town, it has the same feeling, only it is cleaner and people are well disciplined aside from being friendly and accommodating. It is the best place to raise a child, without the hustle and bustle of the city (such as places like Toronto or Ottawa). It is such a small close-knit community that when you need something, your neighbour will be sure to help you out with it. Working for Royal Star Foods Ltd, she can also sense a lot of opportunity. Each year employees are given a chance to request for a new family member to come to Canada, which has proven to be a great model to increase employee retention, build community, and support the local population & economic growth of the Western region. There is also lots of opportunity to gain new skills, and try new positions within the company. Presently there are almost 200 Filipino employees (TFWs, PRs, or new Canadian Citizens working at Royal Star Foods Ltd). They are always open to hiring others, so be sure to reach out today if you are interested. In time, Marian hopes for her brothers and other family members to be able to join her too, on this beautiful island in Canada.

Marian was a great support for our 2020 Neighbour-2-Neighbour event at Westisle, helping to organize the Royal Star booth and encouraging other newcomers to attend. We want to take this moment to thank Marian for all that she has done and continues to do for others, as we grow our rural communities together in Western PEI!



Crapaud community hub welcomes a new face



PEI singer Lennie Gallant talking about PEI's country stores:
"...in so many cases, they are the heart of the community."
(Search for Lennie's song, Country Store, on YouTube)



Have you met Krunal Patel yet? He is the new owner of Harvey's General Store in Crapaud, found in the centre of the community on Route 13, just off the Trans Canada Highway.

The store has been serving residents and visitors of PEI's south shore for many decades, providing groceries, supplies and a place to have a chat with neighbours.

In 2020 the Harvey Family (who owned and ran the store for many years) **sold the bustling business to Krunal Patel**, a recent resident of Prince Edward Island, but no stranger to the grocery business.

Krunal grew up in India - he and his extended family have many years of experiencing in the development of grocery markets, both in India and the United Kingdom.

The new Harvey's proprietor has been a resident of PEI for the past 4 years, spending some time in Ontario before **finding his way to the Maritimes and a more tranquil way of life.**

Krunal is appreciative to have the Harvey family's help during the business' transition. He also expresses much enthusiasm for the store's future, **with plans of new product offerings for his customers, and renovations that will expand the space and flow.**

Krunal enjoys the interaction with his customers, which include seniors, area locals, as well as tourists. **"Everyone is very friendly"** says Krunal.

Krunal provides a simple answer when asked what his favourite thing about PEI is: **"Peace"**.



Telephone: 902-598-7560

Peggy.Miles@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group - search for:
Central PEI Community Navigator

Office: Kensington Town Hall (upstairs)
55 Victoria Street East

"Harvey's Clover Farm is invaluable to our community, providing a wide variety of grocery items in our rural area, which is half-way between Charlottetown and Summerside. It also serves as a marketplace for many local food producers. We are delighted that Krunal has chosen to carry on in the tradition established by Doug Harvey and his family."

Emily Smith, Resident of Victoria by the Sea / Executive Director,
Victoria Playhosue

Krunal offers over 10 locally made products at the store - including cheese, bakery items, meats, honey and organic lettuce in the summer.



Message to Municipalities:

Are you planning any events or activities in recognition of Multiculturalism Day (June 27) or Canada Day (July 1)?



Please reach out to the Central PEI Community Navigator to see if there are opportunities for collaboration. Potential partnership:

- Recommending new Canadians who can offer **cultural presentations**.
- Putting a call out to our team of **volunteers**.
- Lending out **Canada themed decor** items for the event.
- **Promoting activities** through our newsletter, social media channels and network of people.
- **Let's have a conversation** to see how the Community Navigators can partner with you!

Attention Green Thumbs, Gardeners, and Would-Be Growers!

The Central PEI Community Navigator is hosting a small garden plot this season at Ross' Place, Kensington Community Gardens.

- Are you a **new resident** of rural Central PEI who'd like to participate in our garden plot?
- Are you a **longtime resident** who'd like to help with the garden while befriending new community members?
- Would you like to sit on a **committee** for the Community Navigator Garden Plot?
- Are you interested in **group activities** with the garden? Or is visiting the garden **on your own** more your thing?
- What would you like to **grow**?

If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to the Central PEI Community Navigator.



Telephone: 902-598-7560

Peggy.Miles@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group – search for:
Central PEI Community Navigator

Office: Kensington Town Hall (upstairs)
55 Victoria Street East





Telephone: 902-969-5989

Lindee.Gallant@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group - search for:

Eastern PEI Community Navigator

Office: 544 Main Street, Montague

15 Green Street, Souris

(one day per week)



*Thank you to everyone who
attended our winter events!*

*Our communities in Eastern PEI are
wonderful and vibrant, and when
we join together, we help to get
each other through even the
coldest and darkest days!*

*Thank you for sledding with us,
skiing with us, snowshoeing with
us, and joining us online for
coffee!*

*I'm looking forward to our Spring
events, and hope you'll sign up for
them!*

*So many wonderful things are
happening in Eastern PEI!*

*See you out there!
-Lindee*

News and Events in Eastern PEI

EASTERN KINGS COMMUNITY SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Eastern Kings Community Centre is hosting **Sunday Brunch** on **Sunday April 11th** with three seatings at 9:30am, 10:45am, and 12:15pm. Adults are \$10 and Students \$5. Tables of up to 10 individuals. Call to reserve: 902-357-2046

GARDENING SERIES

The Eastern PEI Community Navigator is hosting a series of gardening workshops in Souris, Georgetown, and Wood Islands for **new residents to get to know the available resources and the fundamentals of gardening on PEI**. We will cover topics like starting a vegetable garden, landscaping flower beds, and **creating a sustainable garden to suit your lifestyle**.

Join us for one, or all three! Keep an eye on our Facebook Group: Eastern PEI Community Navigator, for information.

The **Souris event is coming up quickly on April 17** at 1:00pm. Please Register in advance, email Lindee for the link!

- 1:00-1:45 *When and How to Start Seeds Indoors* by Rhonda Dowling
- 1:45-2:30 *How to prepare a garden plot, No Dig Method* by Andrew Chaisson
- 2:30-3:15 *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle including composting* by Kate Henriques
- 3:15-4:00 *Seedlings to outdoors and fertilizers* by Jim Graham

PLAN YOUR 50 BEACHES BUCKET LIST FOR 2021

The time has come when dirt roads will soon be dry enough to explore all that Eastern PEI has to offer! **Take some time this week to sit down with a copy of the "50 Beaches" Points East Coastal Drive Map** and decide which ones you want to visit in 2021! If you're looking for driftwood, check out Skunk House Beach, if you're looking for a family friendly stay-cation, check out Kings Castle Provincial Park!

FESTIVALS, EVENTS, AND FUNDRAISERS

It is the season of planning, and many **small towns and communities are taking the first steps to planning their annual festivals and events**. If you're interested in getting involved with your community events but don't know where to start, email Lindee and she can get you connected with the right people! Communities are best when we work together and offer unique perspectives!

Poem: ALBERTON

Contributed by: Jules Mabana, March 15, 2021

2017 of July when I first stepped on this land
Known as Potato Capital of Canada, Lobsters
Birthplace of Confederation and Anne
Everywhere you will see red lands.
I am not talking about the province but the place where I am on.

This town which people are so warm
Even in a chilly day makes you feel fine.
Surrounded by beaches parks and camping grounds.
Restaurants, pharmacies and stores have few
There's a grocery store named Independent
I wonder why it was named Independent.
Maybe she's the only one in town. Right?
Walk to Northport with friends
Or drive to Huntley to buy burger and ice cream.

As I stayed longer in this town,
I'd realized you will not be bored in all the seasons.

Spring where you can see lush of different shades of green
Just had the feeling of hope and reborn.
Summertime – swimming time, picnic, camping and fishing time
Morning walk is essential but walking in the afternoon is worthwhile
Enjoying the cool breeze from the sea and watching the sun hides from the trees.

Autumn, go places where you can witness the dazzling colours of leaves on the trees
An opportunity to have free potatoes and if lucky even other veggies
Winter is precious to Skidoo enthusiasts, but for me it's a bittersweet
Need to shovel, struggle is real going to work on snow storms sometime
But playing on the snow with a smile.

Life here is so simple
Which makes you say
Thanks God I am here in Alberton
A place I called my Second Home.





Important Information for tourism operators!

TOURISM ACTIVATION GRANT
Now open for online applications

**[www.cbdc.ca/en/programs/
tourism-activation-grant](http://www.cbdc.ca/en/programs/tourism-activation-grant)**

Funds are limited and on a first come first served basis, so please submit your application as soon as possible.

This program is intended to support investments that will help your tourism businesses adapt to a new normal and position you to capitalize on future economic recovery.

The Tourism Activation Grant will provide assistance to PEI tourism businesses in amounts from \$2,500 to \$50,000. The program will be administered through a partnership between Tourism PEI and the following Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs):

- CBDC West Prince Ventures Limited
- Central PEI CBDC
- CBDC PEI East



APRIL CALENDAR



Wed-Thursday, April 7-8 | Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Israel's day of remembrance for the approximately 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust; an opportunity to explore the roots of anti-Semitism.



Monday, April 12 (sundown) | Ramadan begins

Ramadan, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer and devotion to Islam.



Friday, April 16 | No classes

Parent teacher interviews for high schools; School Goals Day for K-9.

April 18 - 24 | National Volunteer Week

2021 theme: "The Value of One, The Power of Many" in recognition of the past year, which has seen people supporting family, friends, neighbours, and strangers, people standing up to systemic racism, and people sharing insights on how to create a more just and equitable society.



Thursday, April 22 | Earth Day

Earth Day promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.



CBDC Western PEI, West Prince Ventures Limited
Street Address | 455 Main Street | Alberton, PEI
Postal Address | PO Box 368 | Alberton, PEI | COB 1B0
Telephone | (902) 853-3636



Email | Info.CommunityNavigator@CBDC.ca
Website | www.cbdc.ca/en/resources/contact-cbdc-west-prince-ventures
Like the PEI Community Navigators Facebook Page at
www.facebook.com/PEICommunityNavigators