

# NAVIGATOR NEWS

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

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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**

A new season is upon us again, with new possibilities as our students head back to school, workplaces focus on fall projects and community activities resume.

The Navigator Team is focused on activating PEI Neighbour Week - a new initiative taking place September 20-27. Watch on social media, on radio and in newspapers for ways you can get involved. Strong connections with neighbours helps to build successful and welcoming communities. We look forward to your participation.

Happy Autumn!

*~Maxine Rennie*

# September 20-27 is PEI Neighbour Week!

A week-long celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with their neighbours! It is an initiative to raise awareness of the importance of social connection and neighbourly actions throughout the year.

*"There's data to support the importance of neighbourly relationships." says PEI Community Navigator program lead, Maxine Rennie, Executive Director of CBDC Western PEI. "Social connections between neighbours can result in stronger and safer communities. There's also a correlation between neighbourhood relationships and individual health. We believe that PEI Neighbour Week can strengthen bonds between rural residents of PEI, as well as serve to welcome new Islanders to our rural communities."*

## How can Islanders participate in PEI Neighbour Week?

### Nudge your Neighbour Challenge (N2N Challenge)

Inspire fellow community members to perform neighbourly acts by doing one yourself! Maybe it's taking your neighbour's waste cart to the end of the driveway or starting a neighbourhood Facebook group.

1. Take a photo of your own neighbourly deed.
2. Post it to your personal social media account on Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag **#PEIgoodneighbours** and be eligible to win prizes (make sure your account is set to public viewing).
3. Tag the community member you want to nudge to do the same.

### Make a Neighbourly Nomination

Is there someone in your neighbourhood who always leaves muffins on the doorstep of new neighbours? Does your municipality host community activities that bring neighbours together? Does a church, organization or business you know step up to make life better for community members?

1. On your personal Facebook or Instagram page, share an example of how the individual, group or organization demonstrates neighbourliness here on PEI. Feel free to include a photo.
2. Use the hashtag **#PEIgoodneighbours** in your post and the individual, group or organization you are nominating will be eligible to win prizes (make sure your account is set to public viewing).

### Participate in an in-person event in your region!

In-person activities will be happening in rural PEI in the Western, Eastern and Central Regions. It may be a Meet-Your-Neighbour BBQ, an event at a community garden, or a neighbourhood clean-up day. Follow the PEI Community Navigators on Facebook to stay on top of what's happening during PEI Neighbour Week at <https://www.facebook.com/PEICommunityNavigators>.

### What are some other ways neighbours can support one another during PEI Neighbour Week 2021?

Pop by a new neighbour's house to introduce yourself and your family.  
Offer extra garden goodies to neighbours.  
Rake leaves or shovel the stairs for a neighbour in need.  
Keep an eye on your neighbour's house while they are away.  
Share a skill with your neighbour(s): carpentry, typing, sewing, other.  
Start a Facebook Group/Email thread/Newsletter in your neighbourhood.  
Install a Little Library in your yard for neighbours.



# Welcome to Tyne Valley, PEI, Dr. Ken Marshall & Catherine!



Scott J. Smith

Telephone: 902-853-3636

Email: [Scott.Smith@cbdc.ca](mailto:Scott.Smith@cbdc.ca)

Facebook Group - search for:  
Western PEI Community Navigator

Office: 455 Main Street  
Alberton, PEI

Local Tyne Valley Rural Municipal Councillor Shelly Campbell and Scott recently stopped by to say welcome! Originally from Manitoba, Dr. Ken and Catherine are happy to now call the Tyne Valley area home! They want to share about their NEW 'Dr. Ken Marshall Chiropractic' Clinic in the heart of Tyne Valley (located 'right behind the Post Office': 1314 Port Hill Rd., Unit B ). The clinic is a part-time practice, open Mondays and Thursdays, from 12:30 PM - 6 PM. Call or text (902) 214-4558 to book an appointment. They have a few openings!

Be sure to check out his AWESOME pottery work and artwork drawings on the walls, all created by Dr. Ken himself! So much talent -- it was such a peaceful visit, in a very inviting space! A real pleasure to meet them both and we look forward our paths crossing often as we see them out and about in the community, as well as at local events!

Special thanks to **Sherry Tremblay of Transportation West**, who recently stopped by the Alberton Rural Action Centre (RAC) with some awesome light-up keychain cars for our welcome bags!

If you are a local employer, business or organization & have items or information you'd like to include, please reach out today!



# Melanie Bailey, PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP) Project Manager & Western PEI Community Navigator Steering Committee Member:



Have you met Melanie Bailey

If you have, I'm sure you won't forget her. If you look up warm, friendly, and welcoming in the dictionary... You should find her name. She may also be found under words like dedicated, resourceful, and passionate to support others. So, who is Melanie Bailey?

We recently sat down with Melanie to learn more about her and the importance of immigration on PEI, especially in rural Western PEI.

Canadian born, Melanie spent part of her life living in Texas, USA, as well as Alberta, Canada, before she moved to PEI in 2003.



## *What was that like on arrival?*

Family connections eased the move, but PEI was not as diverse as what she was used to, especially when it came to being able to hear various languages spoken or having diverse food options. Belonging here felt like a bit of a struggle... People were friendly, and would invite her and her family out & about, but there was always a greater sense of not belonging, not feeling a part of the PEI-born community, which meant they often didn't reach the state of truly feeling welcomed.

They moved around PEI quite a bit, but eventually settled near Charlottetown and a job opportunity came up at the Association of Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC). Holding different positions there over the years, Melanie felt it was the first place where she felt like she belonged. Working with immigrants is both rewarding, but hard to see the struggles many go through. When working alongside newcomers, seeing their challenges and experiencing her own, she shared that **some say the opposite of hope is despair, but for Melanie the opposite of hope is action.** If there is a problem, then you need to take action and become part of the solution to fix it.

And so eventually Melanie found PEIPIP, which has changed a lot of things for her.

When it comes to immigration, some parts of PEI have lower retention. There needs to be community help to improve services and fill gaps. People do need to feel a sense of belonging, and build connections, which leads to setting down roots, which can lead to improved settlement outcomes and longer-term retention. As her work has continued to expand, some key issues emerged in our immigrant communities, existing issues that were exacerbated during the Pandemic: Racism, Housing Supply challenges affording rent or mortgage, healthcare access, business risk, English language needs, immigrant well-being and stress; isolation; grief across communities worried about family and friends from their home country, some of the hardest-hit COVID epicenters.

Now more than ever immigrants need support from us, local communities, employers, neighbors, and friends, now more than ever it is important to work with all partners to lead support for those that are new and create change related to how those that are new to our community are welcomed and supported.

### ***Why is immigration important for Western PEI?***

An important statistic to note is that *“In Western PEI, the population replacement rate is very low... lower than many other parts of PEI. The average in Canada is a 96 replacement rate (number of people under 20 for every 100 persons over 60 – those beginning to exit the workforce). A perfect score would be 100... 100 people under 20, for every 100 persons over 60. In PEI the number is 86, but in Western PEI it is @46.”*

Out-migration has been a challenge, especially in the Western region. In 2016, a special project formed to increase partnerships and collaboration to improve immigrant settlement and integration outcomes. Although there had been higher immigration in urban centers, there wasn't enough immigration in rural centers to support labour shortages and counter population loss. For example, from 2011-2016, Tignish lost 7.7% of it's population.

*“In Western PEI the population is aging and there is a record low number of people in their younger years, this trend is similar all across Canada, but rural regions are particularly impacted. Repatriation, helping more youth stay (employment opportunities), and a whole lot of immigration – this is the only way to save PEI communities, keep schools filled, keep the hospital/health center, and ensure there are enough people to fill job shortages so employers can keep their business operational and growing”.*



If you recall, a few years ago, after fairly significant population loss there had been discussion of closing schools and health centers. I was particularly inspired by how Western PEI responded to this, leaders in West Prince stood strong for maintaining local services through the **‘We The West’** movement, lobbying to keep local schools and hospitals open in rural areas. **Melanie said that this movement really showed the power of community!** Economists and community development experts will tell us, that to avoid this, to avoid managing the challenges of decline, we need to grow. Population growth, in time, leads to expanded schools, expanded health centers, etc. vs. loss of services.

Assisting in the increased population numbers have been programs such as the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program and later the addition of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program (AIPP), I've heard from partners that Western PEI was particularly strong in working alongside the TFW program as changes and improvements have been made over the years and currently, they are equally strong in supporting AIPP.

Currently, with increased levels of immigration reversing declining populations in our communities and offsetting some of the labour shortages that West Prince employers face, welcoming and inclusive communities are needed. The importance and value of programs, like the PEI Community Navigators, are critical in paving the way for improved settlement and integration and population growth outcomes in rural regions of PEI.

## ***Tell us a little more about the PEI Immigration Partnership (PIP)...***

The PIP consists of five working groups to cover all regions of PEI, this includes: supporting the three rural PEI Community Navigator Steering Committees (Western, Central, and Eastern PEI) and leading two groups in Summerside and Charlottetown. There are project based working groups to take action on special topics. There is a yearly sharing of information and knowledge across regional working groups, project-based working groups, and other immigration partners. There are many other activities, but the goal in all of this is to better connect, inform, and coordinate efforts between immigration partners, across the immigration and settlement sector.



Since COVID-19 struck, her work has shifted to focusing on surveys and consultations and a number of project-based working groups – based on the greatest needs and challenges emerging from newcomer populations during the pandemic. PIP, along with all local settlement service providers, strive to make integrating into life on PEI as easy as possible.

In closing...

*"Immigrants are our modern day pioneers and their immigration journey is a similar journey that many of us can also claim, through our ancestry... unless someone is indigenous to PEI, each of our families arrived through immigration. I hope, many generations ago, someone helped our own families settle during their first few difficult years. For this reason, for my son and the experience he had, for a genuine care for the well-being of immigrants, and for all of those that gave me a helping hand too- this is why I do what I do."*

– Melanie Bailey, PIP Project Manager

Thanks for ALL you do, Melanie!



## **September 30th: National Day of Truth & Reconciliation.**

REMINDER: Thursday, September 30th, 2021 is the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. All islanders are encouraged to learn more about Residential Schools and its inter-generational impact on our Indigenous peoples.

It is also Orange Shirt Day!

More information about Orange Shirt Day can be found at <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

# What's going on in Western PEI!

## Upcoming Events!

**September 20-27 is PEI Neighbour Week!**

**Town of Alberton:**  
**Community Yard Sale, Saturday,**  
**September 25th 8 AM - 12 PM.**

As part of Community Navigator Neighbour Week, the Town of Alberton will be hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, September 25th, from 8-12.

It's a great way to recycle your unwanted items while getting to know your neighbours.

To register, send us a message on Facebook at Alberton Recreation or call the Town Hall at 902-853-2720 before September 20th.

A street map listing the names and addresses of sellers will be available at the Town Office and on our Facebook page.



**Town of O'Leary:**  
**Community BBQ, Saturday,**  
**September 25th 11 AM - 1 PM.**

**Location: Centennial Park, Centennial Dr,**  
**O'Leary, PE C0B 1V0**

**FREE music, FOOD, and fun**  
**for the whole FAMILY!**

Many community partners have come together to organize this great event, including Western PEI Community Navigator Steering Committee Members Rev. Beth Cameron & local O'Leary Town Councillor Judy MacIsaac! Thank you for your continued efforts to bring together your community!



## THANK YOU!

To the Tignish Co-op, who have given us 6- \$25 gift cards for Neighbour Week contest prizes!



## THANK YOU!

To Royal Star Foods, who have given us 6- \$25 gift cards for Neighbour Week contest prizes!



## THANK YOU!

To The O'Leary Farmers Co-op, for agreeing to offer a BBQ, volunteers, and product for the O'Leary Community BBQ on September 25, 2021!





## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: G.E. Silliker Glass Ltd.

Shared by Terry Arsenault, Plant Manager:

"Our company has been in business since the early 1960's, originally known as G.E. Silliker Construction Ltd. **Today we are one of Atlantic Canada's Leading Glass companies** with Matt Silliker and Stacy Silliker at the helm.



We are proud to say we are still a family run business **supporting our local economy and local people with stable jobs.**

In October 2010, we moved to our new 30,000 sq. ft location at 68 Industrial Dr, Borden-Carleton, just off the Confederation Bridge. The new shop has capabilities of cutting, polishing beveling, CNC custom mill work and tempering..



**In the past 4 years our business has continued to grow. This has giving us the opportunity to hire many new staff and to also purchasing new machinery.** This was all part of our expansion plan into our new a 55,000 sq. ft. building located at 167 Industrial Drive.

In October 2019 we again expanded into our newly acquired 33,000 sq. ft. facility in Beresford, N.B.



**We have again extended our current foot print at the 167 industrial locations in November 2020.** This was to expand our ability to produce even more custom glass products by adding another state of the art cutting and processing line as well as our 3rd tempering furnace.

**The Key to our success has been our Staff.** Without a dedicated core of committed staff our current growth and future growth would not have been possible.

**We offer complete wages along with a benefit's package which includes Medical coverage, RRSP, referral bonus and more.**



We have been cultivating a **culture of inclusion** which you will see are highlighted in what we do with our staff. Lunch BBQ, Bowling, Deep Sea Fishing, Frisbee Golf, Hoodies, T-shirt – just to name a few.

If you would like to be part of our Amazing Team or would like to see if this is a career that would interest you, **please contact us at 1-902-437-5758 or info@sillikerglass.com.** You can also contact the Plant Manager Terry Arsenault at terry@sillikerglass.com.

We look forward to seeing You..."



**Our garden plot at Ross' Place / Kensington Community Garden** flourished in August and provided a space for community members to connect.



**MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY HERITAGE DAY  
(Cavendish & Area) Resort Municipality  
September 4**

The Central PEI Community Navigator was on hand to share information about the PEI Community Navigator Program and added some cultural touches to the festivities (including signs in different languages, cultural colouring pages, international flags and Filipino candy). Residents came together to enjoy music, food, games and visits with their neighbours.



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



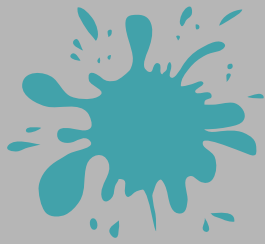
**Stay tuned for details  
regarding an activity  
taking place at Ross'  
Place / Kensington  
Community Garden  
during  
PEI NEIGHBOUR WEEK!**



## WHAT A MONTH WE'VE HAD!

*August was a month full  
of celebration and community.  
Thank you for being a part of it!*

*-Lindee Gallant, Eastern PEI Community Navigator*



### SPLASHPAD MEET UP IN MONTAGUE AUGUST 6TH

### COMMUNITY BEACH DAY AT PANMURE ISLAND AUGUST 14TH



### COMMUNITY BBQ IN EASTERN KINGS AUGUST 20TH



### BACK TO SCHOOL BASH AUGUST 26 IN MONTAGUE



FAMILIES TOOK HOME  
FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
AND VEGGIES FROM  
OUR COMMUNITY  
GARDEN PLOT!



Thank you to our garden volunteers  
who have helped weed and plant  
the Community Garden Plot at  
Hillcrest United Church in  
Montague!

September yields fresh beets,  
carrots, and tomatoes.

Check out Plot #3 and take home  
some snacks! This garden plot is  
for everyone! You are entitled to  
take whatever food will nourish you  
from PLOT #3.

Look for the Community Navigator  
sign!

The garden plot is located behind  
the church at:  
50 Wood Islands Rd, Montague, PE  
C0A 1R0



Telephone: 902-969-5989

Lindee.Gallant@cbdc.ca

Facebook Group - search for:  
Eastern PEI Community Navigator  
Office: 544 Main Street, Montague

# PEI NEIGHBOUR WEEK!



**Great prizes  
to be won!**

**September 20-27, 2021**

**#PEIGoodNeighbours**

**A week-long celebration of community across rural PEI!  
With an invitation for neighbours to make important social  
connections, encouraging neighbourly actions throughout the year.**

**“NUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOUR” CHALLENGE!**

**MAKE A NEIGHBOURLY NOMINATION!**

**PARTICIPATE IN AN IN-PERSON EVENT IN  
YOUR RURAL REGION!**

Find contest details on our website and social media

**[www.PEICommunityNavigators.com](http://www.PEICommunityNavigators.com)**

Facebook/Instagram: @PEICommunityNavigators

Or call us at: 902-853-3636

