

Community Connector Report

Submitted by Barb Scully, Community Facilitator

Parkland County Report:

Start date: March 1, 2012

Project Description:

This project was developed as a partnership between Green Hectares and Parkland County. Parkland County has provided financial support for this project and access to resources within the county. Project Management of this project will come from Green Hectares. While the Green Hectares' Community Facilitator will be trained as an Enterprise Facilitator, she will be working with the Community Connector programs being developed by Green Hectares to help facilitate community organizations and individuals. She will be introducing them to the community, not in a marketing role but through facilitation. Parkland County is very eager to support this project and will have close involvement in the facilitator's activities.

Facilitator's Report to date:

Community Scans:

Community scans have been conducted to collect localized information on the electoral divisions within Parkland, as each community is unique. This information will be made available to the county and communities to be used in a variety of ways.

- All divisions have been completed as well as an overall with Mayor Shaigec
- Partnering community Spring Lake has been completed, booking appointments to do scans with other surrounding partners

Rural Spaces:

The Rural Spaces program provides an online booking platform for rural community meetings spaces such as community halls, curling rinks, library rooms, senior's centers, etc.

- Halls that have signed up for Rural Spaces:
 - Carvel
 - Keephills
 - Fallis
 - Duffield
 - Muir Lake
 - Parkland Village
 - Graminia

Rural Voices:

Rural Voices is an online speakers bureau geared towards and designed for rural and agricultural audiences.

- 3 county residents entered into the system
- Organizations have been notified that this is available on the website and a few have expressed interest.

Rural Tech:

The Rural Tech program meets the current demand for training to upgrade computer and web skills in rural communities.

- Used 45 days over the summer at the rural libraries.
- Carvel Hall has scheduled them to be used as soon as wifi in hall is in place in October.
- Tri Cala is organizing their schedules and then will be advising us of the dates they need them for a program at APFA.
- Wabamun library will be starting a seniors program and using the lab

Enterprise Facilitation:

Trained as a Sirolli Enterprise Facilitator, the community facilitator also offers free, confidential business coaching to individuals and organizations. With a resource board to support the facilitator, connections are made to experts in the community to help them improve their business or get it off the ground.

- Resource board is growing and first official board meeting will take place Oct. 17, 2012. Board will be introduced to all our programs.
- Board members:
 - Don Dobing
 - Stephanie Sabadaska
 - Jody Tailleir
 - Holly Goodings
 - Les Trautman
 - Gary Mac Dougall
 - Heidi Sens
 - Jane Smith

Entrepreneur Exchange:

The Entrepreneur Exchange provides agri-entrepreneurs from rural and urban areas the opportunity to present their business questions, proposals, or ideas to a panel of experts.

- Identified Spring Trade show as a potential site for an Entrepreneur Exchange event

The Hopper:

The Hopper is an online Rural Resource Hub that will be available on various websites as a web app to increase access to resources. Beta testing has begun on the site with a full launch coming in the fall.

- Have submitted a list of links to be included in The Hopper

Events Attended in the last 4 months:

- Canada Days in both Stony Plain and Spruce Grove
- Chamber of Commerce annual picnic
- pioneer museum shine and dine
- multi cultural healing arts days
- aboriginal day presentation
- Agricultural Society Corn roast
- Edmonton Urban Farming tour hosted by the GEA
- GEA workshop, Agricultural Land Conservation
- Carvel Hall painting the little library to be partnered with Parkland Municipal Libraries
- Volunteer at City Slickers
- Presenting at Multi Cultural Organic Harvest day
- Chamber luncheons
- Over the next few months will be looking at networking and making sure every organization within Parkland County has an overview of our programs.
- Will be initiating more conversations regarding the Enterprise Facilitation portion of Green Hectares to get that service used to its potential.
- Have started scheduling appointments with County Councillors to see where they would like to see programs in place and give introductions to the appropriate people and organizations, a strong emphasis on div 5 and 6 being they are the furthest from urban resources.
- Attendance at the October Presidents forum to reintroduce our programs.
- Will be identifying at least two more events for Entrepreneur's Exchange
- Resource board has started to build and will continue to grow it to at least 20 members

Best practices:

- Continue to network, communicate, and continually visit people , organizations, and businesses that may use or know of someone that will use our programs.
- When having slow periods look at volunteering with organization events that may not be a direct Green Hectares audience but will give us a community presence.
- Continue to discover resources so when speaking with someone the knowledge is there to direct them to the right place, be it GH or another connection.

Program	Goal Description	Goals (to Dec. 2012)	Actual
Communications	# of community links submitted for Social Media	75	33
	# of community individuals submitted for Blog	2	1
The Entrepreneur Exchange	Identify annual community events for an Entrepreneur Exchange	3	2
	Participate in an Entrepreneur Exchange	1	0
	Plan a Regional Entrepreneur Exchange	1	0
Facilitation	All Environmental Scans Completed	6	8
	Resource Board members recruited	20	10
The Hopper	Identify community resources for the Hopper	5	54
	Identify community partners for the Hopper	2	1
Rural Tech	Mobile Lab Utilization	40	43
	Mobile Lab Bookings	40	16
Rural Voices	# of speakers from community registered	3	3
	# of organizations using Rural Spaces	5	0
Rural Spaces	# of community halls on rural spaces	5	7
	# of contacts with community halls	22	26
	# of complimentary services identified	3	0