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**MEETING:** Committee of the Whole Meeting

**DATE:** March 4, 2025

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**PLACE:** Town Council Chambers

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### Agenda

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Presentations
  - 4.1 Antigonish Culture Alive (ACA) – Cassie MacDonald
  - 4.2 Rural Communities Foundation Nova Scotia (RCFNS) – Hugh MacKay
  - 4.3 Financial Update with Year-end Projections – M. Barkhouse
5. Councillor Reports
6. Adjournment

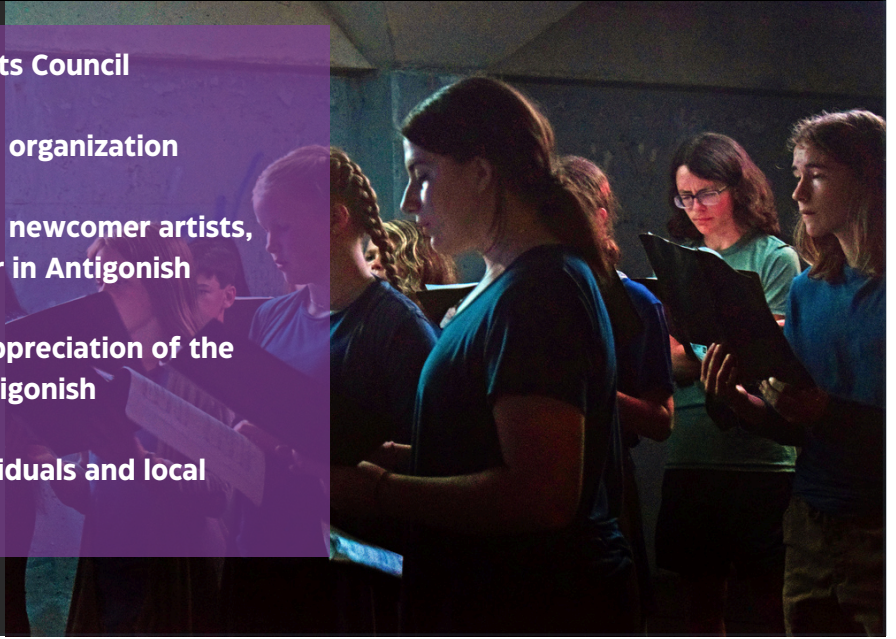


ANTIGONISH  
CULTURE ALIVE

Presentation to the Town of Antigonish Council  
February, 18 2025

# Who we are

- Volunteer fun Community Arts Council
- Not-for-profit and Charitable organization
- Entry point for emerging and newcomer artists, to the arts and culture sector in Antigonish
- Fostering the creation and appreciation of the arts in the community of Antigonish
- Advice and supports to individuals and local creative communities.



Since 2010, ACA has been dedicated to enhanced and sustained artistic and cultural life in this region.

# SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS

- CHARITABLE TAX SERVICES
- ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Programs and events under the ACA banner provide opportunities for well-established as well as emerging artists to present their work to the general public.

By partnering with other arts organizations, business and government, ACA is able to expand the market and support for the works of artists and artisans.

ACA provides Charitable Tax receipt services for other arts organizations in our region who are performing cultural services that fall within our Charitable tax mission and mandate.

Organizations that use this service include; “The Performing Arts Series”- a curated contemporary classical Music program that invites 7 to 10 internationally recognized musical ensembles each year.

and

“The Arts House” which is a community operated space for teaching ceramics, painting, and dance.

## ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM:

ACA has partnered with the All-of-Us Society for Presentation (ASAP) Artist-Run Centre to administer their annual (7th year) summer artist residency program. This program partners artists

with community groups to support and pay artists a full-time wage for 2 months to develop their practice. The artists are then curated and paid for a culminating project in Antigonight.

ATLANTIC ART AT NIGHT FESTIVAL ALLIANCE (AANFA): Since 2021, ACA has participated as a founding board member for a consortium of Atlantic art festivals. Participation has included professional development in cultural humility, organizing an online conference, and developing an in-person conference on art organizers and mental health in Newfoundland for summer 2024.

The StFX Art Gallery has been committed to fostering, celebrating, and presenting contemporary artistic practices since 1976 and lends its reputation, historical and institutional knowledge to ACA as an official partner. As well, since 2022, our formal partnership with St F X service learning has provided important experiential learning opportunities to X students.

Every year we partner with and support the local L'Arche community's own creative endeavours, L'Arche Hearts and Hands, with a consistent project slot within Antigonight and lots of opportunities to work and engage with the festival administrative team. One member of the L'Arche community is also on the Antigonish Culture Alive board.

# Our Annual Programs

Art After  Dark Festival  
**ANTIGONIGHT**  
★ Since 2010 ★



THE TOWN OF **ANTIGONISH**

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS  
**PUBLIC ART**

*Grace Lane Smith, 2022*

# Antigonight

- **Since its inception in 2010, Antigonight: Art After Dark has been Antigonish Culture Alive's most recognizable and popular outdoor, public art event.**
- **Free and Accessible**
- **Features and pays local artists**
- **On average 3000 festival goers annually**



Antigonight: Art After Dark Festival, as the central event and enactment of ACA's charitable mandate, provides free and accessible opportunities for community members to deeply engage with contemporary visual and performing arts. Antigonight has progressively worked to build relationships within the community to celebrating local arts and culture from a multitude of voices and experiences including African Nova Scotian, Filipino, Mi'kmaq, newcomers, and women-identified, and 2slgbtqia+ artists and community groups. To this, Antigonight and ACA as the overseeing board, is dedicated to engaging in deep participation that shifts ideas, meanings, and understanding of our local community and the world through transformative visual and performing arts in Northeastern Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.



Antigonight is Northeastern Nova Scotia's premiere public Art at Night Festival.



Antigonight is a unique festival that brings together contemporary arts practice and rural community-based art making.



We hold space within the festival for local initiatives such as the Guatemala-Canada Breaking the Silence initiative.

Shown here is an art quilt presented at the 2024 Antigonight festival --created by Maya Achi youth to commemorate the Río Negro massacres of 1982, memorializing their grandparents, great-grandparents, and community members who were victims of this state-sponsored violence.

The project involved a call and response between groups of Guatemalan and Antigonish youth, as they explored each other's cultures.



The festival provides an opportunity for artists to display their work and become known within the community.



It gives the community the chance to interact with contemporary art spanning multiple mediums, such as dance, theatre, music, sound art, and installation art.



Art projects are positioned around downtown venues including parks, closed-off sections of Main Street, and the public library where visitors have easy access. Exhibits and performances are found on sidewalks and in storefronts, alleyways, and nooks and crannies of the downtown.

# Mural Program

Antigonish Culture Alive has been partnering with the Town of Antigonish since 2022 on the Public Art Program.

This program is an investment for the community, elevating Antigonish and its growth as a cultural hub within Northeastern Mi'kma'ki.





Grace Lane Smith - 2022



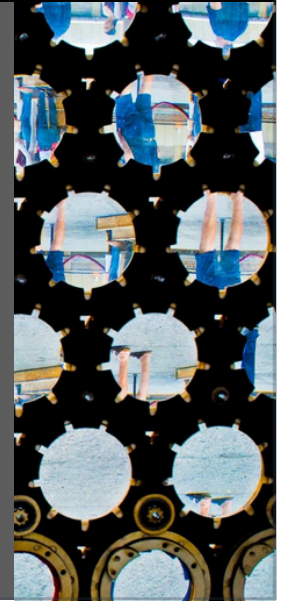
The 2024 mural competition winners, Molly Margaret and Marissa Bialowas.

Thanks to an incredible donation from Scotiabank, the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Town of Antigonish are building a mini-pitch by the schools on Appleseed Drive, creating a wonderful space for a mural!

The mural is underway and will be presented in June of this year.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- SUMMER PROGRAMMING
- JOHN HUGH GILLIS REGIONAL HIGHSCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
- CREATIVE PICTOU COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB SHARE
- ANTIGONISH VISION FOR THE ARTS (AVA)
- FLOATCHELLA
- PUBLIC LIBRARY GALLERY MANAGEMENT- UPCOMING



## SUMMER PROGRAMMING: 2016-present

3 summer staff will be hired through the Nova Scotia SKILLS Incentive and Canada Summer Jobs (CGS). These staff will support administration and promotion of Antigonight as well as free summer programming in collaboration with Antigonish Public Library such as

A weekly zine workshop will begin in July and run for six weeks;

A Rainbow Family Storytelling for Pride Week;

Youth art-making drop-in sessions,

An Art-Attack (drawing competition) featuring three visual artists creating works based on prompts provided by the audience, and two improv performers.

## IMAGINATION PLAYGROUND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Ongoing

ACA is beginning a capital campaign to fundraise for a 'free play' playground for children aged

2-12 years. The funds are expected to be raised by summer 2025 and the purchased playground will debut at Antigonight and thereafter administered by the Municipality of the County of Antigonish as free arts-based programming that will be available via loan to non-profit children's programming year-round.

## CREATIVE PICTOU COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB SHARE: New

ACA teamed up with Creative Pictou County to share the costs of an Executive Director position. We are thrilled to have Carissa Ainslie in this position as February, 2024, as Interim Executive Director. We are hoping this partnership building between Arts Council's will lead to a plethora of new opportunities including improved communications and resources for rural artists.

#### ANTIGONISH VISION FOR THE ARTS (AVA): New 2023

ACA has supported a coalition of local arts organizations working toward a shared arts space. This effort is committed to community owned space, which may take the form of a new build or a large renovation. AVA is actively engaged in assessing the assets and needs of the community. Some large funders have already been identified and many years of consultation, advocacy, fundraising and education is required to ensure that the project will gain momentum. AVA has asked to exist as a subcommittee of ACA.

#### FLOATCHELLA: New

ACA has partnered with a small emerging music festival named Floatchella (heading into it's 4th year) to support them with financial and administrative services. This organizational partnership is intended to lead to free and accessible music events in Antigonish, It may also lead to uniquely curated musical components as part of Antigonight.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY GALLERY MANAGEMENT: New

Following the success of the Town of Antigonish's Public Art Program. ACA is proposing supervision of Antigonish's Public Library "The People's Place" rotating gallery. The proposed format would have each gallery in the Pictou-Antigonish Public Libraries (PARL) managed by their respective local arts organizations (i.e. ACA supporting Antigonish Public Library, Creative Pictou County supporting Pictou Library/Decoste Centre). ACA would select an annual jury to curate and oversee 10-12 installations per year. This would include curating a national or provincially recognized artist, overseeing annual installations including L'Arche Antigonish and the International Baccalaureate High School Arts Program and an annual open call for 3-4 local installations. ACA would provide the necessary "toolbox" and technical support for artists engaging in this process for the first time.

# FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY

- ALL YOU NEED IS CAKE FUNDRAISER
- ADIRONDACK CHAIR RAFFLE
- STATE OF THE WORLD FILM PREMIER





ALL YOU NEED IS

# Cake!

TUESDAY, FEB 14, 6-9 PM  
@ CANDID BREWING COMPANY

\$10 EACH, INCLUDES A CUPCAKE AND CARD!

ANTIGONISH CULTURE ALIVE

Visit Candid to purchase tickets!



# OUR BOARD

- **Our volunteer board meets monthly and is composed of an executive (chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer) and board membership at-large that includes representation from our partner organizations.**
- **ACA is accountable to our funders, community stakeholders, and partners by means of regular reporting, AGM, and community consultations.**
- **ACA maintains a website and social media presence, with the by-laws and mission statement publicly available.**

ASAP Artist-Run Centre, Antigonish Performing Arts Series, L'Arche Antigonish, Atlantic Art at Night Festivals Alliance (AANFA), St. Francis Xavier University Art Gallery, and Creative Pictou Country).



# 2024 SNAPSHOT



**\$20,000+ PAID TO ARTISTS**

**2,000+ PEOPLE ENGAGED**

**20+ EVENTS ORGANIZED**

**CAPTURE THIS QR CODE**



**LONE GULL CREATIVE MEDIA - VIDEO OF ANTIGONIGHT 2024**



**THANK YOU!**

**FROM ANTIGONISH CULTURE ALIVE**



# Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia Dave Gunning Zero Hunger



Hugh MacKay  
Rural Communities Foundation  
of Nova Scotia  
[www.rcfofns.com](http://www.rcfofns.com)

# Agenda

- Who we are
- What we do
- Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund
- Ask for Consideration
- Q&A



# Who we are

- A community foundation supporting rural Nova Scotia, through convening, fund development and granting.
- We have a proven track record, with more than 20 years of developing and delivering grant programs.
- We are a federally registered charity, accountable to community members, donors & grantees.
- We are a member of the Community Foundations of Canada and the Nova Scotia Not-for-Profit Coalition.

# What we do

- We support community-based local improvement initiatives in rural Nova Scotia.
- We convene local people to find local solutions to problems and challenges.
- We fundraise to provide grants to community organizations.
- We provide tax receipts for donations.
- We administer trust funds on behalf of individuals and organizations.

# What we do

**Some of our current projects:**

- **Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund**
- **Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund**
- **Housing For Health**
- **Soaring Eagle Fine Arts Grants**
- **Community Impact Conferences**

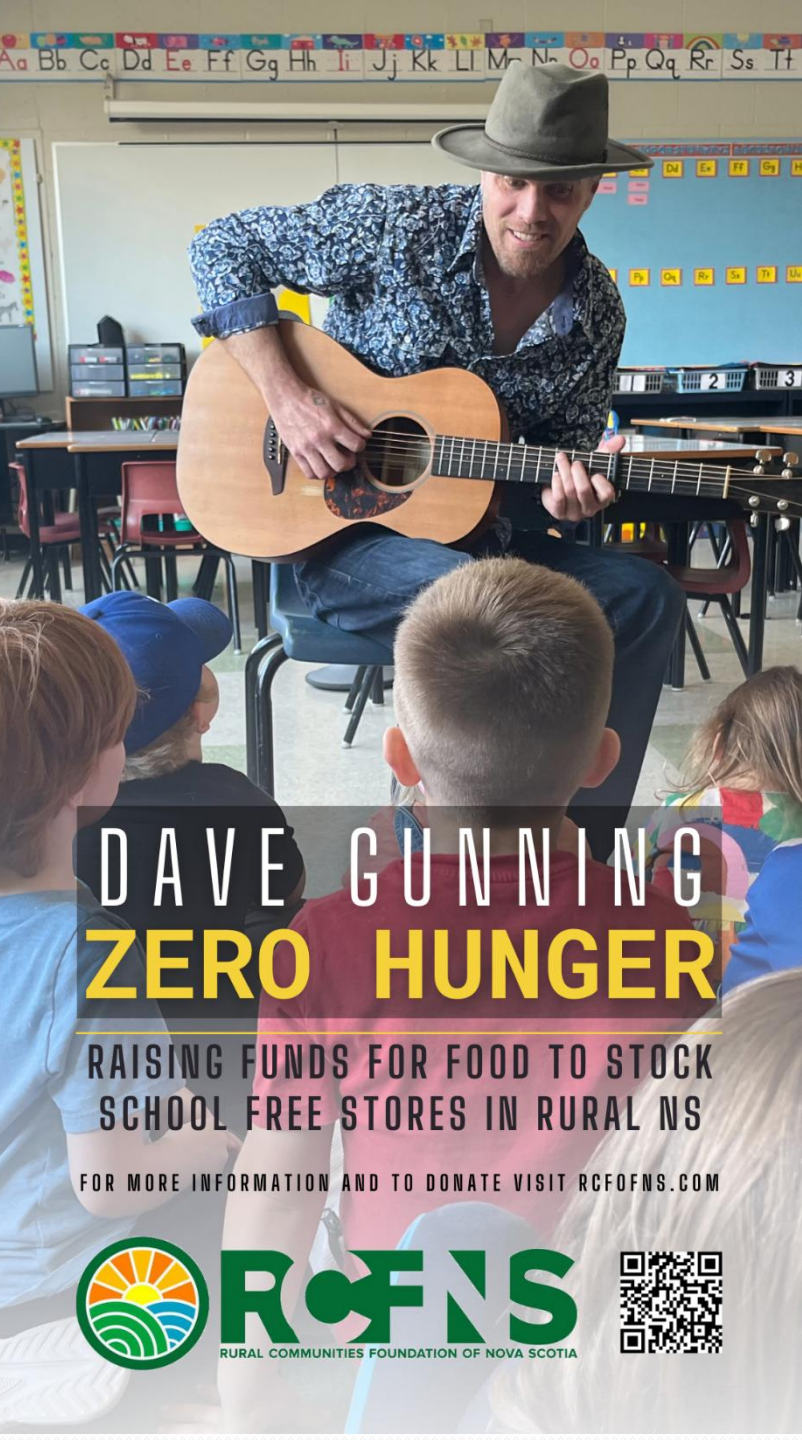


# What we do

## Some of our current projects:

- Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund
- Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund
- Housing For Health
- Soaring Eagle Fine Arts Grants
- Community Impact Conferences
- **Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund**





# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

Supporting  
Free Stores in  
Rural Schools across  
Nova Scotia

DAVE GUNNING  
**ZERO HUNGER**

RAISING FUNDS FOR FOOD TO STOCK  
SCHOOL FREE STORES IN RURAL NS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE VISIT [RCFOFNS.COM](http://RCFOFNS.COM)



**RCFNS**  
RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

- Acclaimed Nova Scotia musician Dave Gunning has teamed up with RCFNS to launch the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund.
- The campaign is aimed at supporting 'Free Stores' in rural Nova Scotia schools.
- Free Stores provide food for students to take home for their families who are struggling to provide adequate nutrition.
- Fundraising began in late 2023 and throughout 2024.

# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

- In December 2024 we distributed \$100,000 in grants to Free Stores in schools across Nova Scotia, including a

**\$3,500.00 grant to:**

**Dr. John Hugh Gills Regional School**



# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

- Our 2025 goal is to raise \$200,000 to provide grants to additional rural schools.
- We have raised 15% of the 2025 goal through public and corporate donations.
- We are applying for municipal community grants
- Funds raised locally will be granted to local schools.

# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

## Our ask:

- Provide individual and corporate awareness and support for the campaign
- <https://rcfofns.com/dave-gunning-zero-hunger>



# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund

## Our ask:

- Provide individual and corporate awareness and support for the campaign

<https://rcfofns.com/dave-gunning-zero-hunger>

- Consider us for a Community Grant
- Support a Dave Gunning Zero Hunger fundraising concert in Antigonish



# Dave Gunning Zero Hunger

Thank you  
for your time and consideration!

QUESTIONS?



[www.rcfofns.com](http://www.rcfofns.com)