

A successful brand launch

Great turnout for event on October 20, 2016

Fall of 2016 brought a host of exciting changes for our organization, the greatest of which was our official rebrand to The Flower Cart Group. The new name is a more accurate reflection of our evolution into a group of social enterprises and projects, while maintaining a link to our past.

While the launch provided a valuable opportunity for many to think back to what the name Flower Cart has meant over the years, we entered 2017 looking ahead. The bakery, commercial kitchen, and training and employment services are all finding ways to grow and provide more opportunities.

We continue to rely on partnerships with local businesses and are committed to becoming a leading source of labour through Supported Employment. In 2017 we have set a goal to increase community inclusion by identifying and capitalizing on more volunteer and work experience placements. Our teams are at work throughout Kings County and offer tremendous value to small and large businesses alike. If you haven't worked with The Flower Cart Group before, there is no better time to start.

We are grateful for the overwhelming positive response to our evolution and thank everyone for attending our launch and for sending donations and best wishes. While we will continue to work on getting a new facility and several other long-term objectives, our focus will always be on those we support, their families and supporters, and our community.



Jimmy, Brian, Jeff, and Christine unveil the new logo outside our 9412 Commercial Street office.

Check out the new FlowerCart.ca

Designed to give you more information about programs, services, and events at The Flower Cart Group.



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**AJ Jenner (right) works at
Consignor's Place and says he has
fun sorting the clothes in the store.**



For over 30 years Consignor's Place has provided a great venue to sell your unwanted clothing and household items. Partnering with The Flower Cart Group gave them instant access to a team of workers eager to learn new skills.

They provide a complete training environment that emphasizes communication, time management, and organization. This work is challenging and meaningful for our participants, but also rewarding for our partners.

The Consignor's Place team is amazed at how far this work experience placement has developed in a short time. For AJ Jenner, who started in March 2016, it has been an exciting opportunity. "I know the staff at Consignor's well. They treat us nicely," AJ says. "It is fun. You need to be organized!"

Leah Phinney also works with the Consignor's Place team and says that she's happy just to be doing something different, even if it's just for an afternoon. "I enjoy the friendly staff and getting to share a laugh or two with them," she says. "I also enjoy seeing people I know once in a while."

When partnering with a business like Consignor's Place, The Flower Cart Group sends a Support Worker out to the business and looks at the challenges the work might present; trains and orients participants; and continually works with them to ensure our work is meeting the needs of the business. The work we have done at Consignor's Place is one of many mutually beneficial partnerships we have with Valley businesses.



**Leah Phinney (left)
says the friendly
staff is the best part
of working at
Consignor's Place.**

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS AT MICHELIN

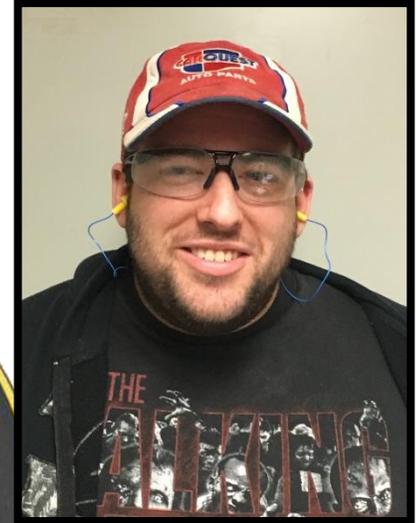
In November 2016 The Flower Cart Group received notification that the organization was approved for a grant through the Department of Community Services' Employment Support and Capacity Building (ESCB) initiative. This grant was created to increase our Supported Employment and Training efforts – in short, to find work in the community for our participants.

On December 12, 2016 two participants with a long history with The Flower Cart Group began Work Experience Placements on our Michelin Team. Mike Zwicker and Bruce Lightle have worked a variety of jobs, but coming to Michelin is a new, rewarding experience.

“I was nervous on my first day, but I feel okay now,” says Mike, who has two brothers who also work for The Flower Cart Group at Michelin. “It’s good stripping rubber, working on the machine.”

For Bruce, who has been supported by The Flower Cart Group for 13 years, coming to Michelin has satisfied his curiosity and given him an experience he couldn’t get anywhere else. “It’s good work; I like it,” Bruce says. “The people are friendly and helpful and they help you out if you have any problems”.

The ESCB grant runs through November 2017, so there will be many more opportunities for workers like Mike and Bruce to gain valuable work experience at work sites like Michelin and other businesses in the Annapolis Valley. The grant enables The Flower Cart Group to support employment opportunities and fulfills its vision of a community where all citizens are fully included and accepted, while also providing valuable labour services to our business partners.



MIKE ZWICKER



BRUCE LIGHTLE

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Flower Cart Group has had a contract for labour services with Michelin since 1998.
- After developing their skills with us, two of our contract workers were hired by Michelin in 2016.
- Our team of 40 contract workers are trained in dozens of different jobs at Michelin Waterville.



The Flower Cart Group

has evolved into a social enterprise leader.

We can provide a labour force on a scale
and schedule that meets your needs.

Call us today to find out about
possible partnerships with your business.



Call Lisa at 902-681-2349

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www.flowercart.ca



The Flower Cart Group is a member of the DirectionNS Council and Buy Social Canada.

Your Partner in Supported Training and Employment

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