

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT MICHELIN WATERVILLE



Our Contract Coordinator Matt Clairmont (left), presents Craig Bugden with a plaque honouring him for twenty years of service to The Flower Cart Group at Michelin.

For more on Craig's success story, see our feature on page 3.

On December 8, 2018 The Flower Cart Group hosted a reception at the Waterville Fire Hall to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our contract with Michelin Waterville. Currently we serve 43 participants in a mix of full- and part-time roles, and provide meaningful, challenging employment in a major production environment.

Our Michelin contract workers have a chance to develop work and life skills, and we have on-site support staff there to help them get everything they need to be successful. "Our contract has served both organizations extremely well over twenty years," said Matt Clairmont, our Michelin Contract Coordinator. "To have this kind of unique, large-scale partnership, and to make opportunities for so many people, that is something to be celebrated."

Nearly 70 people were in attendance to recognize this significant milestone, including most of our contract workers, their support team, and our invited guests.

Mike MacMillan, who has worked closely with The Flower Cart Group for several years, was invited to accept an award and make brief remarks on behalf of our valued partner.

"Michelin produces the best tires in the world, and everyone who works at our site plays an important role in our success," Mike said. "We appreciate the role The Flower Cart Group has played, and we look forward to working together in the future."





KINGS COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Kings County Family Resource Centre strengthens the lives of families and inspires growth by providing quality programs and resources in a respectful, supportive learning environment. The Centre has been in operation since 1989 and is a non-profit, charitable organization located in Kentville, Nova Scotia.

Through the commitment and dedication of our staff and volunteer Board of Directors, the Centre has grown from offering three programs in 1989 to now delivering over 20 programs.

The continued support of the Department of Community Services and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has made it possible to provide a wide range of diverse, fun and interesting programs to children and parents in our community.

IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO GIVE

Donations of used clothing are one of the easiest and most common ways people give to The Flower Cart Group. We have an accessible donation area at our main location in New Minas, and a full team of staff and participants who are tasked with unloading, sorting, and packing up clothing.

Primarily your donations of used clothing will be sold to wholesalers and retailers, both locally and throughout the province. We sort through the clothing and separate it into different types as we check the fabric type, size, and quality. We process about 12,000 pounds of clothing each month.

Since May 2018 we also make a regular donation to the Kings County Family Resource Centre. We pick out women's and children's clothing and donate, on average, nearly 400 pounds of clothes monthly to help them run their programs.

When you donate used clothing to The Flower Cart Group you are creating valuable work experience for adults with barriers to employment. They learn organizational skills, sorting and estimation skills, and they get practice completing a task as part of a team. In some cases your donation has the additional benefit of supporting a cause like the Kings County Resource Centre, and Christmas is a great time to keep them in mind.

You can drop your used clothing donations off day or night at The Flower Cart Group's main office at 9412 Commercial Street, New Minas. As always, all donations are gratefully accepted.



Our participants loading up donations for the Kings County Family Resource Centre.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

The Flower Cart Group will close for the holidays at 4pm on
December 21, 2018 and re-open on January 3, 2019.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



20 YEARS AT MICHELIN WATERVILLE

1998-2018



When Craig Bugden first walked into the Michelin plant in Waterville it was the summer of 1998. We had already been serving adults with intellectual disabilities for almost three decades, but we were putting more effort than ever before into developing labour contracts with major manufacturers.

Michelin is one of the largest employers in Nova Scotia. Their location in Kings County, as well as their long-term vision in the Annapolis Valley, made them an obvious choice. After months of discussions, tours, and negotiations, our first Michelin contract was signed. Among our first team of permanent contract workers to set their safety boots in the plant that summer was Craig Bugden, a man with a disability and production work experience.

“I had worked a lot of places and they didn’t treat me very well”, says Craig. “Most of them took advantage of me or didn’t like me. That changed when I came to The Flower Cart.”

Today The Flower Cart Group has a large team of contract workers at Michelin who perform more than a dozen different tasks. Craig has been part of the team so long that he has been trained in almost every single job, from sharpening specialty knives in

our knife shop, to rubber recovery, and for the last decade or so he has primarily worked in a shop called OPX assisting with preparation work for article builders.

“Craig is a fantastic worker, I wish I had two or three more of him,” says Jim Rose, the OPX Business Unit Leader and Craig’s Michelin supervisor. “When he goes on vacation it takes a couple people to take his place.”

Matt Clairmont, The Michelin Contract Coordinator for The Flower Cart Group, presented Craig with a 20th Anniversary plaque to celebrate his unique contribution. “Craig is a special kind of worker,” Matt said at a banquet honouring the 20th Anniversary of our Michelin contract. “We get nothing but praise for the work he has done, and we are proud to have him on our team.”

“Over the years Michelin has noticed the great work he does and they’ve asked us to bring more people to fill other jobs.” Matt says. “That’s how we went from a couple contract workers in those first few days, to 43 positions.

After 20 years Craig is looking forward to retirement planning, but admits that is still in the future. “I have a few years left, and I like where I am and what I’m doing,” he says. It turns out, so do we.

OMEGA CRUNCH



FLOWERCART INDUSTRIES

What's shaking?

Omega Crunch exists to create a world of healthy families and develop products that are fun, healthy, and easy to use. Our Flowercart Industries team produce and package several varieties of Omega Crunch, including Garlic, Maple, and Regular, every day. Omega Crunch is made up of flaxseed kernel, hull, and whole seed. You don't have to grind this flax and it is fully digestible so you eat it just like the ground flax. Plus, it has a long shelf life and it's been roasted with different flavours to make it delicious to sprinkle on top of anything you eat!

work with purpose.

The Flower Cart Group