

**COMMUNITY**  
Credit Union

# LOCAL MATTERS



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The **Community Credit Union** has partnered with **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester** in a **10-year, \$100,000 commitment** to help create the Community Credit Union Park behind the organization's office in North River. From left, Dave Ritcey, Jeff Yuill, Howard Welch, Dianne Kelderman, all with Community Credit Union, and Nick Sharpe, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester.

# Letter To The Board Members, Management, Staff And Membership Announcing The Retirement of Community Credit Union's President & CEO, Darrell Kuhn

June 28, 2019

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is with some apprehension, that I announce the retirement of our President & CEO, Darrell Kuhn. **To say that Darrell has made a profound and unprecedented impact to Community Credit Union, is a gross understatement.** Since Darrell's arrival in December 2007, to the present time, he has left a positive legacy that will be unsurpassed. We were privileged to have Darrell lead a financial services organization that is so committed to the true values of **"community"** and using our resources and expertise to "lift others up". Under Darrell's leadership, it was very gratifying to be part of so many community efforts and organizations that work tirelessly every day to make life better for others and to help their communities grow and prosper.

**Darrell was instrumental in moving Community Credit Union forward from a very serious financial distress situation, eleven years ago, to now being recognized as the most progressive Credit Union in the Province.** There have been numerous accomplishments during his tenure, with some of the highlights, including:

- the restoration of our risk and financial position, to now being best in our history in many categories, including, but not limited to the following: our credit quality; delinquency, watch list accounts, loan losses, expense management, and other income (from our wealth management portfolio);
- the construction of a new, modern branch in Truro, which has significantly raised our profile in this community;
- the significant renovation project in Amherst, which saw a new front exterior, new parking lot and the creation of a new Corporate Office;
- the purchase of a wealth management business, which remains the first such transaction within the Atlantic Region, and is now recognized as being the top 5 in the region with assets increasing from \$6.5 Million to \$50 Million in just three-years;
- the creation of a Brand Awareness program, which has resulted in us now being recognized as a significant community leader;

- the numerous naming rights investments, which has included: The Community Credit Union Arena in Truro; the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre in Amherst; the Community Credit Union Place (Colchester Mental Health Association) in Truro, the Lions Park in Amherst and the recent Community Credit Union Marigold Cultural Centre in Truro. And there are even more to be announced later this year;
- the many sponsorships and donations in support of our 'community giving' objectives, which has collectively resulted in our total 'community giving' efforts exceeding \$1 Million in the past five years alone; and
- the recent \$200,000 Sandler Training investment in employee development, the first of its kind, at this significant level.

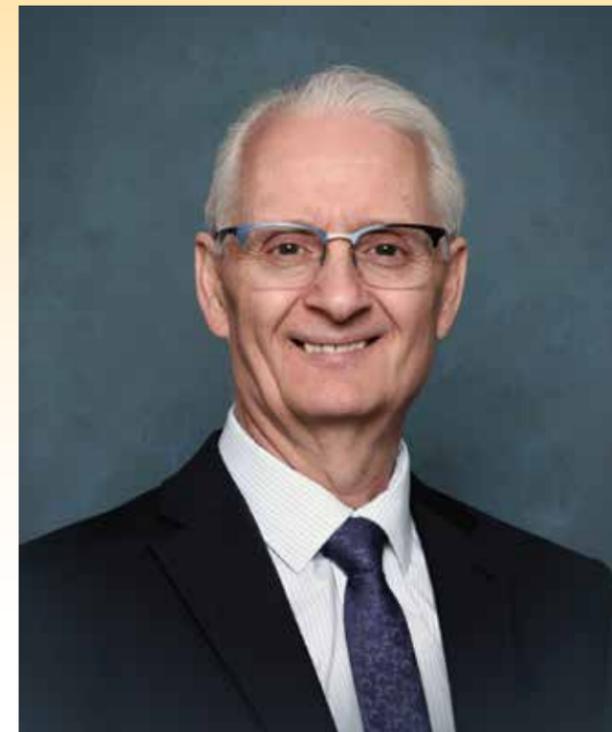
Throughout the remainder of the year and beyond, Darrell's vision and innovation will see the following innovations:

- a.) the creation of the first ever Credit Union kiosk-hybrid concept, with spaces proposed in both Truro and Amherst;
- b.) the proposed hybrid brand model-structure within our two branches; and
- c.) the launch of the new digital banking (self-service) platform and many other initiatives too numerous to mention.

**All of these has cemented his legacy and will positively position Community Credit Union for many years to come.**

As many of you know, Darrell serves as a Board Member on six volunteer organizations and has been the recipient of the Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEO in Atlantic Canada for five consecutive years, culminating in his induction into their Business Hall of Fame, joining local Hall of Famers, Jon Stanfield and Dianne Kelderman. The Board is very proud of his community involvement and of his Hall of Fame Award in Atlantic Canada.

**We are extremely grateful for Darrell's considerable leadership and vision during his eleven-year tenure.**



**Darrell Kuhn, President & CEO, Community Credit Union**

While we are saddened by his decision to retire, after 40 years in the financial services industry, we certainly appreciate and respect his decision and wish he and his wife Denise, a heartfelt congratulations as they move into the next chapter of their lives. A more formal acknowledgment for Darrell will be announced, prior to his retirement date.

The Board has initiated the recruitment and selection process for a new President & CEO and have recently hired an executive search firm. It is anticipated, that Darrell's replacement will be in place this fall, prior to the Board's new strategic planning exercise. Darrell will remain in his role until his replacement is appointed and we are very pleased, that he has agreed to remain with us until a satisfactory transition has been fully completed, following the appointment of his replacement.

Sincerely,  
Howard Welch  
Board Chair

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# Big Brothers Big Sisters Gets A Boost From Community Credit Union For The Creation Of A Park\*

**The green space behind the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Colchester office will look a bit different over the next few years.**

Thanks to a partnership with the Community Credit Union, the organization can soon get to work on creating a community park. The credit union is contributing \$100,000 over the next 10 years to help create the park, which will be named the Community Credit Union Park.

Nick Sharpe, the executive director of BBBS, said the organization is thrilled with the continued partnership with the credit union. The partnership started last year when the credit union came on board to do some in-school mentoring.

"We have a lot of shared values with the Community Credit Union to support children and youth in the communities," said Sharpe.

BBBS moved earlier this year into the former Molly's Dairy Bar on Highway 311 in North River. An addition was created to house the BBBS offices, and the dairy bar reopened recently as a social enterprise known as Fundy Scoops.

"We didn't move because of this property, we moved out of necessity for space, and because we wanted to do more," said Sharpe. "We knew there was a lot more children and youth that could benefit from our services and our programs in Colchester and East Hants. When we saw this property, it just became evident that we could do so much more with the space that allowed recreational opportunities such as this."

**This vision BBBS has for the site is further creating a hub for residents and families in Colchester County and beyond.**

"The contribution from the credit union will allow BBBS to start the development of turning the property into an asset for families. That will include some playground elements, some equipment and infrastructure, and it will also include some natural elements - trails and various recreational elements." Sharpe said.

Details have yet to be finalized on the project, but Sharpe said they're hoping to begin construction this year with a shaded structure and possibly a walking trail. "That will include some playground elements, some equipment and infrastructure, and it will also include some natural elements - trails and various recreational elements," he said.

"We want to make sure we do it right and engage the community in what they need and what they want in this area. But next year is when you'll really start to see some equipment and bigger construction in place," he said.

Dianne Kelderman, who has been involved with BBBS for over 30 years and sits on the board of directors with the credit union, says the credit union is "thrilled" to be a sponsor, supporter, and partner of the project.

"The organization is near and dear to our hearts," she said, after talking about her and her husband, John's, involvement over the years.

The couple had a little sister, Sarah, for 10 years, but they have continued their connection ever since. Kelderman said Sarah is more like a daughter than a little sister.

Sharpe says those at BBBS see hundreds of people using their space weekly already, so he's excited to see what the park will turn out to be.

"It's going to allow us to see so many more people and increase the awareness of Big Brothers Big Sisters, because that's really what it's about. Making sure people know what we do in the communities and how children, youth, and young people benefit from the programs and services we offer," he said.

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*\*Article excerpt  
taken from Hub  
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