

Urban Teaching Farm Project Steering Committee & Coordinator Profiles

Steering Committee Members

Benjamin Wolthers

Ben is an active community member who is passionate about local food. Ben is a graduate of UNB Law and always strives to use his legal knowledge to better the world around him. In addition to his involvement with the Hayes Teaching Farm, Ben is also a Board Member with the Fredericton Boys and Girls Club, The President of the Friends of the Fredericton Public Library, a Committee member for Fredericton Civic Pride and is also a member of the Law Society of New Brunswick and the Canadian Bar Association. In his free time, Ben loves to cook delicious meals or work in his home garden in Nashwaaksis. Ben has been involved with the Hayes Teaching Farm since late 2016 and brings a wealth of skills to the steering committee.

Darren Hanscomb

Darren was born and raised in Fredericton, New Brunswick, from a family with rural farming roots. He has a personal interest in local food and food security that has developed from his careers as a chef and as a culinary teacher. Skills that he brings to the UTF group include Educational experience and leadership. Through trades experience in many areas and being a lifetime Fredericton resident, Darren has broad network with which to discuss and promote the project. Formal credentials include a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, a Degree in Advanced Undergraduate Studies in Education (DAUS), and a Bachelor of Education degree (Skilled Trades and Technology Education) all from the University of New Brunswick. He holds two Journeymen's certificates one as a Licensed Automotive Technician and another as a Journeyman Cook. Darren has been a teacher at Fredericton High School Since January 2007, is 20 years married with two sons 14 and 9, and is a proud tradesman whose goals include advancing and enriching skilled trades or "life skills" education.

Edee Klee

Edee Klee is a co-chair and founder of NB Community Harvest Gardens Inc. (NBCHG), a volunteer non-profit dedicated to creating accessible, inclusive and sustainable community gardens throughout Fredericton. Edee constantly searches for practical, holistic solutions to societal issues and firmly believes that food security holds the key to addressing the majority of health, social, environmental and economic problems we are currently experiencing in New Brunswick. A leadership team member of Good Food Greater Fredericton, Edee has witnessed the current proliferation of community gardens as a wonderful mechanism for increasing public awareness of our broken food system and desire for fresh, local, sustainably-grown food. As

that awareness and desire grows, so does New Brunswick's obligation to cultivate new farmers by enhancing their access to knowledge, land and capital. The Urban Teaching Farm project is a critical component in revitalizing small-scale sustainable farming as a viable career choice in this province and Edee is honoured to be part of the UTF Steering Committee.

Kaleb Zelman

Kaleb is a recent immigrant to Fredericton and New Brunswick. He moved here from Halifax in 2015 to pursue a M.Sc. degree with the Canadian Rivers Institute at the University of New Brunswick. His academic background is in Marine Biology and received a Bachelors of Science degree with Honours in this discipline in 2014 from Dalhousie University. He has worked with the Resource Conservation sector in Parks Canada from 2010-2013. This position primarily focused on protecting endangered species of flora and fauna from anthropogenic impacts. Specific responsibilities ranged from conducting fish community surveys to invasive species management. He has also volunteered with a number of NGO's across the Maritimes and in Switzerland to endure protection of species-at-risk. Outside of his research, he is interested in the how people interact with nature and the value that they place on these interactions aside from ecosystem services. Kaleb is a new member of the New Brunswick Community Harvest Garden in Marysville and while he is lacking in experience, he is passionate about organic food productions and determined to broaden his research scope to the interactions between crops and their surrounding biotic community. He will be tasked with ensuring the preparation of the Urban Teaching Farm is harmonious with the existing natural community and that the regenerative farming practices on-site will foster a diverse and resilient biota for years to come.

Kate MacKay

Kate MacKay is a long-time resident of Fredericton. She served as a 9-11 emergency services dispatcher with the Fredericton Police Force for 21 years. The 9-1-1 Centre was an in-depth education into the social ills wrought by poverty and lack of opportunity. Since her retirement from the Force, Kate is preparing herself to work towards making the kinds of change in our communities that work for everyone, including the poor. To this end, she focused on education, completing her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at the University of New Brunswick in 2015. She has started a second undergraduate degree in Economics, also at UNB; however, this is on hold while she completes the Business Administration – Accounting program at NBCC Fredericton. Kate has excelled at NBCC, currently holding a 4.3 GPA in the program and she is the recipient of a New Brunswick Community College Foundation Bursary. Kate's volunteer activities centred on developing food security because there is no hope where hunger lives. She volunteered as the Kitchen Coordinator at The Greener Village Community Food Centre and worked to procure the commercial kitchen license. She also developed several workshops about cooking and has

taught basic cooking skills to both Greener Village clients and at the NBCHG (New Brunswick Community Harvest Gardens) cooking workshops. She was also heavily involved in the production of the locally popular Roger's Community Television series "Budget Cuisine", which featured healthy, "home cooking" for people with limited money or time budgets. Kate continues to teach at The Greener Village when requested. Kate's contribution to the UTF team is her strong organizational and communications skills. She has committed to do bookkeeping for the UTF team until she graduates in June 2018. She's honoured to be part of the Steering Committee team because she believes that education is transformational for both individuals and communities. The Urban Teaching Farm combines community development, long-term economic security, job opportunities, and environmental stewardship into one project and that is just good business.

Sarah Weatherby

Sarah Weatherby is originally from Truro, Nova Scotia and moved to Fredericton, N.B. in 2010. Growing up in a community heavily involved with agriculture and with a landscaper father, she was soon lead to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where she completed her degree in Environmental Horticulture. Through her time at NSAC she was deeply involved with starting a community garden on campus that now produces enough food for the student body. After graduation she moved to Fredericton to complete a forest technician diploma from the Maritime College of Forest Technology (MCFT). She worked with the Canadian Forest Service before getting an instructor position at MCFT. She currently teaches five courses at the college. Sarah has joined the Urban Teaching farm to aid with curriculum development. Sarah is extremely passionate about small scale farming and knowing where your food comes from. Sarah currently resides on a 2.5 acre residence with an ever growing veggie garden and her true love, backyard chickens. Sarah and her husband raise both meat birds and laying hens along with their two children.

Steven McLaughlin

Born and raised on the outskirts of Pictou, Nova Scotia, Steven's passion for growing food began at a young age when he would help his parents grow a small garden each year in their backyard in the country. His love for gardening would continue later into his high school summer jobs where he was personally responsible for tending to three large gardens at a time, and ensuring their success. Steven finished at the top of his high school class, earning the Town of Pictou Gold Medal. Upon graduation, he moved to Halifax where he obtained a degree in Physics and Atmospheric Science from Dalhousie University. Steven then did a 180 from science and joined the business world, where he has since began a successful career as an accountant. With over two years of audit and advisory experience working for Deloitte on public, private, government, and NPO clients, he has passed the CFE exam and will receive his CPA designation

within the next few months. Having lived in Saint John for two years after University, Steven revisited his passion for growing food as he became a member of the Saint John Community Garden, donating the majority of his crops to Centenary Queen Square as well as his friends. He now resides in Fredericton, specifically in Devon, and lives close to the proposed site of the project's farm. He is actively involved with the community as he is also the treasurer for the Friends of the Fredericton Public Library, and a member of Active Fredericton's ultimate frisbee leagues. Steven is excited to use his experience and business acumen to help the UTF become successful.

Coordinating Staff

Claire May, Outreach Coordinator

Having grown up in Fredericton, Claire has a long-standing love for the city, and a deep commitment to New Brunswick's prosperity and future. In 2014, she became a homeowner in Devon – the proposed borough of the project's farm – and quickly fell in love with the community and location. At the UTF discussion table, she contributes insight re collaborative enterprise, the challenges of small-scale enterprise, and valuable knowledge of the province's food network, from producer to consumer. As a property owner in Devon, she also represents the concerns and perspective of the community. After achieving her diploma in Equine Business Management at Olds College, Claire was an integral part of the Real Food Connections (RFC) team between 2012 and 2016. As a program coordinator and account manager, she was committed to the RFC mandate to connect food producers and consumers (wholesale and retail) and create a viable and sustainable food network in our province. She has first-hand experience on the front lines of independent business; in-depth knowledge of food sovereignty initiatives and issues in New Brunswick; and boasts positive relationships with many in the agricultural industry, as well as the food and farming community: retailers, consumers, farmers, and food security advocates and organizations in Atlantic Canada. Claire loves to grow, make, and share food; has an avid interest in permaculture and bee-keeping practices; and plans to participate as a student in the UTF pilot year.