

Town of Trinity  
Box 42  
Trinity, NL A0C 2S0

July 7, 2020.

Dear residents,

Our town playground, currently consists of one small wooden play structure in disrepair and need of replacement; two teeter-totters; a tire swing, and three swing sets. Through a handful of grassroots initiatives by council and local families, we have already fund-raised over \$2000 towards a new playground, and have acquired a grant of \$9,000 towards the purchase of natural playground equipment. Council has budgeted some funds towards the playground for 2020. We hope that with financial and in-kind donations we can expand what is possible. We're seeking financial donations at this time, so that we can finalize a budget, and begin organizing.

In light of Trinity's heritage designation, we set about exploring natural playgrounds that might reflect our rich built heritage and encourage creative, natural play. I have been in conversation with John Bienenstock of [naturalplaygrounds.ca](http://naturalplaygrounds.ca) about creating a feature. To hire them to consult and design a playground generally requires a budget in excess of \$80,000. We feel that such a budget probably lies outside of what is feasible in a short time. That said, we have the opportunity to purchase Nature's Instruments natural playground equipment, and to hire local contractors to provide some of the landscaping involved. To see the kind of features they make, please visit [naturesinstruments.com](http://naturesinstruments.com). We hope to involve children residing in the area in the selection of playground features, and we will be in touch at a later date about that.

Part of creating a lasting and safe environment in which children can play involves creating adequate drainage and a soft landing, such as deep mulch, under the play structures; and placing sliding features on a landscaped hill that minimizes the likelihood of a fall. By separating play areas for the smallest children from those designed for school-aged children, we can further improve safety. For more information on the safety of natural playgrounds, please visit: <https://www.naturalplaygrounds.ca/design/safety-and-compliance> Which equipment we choose, will affect the landscaping required. Maybe you're in a position to assist in the excavation or provision of fill/mulch/drainage and/or installation? We'll be looking for in-kind donations once we've chosen the equipment and know what's required to prepare the site.

As our playground lies in the centre of town, where all community events take place, we would like to create a welcoming gathering place for residents and visitors alike. We hope to provide a peaceful place for people of all ages to sit and reflect, while offering creative play opportunities that will excite children of all ages. We consider this a long-term investment in both the quality of life of residents and in building our tourism industry by growing family-friendly attractions. In the age of Covid-19, living outdoors helps to reduce the risk of spread. Our children are really feeling the social isolation and absence of play. We hope to create something magical for them.

We hope that you'll join our efforts to create a special place for play in the heart of Trinity. Please contact Karen at [councillor@eastlink.ca](mailto:councillor@eastlink.ca) if you wish to be part of our committee, or have ideas for fund-raising events. If you are willing to provide financial or in-kind donations, please contact Linda at the town council office at [counciltrinity@netscape.net](mailto:counciltrinity@netscape.net) or 709-464-3836.

With thanks,

Karen Huys  
Councillor & Playground Committee chair