



# Around *the* Block



Issue 56 December 2017 & January 2018 • sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com •

## Seniors celebrate the holiday season



Seniors' Dance

The City of Saint John and the Department of Social Development (Housing) hosted a seniors' Christmas party and dance at Lily Lake Pavilion on Monday night, November 27. Groups from several community organizations enjoyed the beautifully decorated pavilion and an evening of music provide by Delbert and refreshments provide by the City and Social Development.

The smiles and laughter put everyone in the holiday mood.



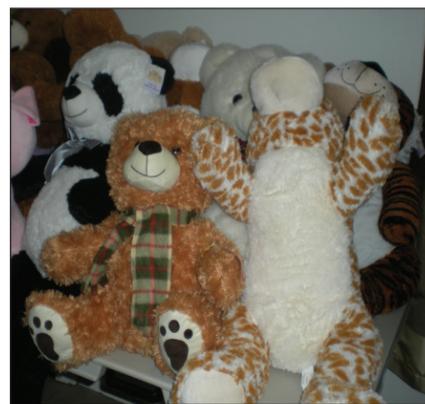
## Annual Sea Dogs Teddy Bear Toss

by Juanita Black

Every year around the end of November or the first of December the Saint John Sea Dogs hold a Teddy Bear Toss night. This year it was Saturday night, November 25th. Through the coordination of Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, Andree Stephen (Saint John Sea Dogs), Juanita Black (Saint John Human Development Council) and Mark Burnett (Saint John Hyundai) the planning all came together.

After the Sea Dogs score their first goal, the fans were encouraged to throw new or loved teddy bears on the ice. Two junior teams, one from KV hockey and one from Hampton, picked up the bears and loaded them in all the cars from Hyundai. The Hyundai volunteers took the teddy bears to waiting volunteers from the Crescent Valley Community Tenants Association, where the bears were packed for community groups in the five priority neighbourhoods for a Sunday pickup. By Monday noon all the bears were distributed in time for area Christmas parties.

Thank you, Sea Dogs fans, for approximately 1000 bears and a lot of smiles for local children for the holiday season.



**Coordinator's Comments** Juanita Black, 647-4850, sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

Welcome to issue 56 of *Around the Block* and our annual "Holiday Traditions" issue. As we celebrate the diversity of our communities and our city, I hope you enjoy the many stories throughout this issue.

I am lucky that I have the support of our community partners who supply good news stories to our newspaper all year long. I am very grateful for their help each and every issue.

As we relax during this holiday time of the year, let's think of the people who need our help: not only during this time of the year but all year long.

## Proud Sponsors of Around The Block



Human Development Council



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Ensemble pour vaincre la pauvreté Overcoming Poverty Together



Old North End • Old North End

## Christmas dinner

by **Christa Petts**

When we think of the holidays, we think of spending time with family and friends. For many, though, this isn't possible, whether families are away or sadly, in some cases, people don't have families to share the holidays.

We here at ONE Change decided to make a special dinner on Christmas Day. With the leadership of Barry Galloway, many friends and volunteers come together to try to brighten up and bring cheer to those who don't have family to share with.



Thank you to all who give their time to make Christmas what it should be: a gathering for all.

## Merry Christmas volunteers



Some of our many volunteers at the Nicole Nicolle Community Centre (picture courtesy NNCC)

by **Carrie Griffin**

We here at the ONE Change/Nick Nicolle Community Center would like to thank all our after-school program staff and volunteers. We could not do it without you all. The dedication you all show to our kids is simply amazing, from the crafts that you make to all the fresh baking you guys do. Game time in the gym always leaves the kids with smiles on their faces.

We just want to say "thank you." Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hoping to see you in the New Year!



**Trevor Holder**  
MLA Portland - Simonds

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Hours: Mon: 8 am - 4 pm, Tues: 9 am - 1 pm,  
Wed: Closed, Thur: 9 am - 1 pm, Fri: Closed



## Scrooge story time

by **Christa Petts**

Last year, we had started a new tradition here at ONE Change. Under the Direction of Barry Galloway, a group of volunteers came up with their own version of "Scrooge." It was a hit. We first had our Christmas tree lighting and then met back at the Centre. We had hot chocolate and a fun night watching the play. MLA Trevor Holder came and joined us for this wonderful event.



Barry Galloway watches as the children read the Scrooge story (picture courtesy NNCC)

Our volunteers are amazing and are so supportive of all we do here at ONE Change. The best thing is we have fun doing it.

## Christmas tree lighting

by **Christa Petts**

One of our favorite events here at ONE Change to kick off the holiday season is our Christmas tree lighting. Every year MLA Trevor Holder give us a beautiful tree to put on display in Victoria Park. Last year we had an amazing choir, The Men of Fundy, who sang Christmas carols. The Mayor, MP Wayne Long, and Council members were all here to celebrate with our community.

This year we held our Christmas tree lighting on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. After, we returned to the Centre for a night of entertainment and hot chocolate.



## North end connector

Tanya, the Community Connector, works with folks living in the North End by making connections to programs and services, plus helping set goals. A client recently said that she had no idea of the amount of help available to her, and that her self-esteem had increased since working with Tanya and other support she was connected to. Call Tanya at 651-2705.

A holiday tradition for Tanya and her family comes from her Czech heritage. The Christmas celebration is held the night of Dec. 24th, with a delicious fish dinner (no turkey!), the arrival of Santa, Czech carols, and a real tree trimmed with candles and sparklers- don't try this at home. Merry Christmas, or VeseléVánoce!



## North Neighbourhood Contact

Christa Petts  
christa.onec@gmail  
Nick Nicolle Community Centre  
85 Durham Street  
658-2980





South End • South End

## Comings And Goings At P.U.L.S.E. Inc.



Christmas tree lighting has returned to the south end. Continue to watch our Facebook page to look for the up-to-date flyer for the tree lighting. Join us for some caroling in the south end and some yummy baked cookies, courtesy of South End Lions Club. I can hardly wait.

Registered Nurse Kathy London-Anthony will be at P.U.L.S.E. to address your health needs on Friday, January 5, 2018; and, February 2, 2018 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Please remember our monthly Food Purchase Club Money is due January 12, 2018 and February 9, 2018 and comes back to you the following Friday. We have \$15 and \$25 orders available. We even have a 'Pay it Forward' option where you can provide a single person, a couple, or a family with fresh fruits and vegetables.

We are always looking for volunteers. Come in and talk to me and see what you can do to help your neighbourhood.

Remember our office hours are as follows: Monday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m. -1p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 9 a.m. -1p.m.; and, Friday 9 a.m. -2.p.m.

Sgt. David Hartley-Brown can be reached at 648-3700 or [david.hartley-brown@saintjohn.ca](mailto:david.hartley-brown@saintjohn.ca).

## Christmas in my country



By: *Hepzibah Muñoz Martínez*

In Mexico, piñatas are part of Christmas traditions. A piñata is an object made out of paper or clay decorated with papier-mâché, which is filled with candy. A blindfolded person hits the piñata.

Piñatas came to Mexico after the Spanish conquest in the late 1400s when Spaniard priests used them to convince the indigenous to convert to Catholicism. The original piñata cones attached to a spherical shape and each cone represented a vice such as envy or gluttony. The blindfold represents faith. The hitting of the piñata represents the human struggle against temptation.

While the creation of piñatas started as a way of forcing indigenous communities to adopt European beliefs, now they are part of the fun of Christmas celebrations in Mexico.



## Community Police Christmas tips

by Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, Saint John Police Force, Community Response Unit

Online shopping

Beware of the "a good deal" scams.

Things are not always what they appear to be.

Before surfing the internet, secure your personal computers by updating security software.

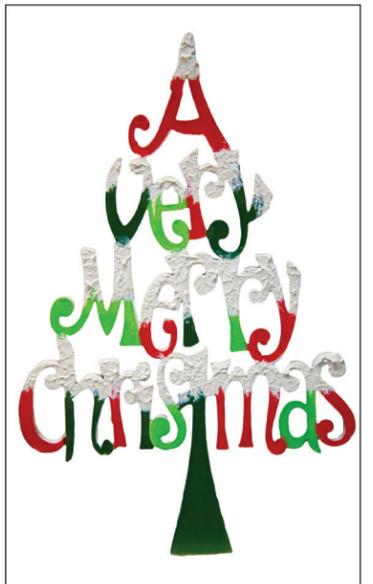
Keep your personal information private and your passwords secure.

When ordering on-line use a credit card instead of a debit card. It is much easier to cancel a credit card if an account number is illegally obtained.

Be cautious of e-mails claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Always run a virus scan on attachment before opening.

Always compare the link in the e-mail to the web address link you are directed to and determine if they match.

Log on directly to the official Web site for the business identified in the e-mail, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.



## P.U.L.S.E. TREE LIGHTING



**WHEN: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13**  
**WHERE: PULSE BUILDING 251 WENTWORTH @ 6 PM**  
**JOIN US FOR CAROLLING THROUGH THE SOUTH END**  
**WE WILL HAVE COOKIES!!**



## South Neighbourhood Contact

Mary LeSage Phone: 632-6807  
E-mail: [pulseinc@bellaliant.com](mailto:pulseinc@bellaliant.com)  
251 Wentworth Street





Crescent Valley • Crescent Valley

## Christmas in Crescent Valley



Santa and his helpers Nancy Savoie and Janet McLaughlin (picture courtesy Richard Northrop)

by Richard Northrop

The Crescent Valley Community Tenants Association has its own traditions each year. We put on two Christmas parties: one is for the children ages one to 15, and one is for the adults. We go out and buy gifts for all the children and ask parents to bring either sandwiches or sweets to the party. We even have Santa Claus make an appearance to hand out the gifts to the children.

What makes it all worth it is the smiles on all the children and their shouts of gleeful delight. For our Adult Christmas Social, we ask every adult to bring a \$10 gift so that everyone leaves with a nice Christmas gift. The highlight of the night is the wonderful abundance of food, Christmas music, and enjoying the Christmas spirit of a community coming together to share fun, laughter, and fellowship.

## Crafts and conversation

by Crescent Valley Resource Centre

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre invites you to join us for fun and crafts. Share your knowledge and learn new skills. Try crochet, knitting, sewing, cooking, and more. Help new neighbours practice English, and help others learn. Join us on Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at CVRC, 130 MacLaren Boulevard. Want to help with a craft or volunteer with English conversation? Call 693-8513.

Thank you to our partner, Saint John Multicultural Newcomer Resource Centre, and the volunteers.

## Christmas traditions from CFUW SJ

by Ann Barrett

The Saint John Club of CFUW has made it a Christmas tradition to donate to the Crescent Valley Resource Centre. This is the seventh year they have presented them with hats, mitts, scarfs, pyjamas, socks, and winter jackets as well as over \$200 to help with their Christmas celebration.



some of the many winter goods that were donated. (picture courtesy Anne Driscoll)

CFUW is a national and international organization that believes women working together can ensure that all girls and women can have equal opportunities and access to quality education within a peaceful and secure environment where their human rights are respected. All are welcome and are eligible to join.

For more information visit [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org).

## STEAM at the CVRC

The Saint John Free Public Library staff will be at the Crescent Valley Resource Centre to host a STEAM event for children ages six to 12 year on Wednesday, December 20th, 3- 4 p.m. Library staff will read stories as well as host fun and educational games and activities. This event is a free literacy program incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). Also, yummy snacks and drinks will be provided!

Registration is required so either swing by the CVRC at 130 McLaren Boulevard to register or call 693-8513. Space is limited, so if this event is full you may be placed on a waiting list.

## Holiday Traditions in the Middle East

يشارك المسلمون في العراق جيرانهم المسيحيين في الإحتفالات كل عام. وتتركز هذه الإحتفالات عادة في العاصمة بغداد، كما ازدادت مؤخراً في مدن شمال ووسط البلاد. ولأول مرة، كتبت الصحف العراقية اسم العراق بالاقتران مع الإحتفالات وأجواء الفرح بعد سنوات من ارتباطها بأخبار الحرب والتدمير والصراع المدني والسياسي. قد يكون هذا العام مقدمة متفائلة للعراقيين والعالم. يتم حالياً شراء أشجار عيد الميلاد من قبل العائلات العراقية، أشجار عيد الميلاد معروضة على الأرصفة و واجهات المحلات. وهو مصدر للفرح والتفاؤل في أبسط أشكاله، وهو فرصة للاقتراب والتأكيد على وحدة المجتمع. تضع الأسر الزينة في كل مكان، داخل منازلها وخارجها، في الأحياء والمدن العراقية، وحتى الفقيرة منها. ناظم منصور/ منسق مساهمة مجتمعية/ مركز موارد كريستنت فالي.

by Nadhim Mansoor, Community Engagement Coordinator, Crescent Valley Resource Centre

Muslims in Iraq participate in celebrations with their Christian neighbours every year. These celebrations are usually in the capital, Baghdad, and recently also grew in the cities of north and central part of the country. For the first time, the Iraqi newspapers have written Iraq's name along with celebrations and atmosphere of joy, after years of being associated with news of war, destruction, and civil and political struggle. This year may be a positive introduction to the Iraqis and the world.

Christmas trees are now being bought by Iraqi families, and sidewalks and storefronts have Christmas trees on display. It is a source of joy and optimism in its simplest form, and it is an opportunity to draw closer and emphasize the unity of society. Families place decorations everywhere, inside and outside their homes, in Iraqi neighbourhoods and cities, even the poorest ones.

**SAINT JOHN SEA DOGS**  
PROUD COMMUNITY SUPPORTER

## Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

Anne Driscoll: 693-8513  
email: [CVRC.driscoll@gmail.com](mailto:CVRC.driscoll@gmail.com)  
130 MacLaren Blvd.





## Christmas tradition at Danells Drive

by Wendy Coughlin

Traditions are numerous during the holiday season. My favorite is our Christmas tree trimming tea held on the first Sunday in December. We encourage everyone to take part in the decorating. A lot of our ornaments are handmade by residents.

During the decorating we share stories from previous Christmases. We have tea and cookies while we decorate. At the base of the tree we have a railroad track with a train which encircles the tree. We use this day to do our name exchange for gifts for those who wish to participate. This is a day which puts us in the holiday spirit.



Wendy and a student doing crafts  
(picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

## Westside P.A.C.T. PJ drive



Getting the bags ready for the children  
(picture courtesy Julie Baribault)

by Anna James

One of our very favourite Christmas traditions here at the Westside P.A.C.T. is our annual PJ drive. We have amazing volunteers, friends, family and community partners and together we have been able to provide warm, cozy pajamas, toiletries, homemade mittens, hats and socks, and in most cases a little toy to many of the children from our area. We are always amazed at the outpouring of help we receive.

We would like to say a big thank you to Larry King at Lancaster Mall, Hillcrest Village Knitters Club, Atlantic Rehab, Market Place Wellness, and Stacey Galbraith and friends along with a lot of individuals out there for making this a reality for the children every year.

## Sobey's star of Christmas



Students from Seaside Park Elementary School  
(picture courtesy Krista Turnbull)

by Krista Turnbull, Community Schools Coordinator, Seaside Park Elementary

What an exciting day for the newly formed Seaside Park Elementary School choir! We were invited by Sobey's West to perform the "Star of Christmas" with a group of their employees today. This song has become such a Maritime favourite, gaining even more attention the past year with its updated video. We were so thrilled to be invited to perform this song for a competition in the Maritimes.

Thanks so much to the management and staff of Sobey's West for the opportunity and the yummy cookie decorating party that followed.

## Market Place Wellness updates

Market Place Wellness Centre, Carleton Community Centre

674-4335, 120 Market Place - Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m-3:30 p.m.

- Specimen Collection Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Appointments only. Call: 648-6681
- Food Bank fall and winter hours commence Tuesday, Sept. 5 back to twice a week Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Smoking Cessation Program, call 674-4335 for an appointment
- Fundy Fog Chasers meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. Runners and walkers welcome. No charge to participate. There is a site on Facebook.
- Food Purchase Club (Clients pays for their bag of fresh produce, once a month) 674-4335 for information.
- Social Development Case worker on site Tuesday 1- 3 p.m., or by appointment
- Senior led fitness program/ Falls Prevention ages 50 and up, "Zoomers" free. Tuesdays 10 a.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. and Fridays 11 a.m. All participants must be have an initial assessment. 674-4335
- Gentle Yoga, fall and winter hours, Monday and Thursdays 10 a.m.
- Pickle Ball Tuesdays, 11 a.m., contact Mike 672-9566
- Line Dancing Mondays 10 a.m. \$\$
- Community Garden Plots - Registration in 2018.
- 2 Nurse Practitioners, by appointment only
- Social Worker/Dietitian/ Counselling by appointment - 674-4335
- Art Class (goodwill offering) - contact: kimmy.cookson@gmail.com



**Dorothy Shephard**  
**MLA Saint John Lancaster**  
 640 Manawagonish Road  
 Saint John, NB E2M 3W5  
*Constituency Office is located  
 at side of building facing Church*  
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 Fax: (506) 643-2999  
 Dorothy.Shephard@gnb.ca  
 www.gnb.ca

## West Neighbourhood Contacts

Jill.Roberts@HorizonNB.ca  
 120 Market Place 674-4307

or

Anna James  
 672-0226

westsidepact@bellaliant.com





*The Village • The Village*

## History of Salvation Army Kettle

*by Shelly McCreedy, Community Ministries Coordinator, Family & Community Services*

In San Francisco, 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee wanted to help the poor for the Christmas. He remembered, during his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, seeing a large kettle called "Simpson's Pot" where passengers of boats tossed coins to help the poor.

Captain McFee placed a pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing with a sign that read "Keep the Pot Boiling". He collected enough donations to have a Christmas dinner for many.

Today, the familiar kettles are seen in more than 2,000 locations across Canada. For more than 130 years the annual Christmas Kettle Campaign has been a great way for people to help others in need in Saint John through the work of The Salvation Army. Please give generously. If you want to man a kettle call Maxena at 634-1633.



*Darcy & Mikka Williams manning a kettle at Sobey's West (picture courtesy Shelly McCreedy)*

## Black book at Giant Tiger



*Left - right Gary Flanagan and Juanita Black with the black book (picture courtesy Janelle Flanagan)*

*by Gary Flanagan, Program Coordinator, Saint John Community Loan Fund*

The Black Book has hit the shelves at the Prince Edward Street Giant Tiger and the Impact Market in the Social Enterprise Hub. For the price of a large coffee you can use this simple pocket sized notebook to track your expenses for a whole month. We've been using it with our Money Matter\$ participants to help them budget and reach their financial goals.

As we say, "Track It So You Know It". As we approach Christmas this would be a great tool to keep you on track and what a great stocking stuffer.

## Gerry Lowe Councillor Ward 3

I am your Councillor for Ward 3. Parts of the Lower West Side, Lower South End, and parts of the East side and a bit of the North by the Rockland Road area.

I can be reached by phone at 721-5690 and by email at [Gerry.Lowe@saintjohn](mailto:Gerry.Lowe@saintjohn).



## Boys and Girls Club holiday schedule



*Santa with top left - Ruca MacDonald and bottom right Khya Beddow (picture courtesy Amanda Downey)*

*by Amanda Downey*

'Tis the season again at the Saint John Boys & Girls Club. Our annual Lunch Program Christmas Party will be taking place Wednesday, December 20 with a visit from Santa. This is followed by a Christmas Dance Party on Friday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m. kicking off our Christmas season at the Club.

The Club will be open for Child Care from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. December 27, 28, 29 and from January 2-5, but we will be closed for Evening Youth Program from December 27 to January 8.

## Options Outreach celebration tree

*by Crystal Wylie*

Each year Options Employment Outreach Inc. assists hundreds of people living with disabilities in their search for employment. Our employment counsellors help with career decision making, job readiness skills, resume preparation, interview techniques, job search and survival skills, and more.

In December of each year Options puts up a Christmas tree to celebrate our clients' successes. In recognition of their hard work, each person who has become employed or attends a post-secondary institution since January has their name written on a gift tag which is then hung from the tree. Our clients love this tradition!



## Village Neighbourhood Contact

**Penni Eisenhauer 647-8047**  
[commorg.penni@gmail.com](mailto:commorg.penni@gmail.com)

**Saint John Learning Exchange**  
**139 Prince Edward Street**





**Partnering from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Beyond**

- Partnerships
- Volunteering
- Mentoring
- Role Models
- Coaching
- Focus on Literacy
- Having Fun
- Tutoring
- Breakfast/Lunch Programs
- New Opportunities
- After School Programs

Deborah Fisher  
fisher.deborah@jdirdirving.com



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- Career Exploration
- Making a Difference

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Susan Tipper  
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**We ALL have something to offer!**



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**We ALL have something to offer!**

Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities

## Husky holiday traditions



Left - right Kyra Garnett and Aiden  
(picture courtesy Jen Brown)

**by Jen Brown, Community Schools Coordinator, Hazen-White/St. Francis School**

At Hazen-White/St Francis we have our annual Christmas Dinner that dates back over a decade. It is a way for our students, staff, volunteers, and partners to come together and celebrate the holidays. We have experimented with many dishes from turkeys, to ham, and now falafel! Our wonderful partners, Stewart McKelvey, always support our dinner and serve our students with a big, cheerful smile! We are also lucky enough to get a visit from a very special guest. Santa himself makes his way from the North Pole to spend the morning with our students.

Happy Holidays from Husky Nation!

## Holiday season at PES

**by Katherine Miller, Community Schools Coordinator, Princess Elizabeth School**

Christmas is an exciting and busy time of year at Princess Elizabeth School (PES)! Our Christmas traditions include a Christmas Bazaar, a Christmas Breakfast, a visit from Mr. Santa Claus, a concert, and much more!

Our students and staff each have their own traditions as well. One of our students says she can't wait to go to her grandparents' every Christmas eve to open gifts! Another student says he makes Christmas cookies with his family! Many of our staff say they remember putting strings of popcorn up as decorations and many of them enjoy watching their children open gifts on Christmas morning.

Old Christmas traditions are the best, but we always enjoy making new traditions too!



## SJBKE tradition

**by Ben Gillcrist, Community Schools Coordinator, St. John the Baptist/King Edward School**

As the holidays approach, we at Saint John the Baptist / King Edward School (SJBKE) are most fortunate in the indulgences provided to us by our wonderful community partners. Many of these associations are of long standing, and perhaps the most anticipated of these entrenched traditions is the 'Hot Holiday Breakfast' provided to our school by Irving Oil. Taken all in all, this is a remarkable event!

The breakfast always occurs the first full week of December, usually on Wednesday or Thursday morning. Never is the school so busy as early as on this day - our amazing cadre of Irving Oil Volunteers are on site at 6:30 a.m. to begin preparations, including gym set up, cooking, and all other sundry requirements. It is remarkable to watch these wonderful (and experienced) people transform a bare space into a warm and inviting breakfast, ready to serve the entire school by the time classes begin.

This moment is much more than a meal - it is a chance for our students and staff to enjoy time with our amazing partners, who anticipate the event as much as we do - and really kick off the holiday season. Irving Oil graciously provides gift bags for every student, and Santa Claus himself finds time to come every year. It is these many threads woven together that always make this day so special, among our warmest and most beloved SJBKE traditions.

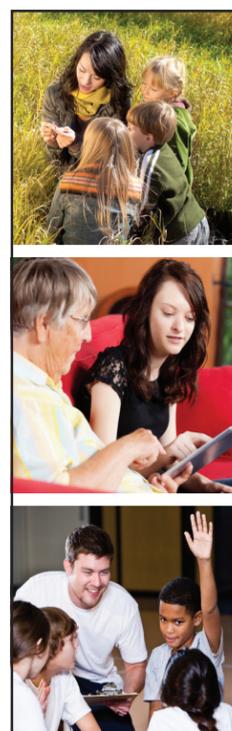
## Holiday season begins at 300 Union



The holiday season has begun at 300 Union Street!

The holiday season really begins at the Irving Building at 300 Union Street when visitors from their PALS at Prince Charles School (PCS) arrive to decorate the Christmas tree in the front lobby and paint the window on the lower level! The children and staff at PCS make hand-made ornaments with a different theme each year . . . there is always lots of anticipation to see what the theme will be. This year the theme was "Cookies and Candies"! It was a yummy theme for sure! What wonderful ambassadors the children were – they were definitely PCS monarchs! Mrs. Doyle and the PCS Staff and parents should be very proud!

**Submitted by  
PALS for PCS at JDI**



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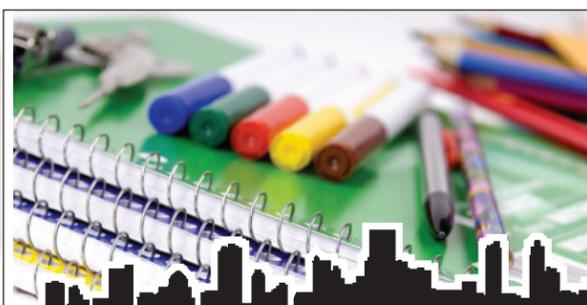
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**We ALL have something to offer!**



Community Notices • *Community Notices* • Community Notices • *Community Notices* • Community Notices

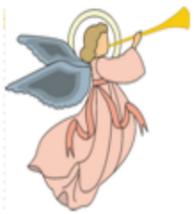
### Sea Belles - Christmas concerts



- Date: Tuesday, December 13 Time: 7-8 p.m.  
Event: Sea Belles A Cappella Chorus FREE Christmas Performance will entertain residents, families, and staff, with seasonal a cappella music. Come share the holiday spirit! Location: Rocmaura Nursing Home & Ruth Ross Residence
- Date: Sunday, December 17 Time: 10:30-11 a.m. Event: Sea Belles A Cappella Chorus FREE Christmas Performance will entertain Patrons and staff at Romero House with seasonal a cappella music as they enjoy their complimentary Christmas Dinner. Location: Romero House, 647 Brunswick Dr, Saint John, NB E2L 3S9
- Date: Thursday, December 21 Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Event: Sea Belles A Cappella Chorus on stage with Tomato Tomato  
Description: Sea Belles are guest performers with Tomato Tomato on the Saint John stop of their Maritime Christmas Tour, featuring one a cappella Christmas melody, as well as providing "backup" for one song of this favourite talented Saint John music duo.  
Location: Imperial Theatre, 12 King Street S, Saint John.

On behalf of Msgr. Henneberry, staff and parishioners of St. Pius X Parish, We wish you the joys of the Christmas season, a time when we celebrate the "reason for the season"

Christ Among Us.



**Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

#### CHRISTMAS MUSICAL "Sing Gloria"

Cornerstone Choir, Solos, Trio, Mixed Quartet & Vocal Ensemble  
SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 6:30 PM & SUNDAY, DEC.10 AT 11 AM  
**AND** at Erbs Cove Baptist Church on SATURDAY, DEC. 16 AT 3 PM

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE**—SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 11 AM

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** —SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 7:00 PM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE** —SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 11 AM

Your neighbours since 1854



## Sisters of Charity

of the Immaculate Conception

[www.sistersofcharityic.com](http://www.sistersofcharityic.com)

RiverCross Church would like to wish the people living in Saint John's priority neighbourhoods God's joy and blessing during this Christmas season. We are proud to call each one of you our neighbour and our friend!

[www.rivercrosschurch.ca](http://www.rivercrosschurch.ca)





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## Seniors Wellness Fair



Members of Seniors Wellness Fair committee  
(picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

**by Debbie McLeod, Community Involvement Coordinator, Social Development (Housing)**

Thank you to all who volunteered, attended, supported our eighth Senior Wellness Fair and Clinic which was sponsored by Jean Coutu. The event was held on Friday Nov 3rd at Portland United Church. We had well over 200 seniors attend the event, 36-plus vendors, health clinic, balance room, healthy snacks, free flu shots, door prizes and much, much more!

The feedback was wonderful and we look forward to doing it again in 2018!



## Season's greeting



The Executive members of the Stephenson Tower and Charlton Place Tenants Association would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and Happy New Year.

## Saint John SPCA Animal Rescue

**by Joan Richardson, Shelter Manager**

The holiday season is on its way and there's much to do. Make it a new tradition if it isn't one already by making sure your home is safe for your pets.

Secure your Christmas tree so pets can't knock it over. Try to keep Christmas lights and electrical chords hidden because they can deliver a shock if bitten. Toss the tinsel. Cats are especially attracted to tinsel but it can harm your pet if swallowed. To avoid your pet from having an upset digestive system, don't share your leftover holiday feast with your pets. Instead, choose healthy pet-specific treats.

Holiday party noise could cause anxiety for your pet. Make sure your pet always has a quiet space during the celebrations.



**JOYEUSES  
FÊTES!**

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**



**Merry Christmas**

&

**Best Wishes for a safe and happy 2018**

From the

**Directors & Staff of the  
Saint John Exhibition Association**

&

**Exhibition Park Bingo**





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## Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John



**by Judy Murphy, Executive Director**

Mothers at Nova Institution for Women in Truro experienced an early holiday season when four Elizabeth Fry volunteers brought 15 bins filled with children's books. Mothers in the Read Aloud Program read and recorded three books for each of their children. The volunteers packed the van with carefully labelled books and recordings and headed home to mail in time for the holiday season.

This program for incarcerated women helps strengthen the mother-child relationship and encourages a love of reading. One mother shared, "[connection] is THE thing...reading is important.... It has such a good impact on their good lives. But the connection is vital for girls on the inside [prison]. And, you just know how happy it is making the kids that miss you."

## Gift wrapping and Kiwanis calendars

**by Tom Gallant, Past President, Kiwanis Club of Saint John**

The Kiwanis Club of Saint John begins its Annual Gift Wrapping and 2018 Kiwanis Cash Calendar sales on Saturday, December 2nd at McAllister Mall. The booth will be open mall hours from December 2nd to December 24th and is located near the entrance of the former Sears store.

Come and bring you gifts for wrapping and check out our 2018 Kiwanis Cash Calendar. Hope to see you during the festive season ahead. Anyone interested in volunteering for gift wrapping should contact Mark at 639-0627.



## Yalda night in Iran



**by Reza Zarif (Mr. Zarif)**

Yalda Night is one of the oldest Iranian celebrations. The celebration is celebrated as the longest night of the year followed by the growing days in the Northern Hemisphere, which coincided with the Winter Revolution. Yalda Night is considered one of the holy nights. Yalda means birth. It is the birth of the sun. Yalda is said to be between sunset on December 30 (last day of fall) to dawn on the first day of the winter.

In ancient Persia, Yalda officially appeared in the ancient Iranian calendar from 502 BC during the reign of King Darius and is still in the official Iranian calendar. The longest and darkest night of the year is a time when friends and family gather together to eat, drink and read poetry (especially Hafez). Also commonplace is the storytelling of family elders for other members of the family until well after midnight.

Iranian families on Yalda Night usually provide a delicious dinner, as well as various types of fruits and most commonly pomegranates and watermelons. The red color is the symbol of sunlight and it is cherished.

The SJICO (Saint John Iranian Community) celebrates the glorious Yalda celebration every year.



Play the same number every week



\$2 to play per week  
Pre-pay by calling the club or stopping in



Deadline to pay is 9am Thursday into the green boxes and 10am Friday at the Club



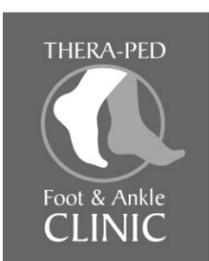
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goldrush@sjclub.ca

www.sjclub.com



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## Social Development at a glance



Left - right Kevin Clark, Dan Cameron, Brian Marks  
(picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

**by Debbie McLeod, Community Involvement Coordinator, Social Development (Housing)**

The above picture features three people who work for Social Development and who commit so much of their time making life hopeful for people. In this picture, we were celebrating staff service awards which are awarded to staff who have worked for the Department in increments of five years.

We would like to recognize Dan Cameron, Regional Director for Social Development, for all the work he has done leading our department with passion and forward thinking. Dan has helped make a difference in many people's lives. We wish you, Dan, a wonderful, healthy retirement. You will be missed.

We would also like to congratulate Brian Marks who will be in an acting role as Regional Director starting in the new year. Congratulations, Brian.

## Congratulations Erin Kelly



Erin Kelly  
(picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

**by Debbie McLeod, Community Involvement Coordinator, Social Development (Housing)**

I just want to thank and congratulate Erin Kelly who is graduating in December with her Social Work degree from the University of Victoria. Erin has completed her practicum with Social Development Saint John and will be starting her career with Horizon Health in 2018.

Erin has made many connections and has formed many relationships during her three months with SD. She has participated in many events and has taken the lead on many community projects. Erin has gone way beyond her practicum requirements and has made a huge difference in her short time working with SD. Thank you, Erin, for being so supportive, enthusiastic, kind and knowledgeable.

We are so happy you are staying in Saint John to work and that you can continue to work in the community contributing so much knowledge and support.



**The First Friend initiative is designed to create a natural, unique friendship with a newcomer in Saint John, while assisting them in adjusting to life in Canada and encouraging them to become independent. Share your time and talents for 2 hours each week and help to build healthy communities!**

Contact us today!

**646-2396**



## Sharing the ingredients for eating together: **Breaking Bread**

On Sunday October 29th, the Fundy Wellness Network hosted a community dinner at the HMCS Brunswicker called "Breaking Bread". Over 200 participants attended; some were families, some were individuals, and some were friends attending the dinner together. Inspired by the #EatTogether Loblaw campaign, Breaking Bread was about getting people to have a meal together (with no phones!) and making conversation. Special guests, mayors, Riptides players amongst others were each assigned a table with talking cards to help engage people in conversation. Soon there was laughter, people connecting and making new friends, and it was overall a very enjoyable evening which included live music from the KV Country Band. The Fundy Wellness Network hopes that this event will encourage more people to purposefully make time with their family to eat together and be present with each other.

The Wellness Movement is growing in New Brunswick! Stay up to date about events happening near you! Have a look at the wellness events calendar at [wellnessNB.ca](http://wellnessNB.ca)

New Brunswick





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## Neighbourhood playgroup calendar

*There is a free playgroup for Parents/Caregivers and Children 0-5 in your neighbourhood!!*

*2 hours of play – crafts – snacks – stories – songs*

*Come meet other Parents and Children*

*No pre-registration required*

<b>Tuesday</b>	10 am - noon Family Resource Centre 211 Wentworth St. 633-2182	10 am - noon Seaside Park Elementary School 627 Havelock St. 633-2182
<b>Wednesday</b>	10 am - noon Family Resource Centre 211 Wentworth St. 633-2182	10 am - noon Glen Falls School 10 Princess Court 633-2182
<b>Thursday</b>	10 am - noon Family Resource Centre 211 Wentworth St. 633-2182	10 am - noon Crescent Valley Resource Centre 130 McLaren Blvd. 693-9057/693-8513
<b>Friday</b>	9:30 am – 11:30 am Hazen White-Saint Francis School 538 Sandy Point Road 693-9057	



*For more information call the number for the playgroup*

*closest to you!!*



## NPC calling it a day



After 20 years of working with community groups across Saint John, the Neighbourhood Police Council Inc. has decided to disband. The group met in November for the last time and shared many memories from over the years.

Front row left - right: secretary Richard Northorp, vice chair Tena Gaunce, treasurer Chris Pyne, chairperson Fred DeWitt. Back row left – right: Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, Dawn LeBlanc, Ron Dykeman, Don LeBlanc, Brenda Northorp, Janet McLaughlin and Juanita Black. Picture taken by Linda Scott.

## YMCA Peace Week



*by Nicole Vair, Associate Communications Coordinator*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the YMCA Peace Medal and since 1987 more than 1,900 medals have been handed out across the country. On Friday, November 24th, the YMCA of Greater Saint John celebrated two extraordinary peacemakers in our community. Reham Abazid and Li Song both received a medallion at the YMCA Peace Breakfast.

During Peace Week our community members came together to celebrate and share what peace means to them. Local youth performed at the Saint John Regional Y Youth Coffee House and people expressed what peace meant to them on the Y's peace tree.

## COMMUNITY MEALS ON WHEELS SAINT JOHN INC.

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- ✓ Hot Meal Home Delivery Monday-Friday at Noontime
- ✓ Frozen Meal Program – 30 Varieties Available as well as selections for all Dietary Needs – Gluten Free, Renal, Minced, etc.
- ✓ A low cost of \$7.00 per meal – **some clients may qualify for assistance** through the Long Term Care Program or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL MEALS ON WHEELS**

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**AND MORE!**

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## Helping you wrap up your holiday checklist



left - right Britney Andrews & Kim Fawkes  
(picture courtesy Rhoda Welshman)

by Rhoda J Welshman, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

"Shop local," they say. It's never been easier! Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John is here to help with the holiday mayhem! When your legs are tired, your back is aching and you begin to feel like there's so much left to do, drop your gifts off at the Holiday Gift Wrapping station located on the second level of Brunswick Square. Friendly staff and volunteers will wrap and package your gifts while you take a break! Beginning December 11th, we'll be folding and trimming with ribbons and bows.

For more information or to volunteer, call 635-1145 or email: Laurie.Collins@BigBrothersBigSisters.ca

## Sudoku puzzle

3			8		7		9	
	1	7	2					
4		8			6			
7	4		5				1	2
	2		7	6	9		4	
8	3				1		5	6
			6			5		7
					2	8	3	
	7		9		5			1

Puzzle by websudoku.com

answer is on page 14

## CMHA information



### WINTER / SPRING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

#### Depression: Help Can Make a Difference

Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This six-week program is designed for individuals who have been diagnosed with depression. A trained facilitator and health care professionals discuss issues that relate to depression, including information on symptoms, treatment options, coping strategies and community resources.

#### Hope & Healing: Coping with the Suicide of a Loved One

March 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This ten-week program is for individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. A trained facilitator and health care professionals offer information on the grieving process, self-care, coping strategies and community resources.

#### Understanding Anxiety & Panic Disorder

Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This eight-week program for individuals who have been diagnosed with generalized anxiety and / or panic disorders. A trained facilitator and health care professionals discuss issues related to anxiety and panic disorders, including information on symptoms, treatment options, coping strategies and community resources.

#### Building Assertiveness Skills

Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This six-week program is designed to teach women how to stand up for their personal rights - expressing thoughts, feelings and beliefs in direct, honest and appropriate ways while still respecting the thoughts, feelings and beliefs of others.

#### Mindfulness

Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This six-week skill-based program is designed to teach individuals the benefits and practices of mindfulness and how to focus on the art of living deeply in the present moment. Participants will learn how to practice mindfulness to calm the mind and to improve both mental and physical health.

#### Living Life to the Full

TBD - Spring 2018

This eight-week program helps people make a difference in their lives. Participants are taught how to deal with their feelings when worried or hopeless, and learn skills to help them tackle life's problems. Registration is now open for Youth, Adult and Senior program offerings.

For more information or to register for these programs, please contact:  
CMHA of NB Saint John Office  
Phone: (506) 633-1705

Sponsored by:



Human Development Council  
Saint John's Social Planning Council

Season's Greetings from  
the Saint John Human  
Development Council

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Of The Season  
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& Your Hearts

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[www.sjenergy.com/uploads/Emergency-Outage-Preparedness-Guide.pdf](http://www.sjenergy.com/uploads/Emergency-Outage-Preparedness-Guide.pdf)

For More Safety & Efficiency Tips Follow Us: [www.sjenergy.com](http://www.sjenergy.com)



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## A twin tradition



by **Donna Gates**

Each year, we make a special effort to go to Rhoda's Christmas Craft Fair at Harbour Station. This was our 10th year. We always enjoy talking to the vendors and it certainly starts the holiday season for us.

Left - right Donna Gates, Executive Director of Living SJ and Kelly Evans, Executive Director of the Community Foundation

## Free summer tech camp



by **Brilliant Labs**

Brilliant Labs provides creative opportunities for children throughout Atlantic Canada to learn coding and develop their digital skills. They held a free, eight-week Tech Camp this past summer, in partnership with the City of Saint John and youth-serving organizations. With 12 host sites ranging from the Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Glen Falls School, Carleton Community Centre, Milford Memorial Community Centre and Nick Nicolle Community Centre to Teen Resource Centre, classrooms, gyms and community centres were transformed into tech camps.

Over 400 children had fun becoming inventors, technicians and engineers through hands-on activities using computers, 3D printing, and digital art-making and storytelling!

## Sudoku puzzle answer

3	6	2	8	5	7	1	9	4
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	8	3
4	9	8	3	1	6	2	7	5
7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
9	8	1	6	4	3	5	2	7
6	5	4	1	7	2	8	3	9
2	7	3	9	8	5	4	6	1

Puzzle by websudoku.com

## A year full of New Year's

by **Valentin Boinitski, Communications Specialist, Saint John Newcomers Centre**

Although most of us in western culture celebrate New Year on the 1st of January each year, there are many different unique dates for New Year celebrations around the world. One of the joys of living in a multicultural community is that you can celebrate them all! Here is a selection of New Year dates in 2018 from different cultures.

Chinese New Year in 2018 is on February 16th, ushering in the Year of the Dog according to the traditional Chinese calendar.

Iranians will celebrate their New Year (Nowruz) on March 21st.

Thai New Year (Songkran) is on April 13th.

The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) in 2018 falls on September 9th.

And the Islamic New Year (Muharram) will start on September 12th, 2018.

Whichever one you celebrate, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

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Multicultural & Newcomers  
Resource Centre Inc.



Centre d'accueil  
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**Brunswick Canada**



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## The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

by *Xiaoqin Yu (Mrs. Yu)*

The Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Duanwu Festival, is a traditional festival in China, maybe originating from dragon worship. It is also an event on the sporting calendar. Dragon boat racing is the most important activity during this festival. The wooden boats are shaped and decorated in the form of a Chinese dragon. The boat size varies by region. Generally, it is about 20–35 meters in length and needs 30–60 people to paddle it. During the races, dragon boat teams paddle harmoniously and quickly, accompanied by the sound of beating drums. It is said that the winning team will have good luck and a happy life in the following year.



## The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

by *Dong Ding (Mr. Ding)*

Every 5th of May by the lunar calendar in China is the Dragon Boat Festival. This festival came from the ceremony to memorialize the ancient politician and poet Qu Yuan, who lived about 2300 years ago. Qu Yuan was a famous patriot who committed suicide by jumping into the Mino River because he could not bear that his homeland had been occupied by the Qin regime. He left an unforgettable poem to memorialize his homeland with deep emotion.

People make rice dumplings called Zong Zi and put them into the river, hoping the creatures and spirits led by the dragon in the water will be fed well, and hoping they will treat Qu Yuan well. In order to make the lives in the river attentive to this, people compete in paddling a special kind of little boats, as a game above the water. These little boats decorated in a special way are called Dragon Boats. This day has been called the Dragon Boat Festival.

The Dragon Boat Festival is also an important symbol of the beginning of summer. The festival indicates the season of swimming is coming in most areas of China.

## Magie de Noël dans les garderies de l'ARCf



ARCf Noël en Acadie

**Jonathan Poirier, Agent des communications et relations publiques ARCf**

Chaque année, les enfants des services de garde de l'ARCf de Saint-Jean et de Quispamsis présentent leurs spectacles annuels du temps des Fêtes. Parents et amis des familles de la région de Saint-Jean se rendent en grand nombre afin de partager la magie de Noël avec les plus petits. Les représentations contiennent des séries de numéros préparés par les divers groupes des garderies. Ceux-ci se surpassent afin d'offrir un spectacle de qualité revisitant des classiques du temps des Fêtes.

La tenue de tels événements est très appréciée par les parents, puisqu'il s'agit d'une opportunité leur permettant de voir leur enfant en pleine action avec ses camarades.



Wayne Dryer

*During These Holidays  
We Can Imagine A Better Future*

green  PARTI **vert**  
PARTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK DU NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK

My name is John MacKenzie

As your Saint John City Councillor for Ward 2, I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas, happy Holidays, and healthy New Year!

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns in your community.

506-977-3849  
john.mackenzie@saintjohn.ca



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## Saint John bike share program - 400th bike presentation



Logan Nyers  
(picture courtesy Anne Driscoll)

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) was the site of the 400th bike presentation from the SJ Bike Share Program (SJBS) on November 15th! The SJBS's newest bike technician, Mohamad Khawam, was introduced and everyone loved the great story written by neighbour Logan on "how important it is to have a bike" The SJBS accepts used bikes, which are repaired, then distributed, to families in the priority neighbourhoods in Saint John.

Funding for the SJBS and CV Trike Lending programs has come from Economic and Social Inclusion Corp., NB Department of Tourism, Heritage & Culture, P.R.O. Kids, the Youth Employment Program, and support from NB Department of Social Development and the City of Saint John, as well as donations from individuals and businesses.

## Food purchase contest

This is issue 56 of *Around The Block* and our Food Purchase Club contest.

We are happy to partner with Saint John Energy and Councillor Gerry Lowe to offer two \$25 fresh fruit and produce orders and a turkey for each order, for this issue. You need to locate, hidden anywhere, in pictures, ads, banners, or stories, throughout *Around the Block*, two Saint John Energy logos (not including this notice and the Saint John Energy ad on page 13.



Send your answer to [sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com) or call 647-4850. You need to identify the page and location of each hidden logo. Only one entry per household. Your name will go into a draw for one of the orders. The contest will end at 5 p.m. Thursday December 14th and you will be called if you are a winner with the location where you can pick up your order.

Congratulations to the winners for issue 55, Wanda London and Kathleen Hanna. We will list winners of this contest on the Saint John Human Development Facebook page December 15th.

## Around The Block Team (Issue 56)

**Old North End:** Chrisa Petts and Carrie Griffin  
**Lower South End:** Mary LeSage  
**Crescent Valley:** Anne Driscoll  
**Waterloo-Village:** Penni Eisenhauer  
**Lower West Side:** Jill Roberts  
**Proofreaders:** Mark Driscoll, Rona Howald, Belinda Kumar, Cindy Bishop, Sandie Phillips, Jane Hanlon and Lorna Brown  
**Layout and Design:** Juanita Black  
**Ad Design:** Pat Porter  
**Community members:** Carl Trickey, Lyn King, Lisa Chamberlain, Natalia Hicks, Kelly Anne Kelly, and Debbie McLeod

## Champion for cultural diversity



Left - right: Ann Barrett, CVRC board president, and Anne Driscoll, CVRC executive director, with the CVRC's Champion for Cultural Diversity Award (picture courtesy CVRC)

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) was recently recognized by the NB Multicultural Council as a Champion for Cultural Diversity 2017. This award recognizes New Brunswick employers for their best practices in the areas of diversity, inclusion, and integration of newcomers into the NB labour market and community.

"We were so pleased to bring this award back to the volunteers, partners and residents in Crescent Valley who have worked with us in welcoming newcomers to the neighbourhood," said Ann Barrett, president of the CVRC Board of Directors. "This award is a great reflection of the work we're all doing in Crescent Valley, and we are very proud."



### Happy Holidays

Christmas is a magical time. It brings back happy memories of family gatherings and charming traditions that have been passed down through generations. The holiday provides a chance for us to recharge and reconnect in the spirit of faith, friendship, family and fortune. It can also be a challenging time for those who struggle with loss, illness or hardship. Let us show them support, compassion and charity.

As I reflect on this past year, I would like to thank all those who offer their support, time, advice and service to ensure the wellbeing of our city and its residents. Together, we will build on our foundation and vision of growth, prosperity and promise.

On behalf of Saint John Common Council and City Staff, it is a pleasure for us to serve and represent you. May we all look to 2018 with hope and promise for our families and our community.

*Don Darling*  
 Mayor Don Darling, maire

### Joyeuses fêtes

Noël est un moment magique. Cette fête nous rappelle de beaux souvenirs de réunions de famille et de charmantes traditions qui nous ont été transmises à travers les générations. La période des fêtes nous donne l'occasion de refaire le plein d'énergie et de nous rencontrer dans l'esprit de foi, d'amitié, de famille et de bonheur. C'est aussi une période qui peut s'avérer difficile pour ceux qui sont confrontés à la perte d'un être cher, à la maladie ou à la souffrance. Faisons preuve d'appui, de compassion et de charité.

Alors que je fais un retour sur l'année qui se termine, je tiens à remercier tous ceux qui offrent leur appui, leur temps, leurs conseils et leurs services afin d'assurer le bien-être de notre ville et de ses résidents. Ensemble, nous bâtissons sur notre fondation et notre vision de croissance, de prospérité et de perspective d'avenir.

Au nom du conseil communal et du personnel de The City, c'est un plaisir de vous servir et de vous représenter. Nous pouvons tous nous tourner vers 2018 avec espoir et promesses pour nos familles et notre communauté.

 SAINT JOHN