



# Around the Block



Issue 57 February & March 2018 • sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

where we celebrate the good news from our communities in Saint John NB

## Celebrating Sister Muriel Buckley



Left to right: Sister Muriel Buckley with Rasha Alhamwi at Crescent Valley Resource Centre (picture courtesy SCIC)

by Sister Roma De Roertis

This year, Sister Muriel Buckley is celebrating 60 years as a Sister of Charity. Originally from west Saint John, she was missioned for 46 years in Peru, South America. Her last mission was high in the Andes Mountains. Since her return in 2014, she has been visiting newcomers in Crescent Valley. She also advocates for poverty reduction and social and ecological justice. Annually, she walks in Rockwood Park with Sisters of Charity and Associates in support of persons with HIV-AIDS.

Sister Muriel is a gifted artist who loves to learn and grow by meeting people of different generations and cultures.

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

Welcome to issue 57 of *Around the Block* with the theme of strong women. It is also our first opportunity to wish you a Happy 2018. Happy stories, celebrations and good news are what *Around the Block* is all about. In this issue you will read stories on how our community and community partners are led by women. On almost every page you will read very touching stories from amazing women of all ages. As we started to work on this issue something happened here in the City of Saint John with the Saint John Police Force budget. It was announced that there would be a \$1.25 million cut. The Police Chief then said these cuts would need to include: traffic, street crime, and community policing.

As a resident who lives in one of our priority neighbourhoods, I remember when community policing first started with now-retired Staff Sgt. Janet Holt and active Sgt. Jim Flemming. The Community Response Unit included: Cst. Cory Jamieson, Cst. Jocelyn Maclean, Cst. James Whalen, Cst. Duane Squires and Sgt. David Hartley-Brown. Each one of these officers was posted to a community for three years. They had offices in each community and worked with residents and partners to build trust and respect. They attended meetings to give advice from a police perspective on safety, among other things. They worked in schools to present the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program to all grade five students and they were role models for single parent children.

This respect and working together took time. They didn't just work 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Some days they wore their uniforms, some days they didn't, some days we saw them, some days we didn't, but you know something - they always saw us. The crime rates and calls for service have dramatically been reduced over the years as that trust and respect has been developed. As of January 1st, 2018, our community officers have been reassigned to other police duties and in 2018 there will be no DARE program.

So, for this issue of *Around the Block*, as we celebrate our strong women and all they bring to our communities, we also need to think about the negative, long-term effects the police budget cut to our Community Response Unit and the community police officers will have in our communities.

## Our amazing Rose Young



Rose Young (picture courtesy Christa Petts)

by Christa Petts, Community Connector

Our jobs are not successful unless we have great community leaders behind us. Those special leaders in our community, like Rose Young, really make things happen. Rose has been a ONE Change Board Member for close to fifteen years. She also works with the mission helping with various programs they offer. She raised five children on her own and still found time to meet the needs of her community. For many years she has supported an individual with challenging needs. Rose is a phone call away for anything we need.

## DARE program - finished



Cst Cory Jamieson and Sgt David Hartley-Brown (picture courtesy P.U.L.S.E.)

by Linda Scott

As a former elementary teacher who saw the beginnings of the DARE program many years ago and the evolution of the program to its present-day status, I am sorely disappointed that it will not be able to continue. This program targeted children at the age where they could be tempted by drugs in our community. It showcased a positive alternative and gave children an insight into the extreme dangers hidden in that avenue of dabbling in drugs and their highs. I feel with the issues on streets today if one child is convinced that there is a better path to follow as a result of this program, it should never be terminated.

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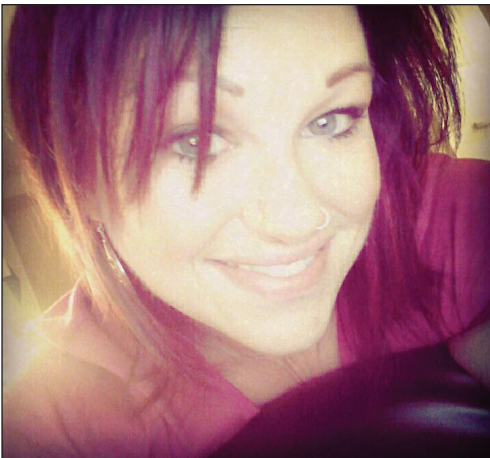
## Defeat, not defeated

*by Natasha Wilkins*

After countless boundaries it became apparent that being a single mom while establishing a career with other life struggles wasn't working. You can't detach from what is holding you back.

Then one day an opportunity arises, things appear clearer. You face the fear of failure and seize the chances you desperately need. A new mind set.

At 32 years old I started over. A new outlook and career. Anything is possible. Persistence and resilience, never give up. I knew I had what it took to succeed. I am 34 years, with a brand-new career and a purpose.



Natasha Wilkins  
(picture: N. Wilkins)

## OLD North End - loss of our community Police officer

*by Barry Galloway, Executive Director*

Officers and neighbourhoods have been working together to create solutions to a wide array of issues for many years now. We need only look at crime rates to see the impact of this collaboration.

In the Old North End we have gone from having the highest to one of the lowest crime rates in the city. As progress is made, neighbourhoods begin to feel as if they have a genuine voice in how concerns are addressed and how neighbourhoods can flourish. We must find a way to restore this vital component to our neighbourhoods.



Cst. James Whalen  
(picture courtesy Christa Petts)

Our community Police Officer, Constable James Whalen, had developed deep, trusting relationships in our neighbourhood and was an invaluable colleague and resource. His loss to the neighbourhood is already being felt. Let's not go down the road of increased crime and a less-involved police department. We must speak up as citizens and insist upon reinstating the community policing program.



SAINT JOHN SEA DOGS

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## Building strong women through art



Left to right: Jarah Bruce and Miley Speight  
(picture courtesy Peter Lege)

*by Carrie Griffin, Program Coordinator, ONE Change/NNCC*

The Elizabeth Fry Society partnered with us here at ONE Change to deliver a 20-week girls' program called 'Celebrate Me'. The girls participating are between the ages of nine and eleven living in and around the Old North End. They are learning leadership skills, communication skills, and empowerment techniques through different forms of art.

This program offers a holistic approach to health and wellness for the girls. I have watched for the last ten weeks: friendships are being created, confidence levels raised, and strong young women being built. Thank you, Elizabeth Fry Society.

## Welcome Andrea Hickey



Andrea Hickey  
(picture courtesy Joanne Barry)

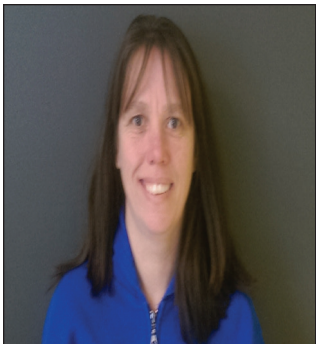
*by Joanne Barry, Nurse/Community Development, North End Wellness Centre*

The North End Wellness Centre (NEW-C) is pleased to welcome Andrea Hickey, a Registered Nurse, to the team. Andrea will be working Mondays and Fridays, so drop by and welcome her to the neighbourhood.

Andrea graduated from UNB Nursing in 2005 and her background in Acute Care, Mental Health/Addictions will be an asset to our centre. Andrea also works at Port City Pharmacy supporting the Methadone program. Andrea has been a life-long resident of Saint John and is the mother of two children.

## North Neighbourhood Contact

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







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



- Don't forget to pick up your heating rebate forms at P.U.L.S.E. Income tax clinics are coming soon! Check for a time that is convenient for you!
- Registered Nurse Kathy London-Anthony will be at P.U.L.S.E. to address your health needs on Friday March 2nd and April 6th, from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Please remember our monthly Food Purchase Club Money is due March 16th 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 out your neighbourhood.
- Remember our office hours are as follows: Monday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday closed, Thursday 9 a.m. -1 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Free hockey package

by Mary LeSage

I have four Adult Flex vouchers to give away!! Also included in the prize package are: the DVD *Trivia Game Hockey Night in Canada*, two books by Scott Morrison - *By the Numbers from 00 to 99*, and *My Greatest Day: 50 People, 50 Great Moments*.

How has P.U.L.S.E. supported the community? Email your answers to [pulseinc@bellaliant.com](mailto:pulseinc@bellaliant.com) or call 632-6807. Contest expires Friday, February 23, 2018.



Bailey LeSage  
(picture courtesy P.U.L.S.E.)

## 2018 INCOME TAX CLINIC



CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY:  
• Single person: \$30,000  
• Couple and family: \$40,000  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 632-6807  
LOCATED @ 251 WENTWORTH STREET

Saturday March 3, 17, and 31  
Wednesday March 14 and 28

11:00-1:00 PM  
5:30-7:00 PM



## 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.ca](mailto:Gerry.Lowe@saintjohn.ca)



## Supporting the next generation of strong women

by Heather Chase, Community Developer, St. Joseph's Community Health Centre

Every Thursday at St. John the Baptist / King Edward School, a small group of girls meet to talk and learn about self-esteem and any other issue that is important to them.

A couple of years ago, Kathy London-Anthony from St. Joseph's Community Health Centre started the Fit & Fun group to help support girls in the lower south end. This year, the group of seven girls is led by Erin Hodges with Inner City Youth Ministry and Heather Chase, St. Joseph's Community Health Centre, along with excellent staff support from Ben Gilchrist, the Community School Coordinator. This hour lets the girls focus on learning new ideas and skills and take field trips that expose them to new spaces, and provides healthy snacks (most of the time).

We all owe it to the girls of today to give our time to support them as they grow into the strong women of tomorrow. It really does take a village, or neighbourhood, to raise a child.

## Community Police: one step forward, two steps back

by Dawn Leblanc  
Secretary, P.U.L.S.E.

In 1990 an activist group, the South Central Citizens' Council's goal was to see Community Policing established in the South Central Peninsula.

1999 saw an officer located in St. John the Baptist School, and in 2009 a facility was built that houses P.U.L.S.E. (People United in the Lower South End), and a police officer who was accessible to residents of the Lower South End. People felt comfortable bringing their concerns to him/her.

Community Policing didn't happen overnight; it was a struggle to get established. Now, are we back to square one? If we lose this unit entirely, can it ever return? Is policing going to just be reactive without being proactive? One Patrol Sergeant officer cannot cover the entire City.

How long before we have to say good-bye to him?



Sgt David Hartley-Brown at his P.U.L.S.E. office and (below) with Xeva, dog owned by Penni Eisenhauer



## South Neighbourhood Contact

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







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## Crescent Valley's Brenda Northorp

by **Juanita Black**

In 2005 Brenda and Richard Northorp moved to Crescent Valley. They became a very busy couple from the beginning.

Brenda, who is legally blind, is a very easy going woman whose lack of sight never slows her down.

Brenda is very active in her CV community helping out at Fun Days, community clean-up, Christmas parties, music in the park and much more. She attends meetings and, with her husband Richard, helps keep our bus shelter clean and keeps us supplied with plenty of bus schedules. She is not only appreciated for what she does in Crescent Valley but also lends her time to the Saint John Police Museum and was a 25-year member of the Neighbourhood Police Council Inc.

Brenda, your friends in Crescent Valley recognize you as a strong woman and salute you!



Richard and Brenda Northorp  
(picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

## Upcoming events in Crescent Valley

**Crescent Valley Family Read-along is coming soon!**

Parents and caregivers - look for upcoming family literacy sessions at the CVRC. There will be take-home books for every child, snacks, music and fun together. More info coming on @ CVRCSJ Facebook page, or call 693-8513 to chat. Thank you to the NB Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for supporting this project.

**Crescent Valley Resource Centre Celebrating 10 Years**

Did you know? The Crescent Valley Resource Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year! Wow! We are proud to have worked with residents, community partners and volunteers to help make Crescent Valley one of Saint John's most vibrant neighbourhoods. Drop by the CVRC, 130 MacLaren Blvd. and talk with Joy, Justin, Nadhim, or Mohamad (bike technician) to find out about the programs and services available at the CVRC. Stay tuned for anniversary events happening this year.

## Strong women in Crescent Valley

Submitted by the **Crescent Valley Resource Centre**

Working, living, providing for all. Supportive, determined, each day of the week, school projects, meetings, and what's next to eat.

By car or by bus, most times on foot, cold winter weather or sweltering heat, you're on with the day, not missing a beat. Groceries and bills, a little one sick, the teacher calls, you're feeling drained. Sweet baby kisses, hugs and good nights light up your night, bringing a smile; it's quiet at last.

You know there are dishes, laundry and such, a long to-do list, it's all just too much. Take a deep breath, cry with a song, get up, get up, you are the women of Crescent Valley and you will stay strong.

## Call to motherhood

by **Dawna Bradley**

Dawna has great empathy for families living in poverty, having raised four daughters while on Social Assistance. When her youngest daughter went to kindergarten, Dawna started studying at the University of New Brunswick-Saint John (UNBSJ.) She graduated in 2010 with a goal of ending the cycle of poverty for the sake of her children.



Dawna Bradley

Her passion for young moms led her to work for First Steps Housing and she feels honoured to have been mentored by Sharon Amirault. During her employment, she lost a beloved grandson to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and through this tragedy she became more aware of the crisis of poverty affecting families. Dawna has founded The Call to Motherhood to help families develop the skills they need to support their children.

Contact information 143 Anglin Drive, 658-9119 (w), 333-8625 (c) or dawna.bradley68@gmail.com

## Newcomers worry about police cuts

by **N. Mansoor,**

**Community Engagement Coordinator**

In early 2016 many Syrian families were resettled throughout Canada. In Saint John, Crescent Valley welcomed the largest share of these families. For most, either from outside or within Canada, Saint John was their choice. Crescent Valley has attracted the newcomers because of its safe neighbourhood, friendly residents and we can't forget - Constable Jocelyn McLean who played an important part in their transition. Many Syrian families have witnessed terrible situations, experienced torment and extreme violence before coming to Canada. From their experience, police are generally people not to be trusted and the last thing they want to deal with. But in a very short time Officer McLean was able to build trust - even with a language barrier, and she changed their image of policing. Now, with Community Policing cut, they fear they will experience more crime and more drug dealers.



Pictured centre Cst Jocelyn MacLean with  
Ali Al Mostafa and his family  
(picture courtesy Anne Driscoll)

الوافدون الجدد قلقون من قطع خدمة الشرطة المجتمعية: في أوائل عام 2016 تم إعادة توطين العديد من العائلات السورية في جميع أنحاء كندا. في سانت جون، استقبلت كريستفالي الحصبة الأكبر من هذه الأسر. بالنسبة لمعظم هذه الأسر كانت مدينة سانت جون إختيارهم للإنتقال سواء من خارج أو داخل كندا. لقد اجتذبت كريستفالي الوافدين الجدد بسبب حيها الآمن، وودية سكانها ولا يمكننا أن ننسى - الشرطة "جوسلين ماكليين" والتي لعبت دورا هاما في استقرارهم. لقد شهدت العديد من الأسر السورية أوضاعا مروعة ومأساوية و تعرض البعض للعنف الشديد قبل القدوم إلى كندا. من تجاربهم السابقة، الشرطة عموما هم أشخاص لا يمكن الوثوق بهم وآخر شيء يريدون التعامل معه. ولكن في وقت قصير جدا كانت الشرطة ماكليين قادرة على بناء الثقة بينها وبينهم بالرغم من وجود عقبة اللغة، لقد غيرت مفهوم وصورة الشرطة بالنسبة لهم. الآن، مع قطع خدمة الشرطة المجتمعية، يخشون أنهم سيشهدون المزيد من الجريمة والمزيد من تجار المخدرات.

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

**Crescent Valley**  
**Neighbourhood Contact**  
Anne Driscoll: 693-8513  
email: CVRC.driscoll@gmail.com  
130 MacLaren Blvd.





Otterly Awesome Strong Women



Left to right: Michelle and Jocelyn  
(picture courtesy Krista Turnbull)

By Krista Turnbull, Community Schools Coordinator, Seaside Park Elementary  
I am one of those fortunate individuals who has the pleasure of going to work each day to a job I absolutely love! This wouldn't be possible if I weren't part of an amazing team led by two outstandingly strong women. Michelle Deschenes, our principal and Jocelyn Myatt, our vice principal, lead with heart, strength, determination, compassion, and empathy for all those in the building.

Leading such a large team takes a very special person and we are fortunate enough to have two of them at Seaside Park Elementary. When I think of strong women, these ladies are at the top of my list!

Attributes of a strong woman

This is what a strong woman is to me.

by Patti Kelly

- Positive attitude Be open minded
- Do not judge others Smile
- Head held up high Eat healthy
- Exercise routine
- Sleep - get your proper sleep
- Help others (especially females)
- Treat others as you want to be treated



Lower Westside Community Policing

The neighbourhood of the Lower West Side is saddened to see that the community officers have been removed from the priority neighbourhoods. Key stakeholders have witnessed first-hand the impact that these officers have had on residents of all ages. They connected with children and seniors, often stopping by for a visit at area schools, or popping in to say "hi" at a seniors' activity at the Carleton Community Centre.

They were highly visible and put many at ease knowing that they were close by and could be counted on to intervene when needed. They were able to establish a sense of trust and break down barriers that might otherwise exist without the consistency of having the same trusted officer in the position day after day. The concept of community and police working together and problem solving issues is a wonderful example of successful partnerships.



Cst Corey Jaminson  
(picture courtesy P.U.L.S.E.)

Best wishes to a strong community leader

from your west side community partners

In honour of this "Strong Women" edition of Around the Block, the community of West Saint John would like to recognize Saint John, Lancaster MLA Dorothy Shephard.

Dorothy has taken a leave of absence from politics, as she has recently undergone surgery for a diagnosis of breast cancer. A December news article stated: "The prognosis is good and that she will get through this and get back to work." Thank you for all that you do for your community, Dorothy. Wishing a strong community leader and role model a speedy recovery!



Dorothy Shephard  
(picture courtesy Juanita Black)

A strong woman

by Wendy Coughlin

Every woman has a story, unique through her own life experiences. Everyone develops strength of character through events faced, trials we overcome and the ability to persevere. One hundred years ago female doctors, members of Parliament, judges, lawyers or police-women were unheard of. Now they are readily accepted and make our society better by focusing on needs which might not have been considered before.

It is my belief that all women provide the glue which bonds the tapestry of our society together and that strong women provide the strength to keep it whole.

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

West Neighbourhood Contacts

Jill.Roberts@HorizonNB.ca  
120 Market Place 674-4307  
or  
Anna James  
672-0226  
westsidepact@bellaliant.com





**Dorothy Shephard**  
**MLA Saint John Lancaster**

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at side of building facing Church

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www.gnb.ca





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## Courtenay Bay role model

**by Debbie McLeod**

I am pleased to introduce you to Christina MacLennan. Christina is a single mom to three active and invovled children. She is an entrepreneur running her own nail business out of the Social Enterprise Hub located on Prince Edward Street. Christina volunteers with her children's extracurricular activities. In her spare time she sits on the Courtenay Bay Tenant Association and she is a member of the Parent School Support Committee at her children's school. Way to go, Christina!



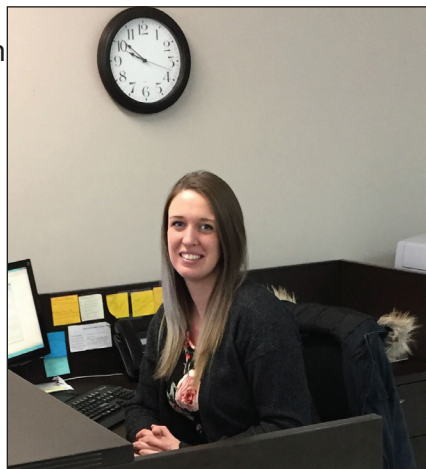
*Christina MacLennan  
(picture courtesy Juanita Black)*

Thank you for all you do and we are all very proud of you!!!



**by Jenny Palk**

In 2015, after countless meetings with my case manager, I began to feel like I was stuck in a rut with no way out. The longer I'd gone without working the more I worried about ever finding a job. I wanted to make a change in my life, but I was scared to take that step. I met with the WorkLinks teams at The Learning Exchange and started applying for jobs again. There were times I felt like giving up but my coach would always help to steer me back on track. Now, I am extremely happy to announce that I am the Administrative Assistant at Green Coast Energy. This position has been more and better than I could have dreamed, and I know it wouldn't have been possible without the help of everyone at The Learning Exchange.



*Jenny Palk (picture courtesy Saint John Learning Exchange)*

## Are you this strong woman?

**by Linda Scott**

I know a woman who lives in Waterloo Village who I think is a very strong woman. She will celebrate her 83rd birthday with me in February. She left school early to help look after her parents and other siblings. She worked very hard all her life in jobs like being a waitress and driving cab. Her husband died too soon and she had a large family to raise by herself. In those days social assistance was not as readily available. She managed to give them a home and they grew to adults with a mother who provided for their needs.

I have only known this woman ten years but in these years I have noticed she is one of the first to offer help to anyone who needs it and is always the first to volunteer to help with projects. To me this woman who is my friend and others like her are the strong women of this world. Like the words in Luke Byran's song "I believe that most mothers are saints."

## Seniors will miss community officers

**by Linda Scott**

As a senior in the Waterloo Village area I am concerned about the absence of a community police officer in our community. The visual presence of an officer gives comfort to seniors especially those who walk in the area. If seniors have a concern that is not an emergency the officer was available to talk.

9-1-1 and Peel Plaza are somewhat intimidating to seniors who are used to having an officer in the community. These officers were friendly and often checked out the seniors in our community especially the ones who didn't have ideal shelter and other issues. These officers will be sadly missed.

## Women on Their Way



*Pictured are team members of Women on Their Way  
(picture courtesy Margaret McDevitt)*

**by Stephanie Lee,**

**Regional Training Coordinator, Wyndham Worldwide**

All Wyndham Worldwide associates are welcome to join this dynamic group and take part in innovative approaches to doing business, get to know their business partners, learn about our industry and experience the excitement of personal growth and change. Together these associates focus on community, business acumen and personal development.

The members of the Saint John chapter work together on several initiatives throughout the year. Most recently they raised over \$2,300 for Run for the Cure and provided Coverdale Centre for Women with five boxes of personal care items. They were also able to donate \$275 in Tim Horton's gift cards and purchased an additional 63 pairs of socks and 42 pairs of undergarments.

## Impact of community policing

**by Penni Eisenhauer, Community Organizer, The Saint John Learning Exchange**

From my perspective, community policing has helped build solutions for social issues that once would have been viewed only as criminal activity. The five focus neighbourhoods (The Waterloo Village; South End; Lower West Side; Crescent Valley and the Old North End) will be greatly impacted by the loss of community policing and the service it has provided to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. When we have a consistent and dedicated police officer in a neighbourhood, we can work together on issues and build a relationship that is based on trust. It takes time, effort and consistency to build trusted relationships in our neighbourhoods. Also, when people decide where they want to live, community safety and crime rates are one of the key factors.



*Cst Duane Squires help with a helmet (picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)*

Community Policing have always worked in a team approach which has created better long-term outcomes for the residents living in these neighbourhoods. Community policing is based on the needs of the community, is an integral part of attracting growth, and creating vibrant mixed income neighbourhoods.

## Village Neighbourhood Contact

**Penni Eisenhauer 647-8047  
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
- Career Exploration
- Making a Difference

Deborah Fisher  
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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!**

**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
- Career Exploration
- Making a Difference

Deborah Fisher  
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Susan Tipper  
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Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities • Youth in our Communities

Krista Turnbull honoured by Kiwanis



Left to right: Erica Lane and Krista Turnbull (picture courtesy PALS)

by Deborah Fisher, Partners Assisting Local Schools (PALS)

At the recent Kiwanis Annual Christmas Breakfast, Krista Turnbull was recognized for eight years of hard work and commitment to the Key Club, first at Hazen White - St. Francis, then St. Patrick’s School – promoting and encouraging service to the community with the children who took part each year. As Krista mentioned to the audience, at first she would make suggestions to the children about ways they could give back to the community and by the end, they were coming up with the suggestions. Krista was awarded the Walter Zeller Fellowship Award and received a commemorative pin and medal – Erica Lane joined Krista at the ceremony on behalf of Community Schools at Anglophone South School District (ASD-S).

Congratulations Krista for the recognition and for your commitment to the children and service learning!

PRO Kids ceremony



Left to right: Jennifer Brown, Ben Gillcrst, and Abby Nice (picture courtesy Katherine Miller)

by Deborah Fisher, PALS

At the Positive Reaction Opportunities (PRO) Kids annual awards ceremony hosted by Mayor Don Darling and PRO Kids at the Arts Centre, three Community School/PALS coordinators were recognized for their commitment and effort to support the SPARC (Sports – Arts – Recreation – Culture) program, a partnership between ASD-S, PRO Kids, and PALS.

SPARC is an after school program that gives students an opportunity to experience a wide variety of sport, recreation and cultural activities and the funding if necessary to continue if they are interested.

Jennifer Brown from Hazen White-St Francis (HWSF), Ben Gillcrst from Saint John the Baptist King Edward (SJBKE), and Abby Nice from Prince Charles School (PCS) were on hand to be recognized. Congratulations to all three of you, and well-deserved!

PALS - Deborah Fisher



Deborah Fisher

by all the community school coordinators

Deb Fisher is to PALS, what peanut butter is to jam. Deb works tirelessly to make sure that many students in our district receive unique opportunities that contribute to their success in the classroom. From field trips to the Port of Saint John to playing basketball at the YMCA with members of the Riptide, Deb works behind the scenes with many partners to coordinate all of these great programs.

As a former school teacher, Deb understands the importance of receiving a valuable education and ensures that all programs are education-related. We thank you for everything that you do for our schools, Deb!

Erica Lane Community Engagement

by all the community school coordinators

Erica Lane is the definition of a strong woman. A mother of two beautiful sons, Erica is currently in her tenth year as the Community Engagement Coordinator with the school district. She is inspiring to many young men and women as she leads the community school coordinators to their successes, as well as being a part-time lay minister at her church. Erica has many talents that she shares with others. Her musical background led her children’s musical group to an ECMA nomination and she owned and operated her own kindergarten class before arriving at the district.



Erica Lane (picture courtesy Deborah Fisher)

We are so lucky to have Erica to display what it means to be a strong, hard-working woman.

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**We ALL have something to offer!**





## Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices



**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**

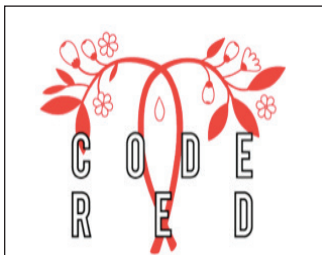
**No pre-registration required**

**For more information call the number for the playgroup closest to you!!**

Monday	9:30-11:30 am Boys and Girls Club 1 Paul Harris Street 693-9057		
Tuesday	10 am - noon Family Resource Centre 211 Wentworth St. 633-2182	10 am - noon Seaside Park Elementary School 627 Havelock St. 633-2182	
Wednesday	10 am - noon Family Resource Centre 211 Wentworth St. 633-2182	9:30 - 11:30 am Nick Nicolle Community Centre 35 Durham St. 693-9057/646-2106	10 am - noon Glen Falls School 10 Princess Court 633-2182
Thursday	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	
Friday	9:30 am – 11:30 am Hazen White-Saint Francis School 538 Sandy Point Road 693-9057		

## Code Red

Having a period can be tough. Being homeless or living in poverty complicates things. Poverty makes a monthly irritation into a full-fledged problem, one that can cost a sense of dignity. Code Red, a recently formed charity in Saint John, minimizes these challenges by making sure people have free access to pads and tampons. Code Red partners with other organizations to distribute Period Packs: Ziploc bags filled with tampons, pads, and wet wipes. Through monthly drop offs to AIDS SJ, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, Outflow (Oasis Drop-in Centre), Vineyard Monday Night Supper, Port City Pharmacy, Code Red has met the needs of many in the community.



## Volunteers Needed!

### Join our Disaster Management Team

Looking for opportunities to give back to your community, meet new people, and have new experiences?

Visit [redcross.ca/volunteer](https://redcross.ca/volunteer) or email [vrs@redcross.ca](mailto:vrs@redcross.ca)



## WE'RE SHARING THE LOVE

**Enjoy the Saint John Regional Y for FREE on Feb. 11th-17th!**

**Share what you LOVE about the Y for a chance to WIN a 3 month Family Membership. Enter by using the below hastag and tagging us in your post.**

# #ILoveMyY

## Congratulations to the Friar Sisters

for being Champions of *The Wellness Movement* in Fundy!

The Friar Sisters hold a fundraising concert every year in support of different community organizations. They have collected over ½ million dollars since they first started this annual tradition, 14 years ago. This year, the funds were donated to the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, which invested them in the Cognitive Assessment and Management (CAM) Unit. A great cause, which will improve quality of life for many vulnerable seniors!

Help grow *The Wellness Movement* in New Brunswick. Get inspired by more wellness stories like this one, or inspire other New Brunswickers by sharing yours!

Visit [wellnessNB.ca](https://wellnessNB.ca)





## White Cane Week in Canada

by **Scott Rinehart**

Each February, since 1945, blind and partially sighted Canadians have celebrated their independence by promoting and taking part in White Cane Week festivities across the nation, from coast to coast. The week-long celebration's primary aim is to raise awareness amongst the public regarding not only the white cane itself, but to shine a spotlight on the daily challenges faced by the more than one million Canadians living with vision loss.

While White Cane Week is officially an initiative of the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), the celebrations themselves are typically a Team Effort. White Cane Week is a perfect opportunity for the blind and partially sighted to develop new relationships within their communities, and continue to support those longstanding partnerships vital to creating, developing, and maintaining vibrant and inclusive communities.

So, what does it all mean?

The traditional White Cane used by many (but certainly not all) blind Canadians is a tool vital to the independence and safety of those who use it. If you are a motorist, please recognize and respect the White Cane. If you are a person living with vision loss, remember: that Cane can save your life!

In its symbolic role, the White Cane represents independence, not dependence. It represents the ability to overcome the challenges that accompany vision loss. It is perseverance. It is strength. While it is often viewed as part of a blind person's identity, it should not be seen to define them. A lack of sight is not a lack of vision.

Celebrate White Cane Week 2018 with us in Saint John!

## Knitting the community together

by **Valentin Boinitski**

An ardent enthusiast of fibre arts and visual arts alike, Bonnie Fordham is also a very active community member and a tireless volunteer at the Saint John Newcomers Centre. She is a driving force behind many of the Newcomers Centre's major initiatives, like the annual Community Scholarship Award, and a very inspiring personality, too.



Bonnie Fordham  
(picture courtesy Valentin Boinitski)

In her long and fruitful business career, Bonnie had lived and worked in many places on different continents: Europe, Africa, North America.

"My interests are wide and varied, but people top my list as I want to know where they come from, what they like and how I can help them integrate into our great community of Saint John," says Bonnie. "It has [been] and is my privilege to spend time with our newcomers and see them grow in confidence, in this community of like-minded people who help and want them to succeed in all areas of their life."

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**WYNDHAM WORLDWIDE**





Monique Poirier à l’honneur pour l’édition 2018 de Sam chante

par Jonathan Poirier, Agent des communications et relations publiques

Monique Poirier sera la première femme et quatrième artiste à parrainer cet événement de médiation culturelle d’envergure. Pour la chanteuse, il s’agit d’une étape marquante dans son cheminement: «Pour longtemps, j’ai écrit des chansons en me disant qu’elles ne se pointeraient jamais le bout de nez ailleurs que dans mes tiroirs. Au fil des années et des collaborations et projets, elles ont fini par exister ailleurs que dans mon bureau. Ça me fait encore et toujours tellement plaisir d’entendre les autres se les approprier, leur donner une vie et une direction. Mais entendre des enfants chanter certaines de ces chansons-là, c’est carrément autre chose.»



Pendant plusieurs mois, les jeunes découvriront, célébreront et chanteront l’œuvre de Monique Poirier. Ils auront la chance de partager la scène avec elle le 15 juin 2018.

Neighbourhood Word Search

G	N	I	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	A	N	N
S	Q	C	K	E	E	D	C	Y	D	L	C	E	O	E
Y	Y	J	O	W	H	A	H	L	F	C	D	D	I	W
A	Q	T	D	M	R	T	E	J	E	R	A	O	S	C
D	E	Z	I	L	M	I	E	S	A	B	U	K	U	O
N	U	C	E	S	F	U	S	G	E	A	Q	A	L	M
U	E	T	A	N	R	I	N	L	O	S	S	R	C	E
F	O	R	W	L	B	E	O	I	R	T	R	M	N	R
N	P	O	D	I	P	N	V	E	T	H	E	O	I	S
O	H	U	L	L	G	T	N	I	U	Y	M	U	Y	E
C	U	I	L	I	I	T	E	B	D	M	M	R	O	I
Q	T	Z	N	S	R	H	A	K	R	R	U	I	U	K
Y	E	G	W	A	E	H	C	N	R	V	S	E	T	S
S	U	P	P	O	R	T	I	V	E	A	T	S	H	U
N	O	G	A	W	K	O	O	B	N	Q	M	G	G	H

ACCESSIBILITY, COMMUNITY, ARMOURIES, BELONGING  
BOOKWAGON, CARLETON, CHILDREN, CHOWNFIELD,  
CLIPPERS  
DIVERSITY, FRIENDLY, FUNDAYS, GARDEN, HEALTHY, HUB  
HUSKIES, INCLUSION, KIWANIS, LITERACY, MARKETPLACE  
NEWCOMERS, PARTNERS, PULSE, TOGETHER, SUMMERSQUAD  
SUPPORTIVE, VINEYARD, VOLUNTEERING, WATERLOO, YOUTH

These words were submitted by our neighbourhoods and partners to reflect our community. The words can be found in one of eight possible directions, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Have fun!

YMCA - Bev Pitre

by Nicole Vair

Bev Pitre has lost 130 pounds since joining the Saint John Regional Y, and she didn’t have to go through an intense boot camp to reach her goals. Bev says besides changing her diet, the indoor walking track at the Y has been her saving grace. “Just get up and walk,” she said while sharing her story after her regular 5 km walk. “It’s an exercise that most people can do, as it doesn’t hurt.” Throughout the week Bev arrives at the Y shortly after 5:00 am and completes 35 laps. Planning her day and stepping to the beat playing from her Ipod, she works up a sweat. Bev’s diabetic insulin has decreased and she has kick-started 2018 by tackling a goal of attending an Aquafit class.



Bev Pitre (picture courtesy Nicole Vair)

According to Bev, losing 130 pounds isn’t just a physical transformation. Shrinking from a size 32 to a size 16 is still an adjustment, but Bev is looking forward to more milestones on this new, healthy chapter of her life.

Women for 50%

by Norma Dube

Women for 50% was launched in early 2017 by a small group of women from across the Province determined to see better representation of women in the New Brunswick Legislature. A clear goal was set: 50% of candidates in the 2018 provincial election will be women. New Brunswick is in the back of the pack behind other Provinces and Territories in terms of currently elected women in the Legislature at 16%. This represents a democratic deficit.



- To get to 50%, we are:
- 1. Creating awareness of the need for more women in elected office.
  - 2. Encouraging women to run and supporting them to win.
  - 3. Holding political parties accountable for recruiting and supporting women candidates.
- This is about ensuring our political representatives better reflect the actual people they represent. It is about the female voice being heard and respected. When you have more women in public decision-making, you get policies that benefit women, children, and families in general - that better reflect the “common good.” Women tend to speak up more for the interests of local communities because of their close ties and involvement in community life.

Sudoku puzzle

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

answer on page 14





North end connector meets strong women

by Tanya James, RD, Community Connector, North End Wellness Centre

When I think of strong women, many of my clients come to mind. Although as the North End Community Connector, I help folks access programs and services, the real initiative and hard work comes from them. I think of one mom raising sons with special needs, while working and taking daily GED classes. Of a senior dealing with the unwanted effects of her stroke with humour and patience. Of those who have shown so much resilience, overcoming painful childhood trauma to lead full lives.



Left - right Cara Carr and Tanya James (picture courtesy Andrea Hickey)

These women are an inspiration to me, and great examples of tenacity and spirit for the whole community. Bravo!

Community policing works



Cst Duane Squires and Cst James Whalen with the children of Courtney Bay (picture courtesy Debbie McLeod)

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

Community Policing works! The same police officer is assigned to the same neighbourhood for a three-year term so that the officer has an opportunity to build relationships with residents and community stakeholders. This proactive approach helps to identify and solve concerns in the neighbourhoods thus reducing crime and disorder. Seeing a police officer walking, biking or driving through a community opens the door to communication, reduces anxiety when reporting to police and builds trust.

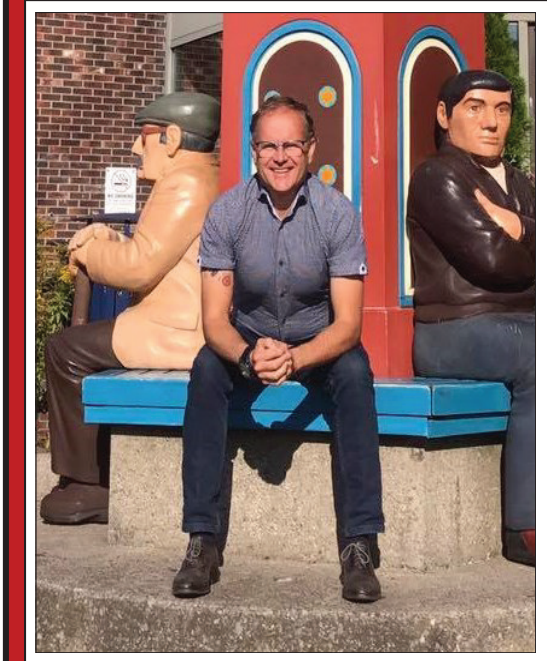
When you see children hugging the legs of a police officer and then seeing a child receive encouragement from that police officer, it truly warms your heart. We are very hopeful the Community Police role will be returned to the communities as it is a very valuable role.

Community Police

by Rev. Jasmine Chandra

I am writing in response to the news that there is a plan to cut the Community Police Officers positions in Saint John. We often hear of crimes that go unreported and of mistrust between the public and law enforcement agencies. It seems counterintuitive to cut the one program that addresses both of these issues. With a history of crimes that have not been adequately investigated (as reported in December by CBC and other major news outlets) one would think that the city's priority would be on re-establishing the trust that many have lost in the police force.

As a resident of the South End, I have seen how Sgt. David Hartley-Brown has offered a much-needed caring and accessible approach to law enforcement. It is disheartening to think that we may lose that.



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# A strong woman: Kim Cookson

by Patricia Porter

Kim Cookson is multi-talented with an abundance of knowledge and wisdom. Her kindness and thoughtfulness toward others knows no limits and she never hesitates to offer a helping hand when needed. She has a busy schedule but is always willing to add more. She has a joy and excitement for art that is contagious and can be felt by all participants in her classes!



Kim Cookson

We know her as Kim Cookson, Canada's Art Mamma, and founder of the "Donate to Create" program. We also know her as a valued community supporter, mentor, and friend.

Thank you, Kim, for being you!

# Tax help Get your piece of the money pie



by Monica Laviolette, Project Coordinator , NB Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.

The Get Your Piece of the Money Pie Program is back again this year in collaboration with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) to help individuals and families with a modest income and a simple tax situation prepare and file their income tax and benefit returns for free. Depending on your personal situation, you may be eligible to receive federal and provincial credits and benefits by simply filing your annual income tax and benefit return.

Credits and benefits include the GST/ HST Credit, the NB Home Energy Assistance Program, the Canada Child Benefit, the NB School Supplement, the Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision plan. Other benefits are listed at [www.gnb.ca/poverty](http://www.gnb.ca/poverty) under Get Your Piece of the Money Pie. To find clinics near you, call CRA at 1-800-959-8281 or [www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer](http://www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer)

# Betty Hitchcock



Left to right: Jada and Betty Hitchcock  
(picture courtesy Amy Tanner)

by Rhoda J Welshman, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

A long time volunteer and supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Betty Hitchcock has been matched as a Mentor with eight children over a 30 year span. Although she is currently battling her second round of breast cancer, Betty has established creative ways to stay in touch with her current mentee, Jada. "I want her to know I am there for her," Betty says. Through letters, shared art work and phone calls Betty and Jada continue to build their special friendship, and Jada tells us, "She's my best friend ever!"

Thank you for your compassion and dedication, Betty. You are one of the strongest women we know!

# Parkinson support group



Members of Parkinson group exercising  
(picture courtesy Christa Petts)

by Deby Siemans

A great way to feel Strong, Stretched, and Energized is to attend the sittercise classes at the Nick Nicolle Community Center on Durham Street. Sittercise is a full body conditioning class with support of chairs standing and/or sitting. Hand-held weights, balls, and physiotherapy bands are used along with wonderful inspiring music. The class is guided by the instructor Deby. She is Canfitpro certified and has been teaching sittercise for 15+ years. Classes are open to the public on a small \$2.00 donation basis. Classes are Tuesdays/Thursdays 1 p.m. . See you there!

## You're Invited!

Join us at Exhibition Park for an information session on growing vegetables and flowers from seed to the final cut for exhibit at this year's competition

Instructors will share their experiences and answer your questions to help you produce quality plants.

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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Everyone Welcome!

Saturday, February 17  
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Main Building  
Exhibition Park

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- ☒
- ☒
- ☐

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## Strong Woman Deborah Fisher

by Susan Tipper, PALS High School Coordinator

When I saw the theme for this publication, strong women, several names came to mind and I had a difficult time deciding about whom to write. There is one individual that I work with very closely who embodies the description of a strong woman, and her name is Deborah Fisher. I know Deb's name is not new to many of you, if any. As you are aware, Deb is the coordinator for the PALS program and has really molded and shaped this program into what it is today. Eighteen years ago Deb was charged with developing a program that would help assist schools, students and the community 'level the playing field' for those who may be a bit less fortunate than others.



Deborah Fisher  
(picture courtesy Susan Tipper)

Today, this program, Partners Assisting Local Schools (PALS), has grown to include 21 schools, over 130 partners and more than 1000 volunteers. Partners and volunteers help with lunch and breakfast programs, mentoring, coaching, enrichment and co-curricular activities and the list goes on. Just think, we would not necessarily have any of this if it wasn't for Deb's determination and will to make a difference. She definitely defines the term "strong woman."

## Mrs. E

by Friends of Centennial School

When we think of strong women, one of the first who comes to mind is Tina Estabrooks. Tina, the former Principal at Centennial School, has been an advocate for students and their families in the North End for over ten years.



Mrs E and literacy camp friends  
(picture courtesy Deborah Fisher)

Tina was passionate in her fight for resources, understanding, compassion, and change within the community and really believed in the students and did whatever she could to meet their needs and help them learn. Tina has taken on a new role but we wanted to acknowledge and thank her for the support she provided to the families and the children of Centennial School and beyond; it has made a real difference!

We would also like to welcome Ashley Dobbin, another strong woman, to Centennial School. Ashley has stepped into the role of Principal at Centennial School and is very excited to become a part of the community.

## GET YOUR PIECE OF THE MONEY PIE



### Do you need help filing your income tax return?

There are free Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparations clinics in Saint John.

Find times and locations at [www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer](http://www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer) or by calling CRA 1-800-959-8281.

### Money Pie Super Clinic

File your taxes, get your child a SIN, and sign them up for the Canada Learning Bond (bring children's birth certificates). You'll also be able to learn about other organizations, programs and possible benefits for yourself and your family.

March 20, 2018 - 9:30am to 12pm—1pm to 2:45pm

Salvation Army at 27 Prince Edward St., Saint John

#CVITP

#MoneyPie

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February is Black History Month

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2018**  
**A LONG, LONG WAY TO SAINT JOHN:**  
**MY TRAVELS WITH PAUL ROBESON**

Performance by Tayo Aluko  
Visiting artist from Liverpool, UK

With host Clyde A. Wray  
Poet, Playwright & Performer

Exhibit: "All Because Two People Fell In Love"  
Artist Daniel Leek

Saturday February 24th, 2018  
2 pm to 4 pm  
Mary H. Oland Theatre, NB Museum

Free Admission  
PRUDE Inc. 634-3088

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES						
February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		30	31	1	2	3
		Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools			Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools	Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools		Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Black History Talk & Tour Anglophone South Schools					Soul Train Dance Exhibit 3:00pm— 7:00pm Dance 8pm—2am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Canada Post Black History Month Exhibit & Discussion			Imperial Theatre Black History Month Exhibit & Discussion	Tayo Aluko Performance Mary H. Oland Theatre 2pm—4pm
25	26	27	28	Every year, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. PRUDE Inc., with community partners, is promoting exhibits and presentations throughout the month.		
	Wyndham Worldwide Black History Month Exhibit & Discussion					



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Sudoku puzzle answer

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

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## The loss of community policing

by Rev. John Knight, Community Outreach Pastor, RiverCross Church

The loss of Community Policing in Saint John is a real concern. Trust relationships in priority neighbourhoods such as Crescent Valley and the Old North End don't come easy. Trust must be earned by putting in the time with people - getting to know them, and more importantly, letting them get to know you. So from that standpoint, the loss of Community Policing in these neighbourhoods is a significant step backward.

Over the years, Community Police have earned a lot of capital on behalf of law enforcement in priority neighbourhoods, leading to improved safety and greater respect for the rule of law. These gains have now been squandered.

Community Police have also contributed to community life in priority neighbourhoods in other intangible but important ways. It is simply sad - and counterproductive - to see this all end.



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## New church location



by Allan Pizia

We are on the move. We are the Pavillion of Redemption, a Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) parish located at 603 Loch Lomond Road (formerly St. Joachim's church) in Saint John.

Whether you find us by accident or on purpose we are glad you discovered us. We meet on Sundays and Wednesdays to worship God, grow in our faith, encourage one another, and enjoy each other's fellowship. Our congregation is multi-cultural with new immigrants from various countries and local people.

Please join us for one of our services. We look forward to seeing you.

## YMCA women on weights



This is a six-week registered program for women who wish to gain strength through weight-training. Our certified Fitness Coach will lead you through exercises and develop a strength-building plan to meet your needs.

Please register at the Y Welcome Desk or by calling 693-YMCA.

## Around The Block Team (Issue 57)

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: Rona Howald, Mark Driscoll, Belinda Kumar, Dayna Lutes, Anna O'Hara, Joanne Britton, and Lorna Brown

Layout and Design: Juanita Black

Ad Design: Pat Porter

Community members: Carl Trickey, Lyn King, Lisa Chamberlain, Kelly Anne Kelly, Debbie McLeod and Natalia Hicks

## Food purchase contest

This is issue 57 of *Around The Block* and our Food Purchase Club contest.

We are happy to partner with Saint John Energy to offer two \$15 fresh fruit and produce 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 12).

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. on Thursday March 22nd 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 56, Shelly Smith and Helen Bateman. We will list winners of this contest on the Saint John Human Development Facebook page March 23rd.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL MEALS ON WHEELS

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## Priority neighbourhoods advocate for community policing



*Cst Cory Jamieson, Sgt David Hartley-Brown, Cst Jocelyn Maclean,  
Cst James Whalen, Cst Duane Squires*

Jan 4th, 2018,  
Jennifer Carhart, Chair of the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners  
Saint John Police Force| P.O. Box 1971  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
E2L 4L1

Dear Ms. Carhart,

RE: Proposed cuts to Community Policing in Saint John's Priority Neighbourhoods

We, the Saint John Neighbourhood Action Group, firmly believe that the cuts to Community Policing being undertaken as a consequence of the City of Saint John's 2018 budget will have significant negative ramifications for the priority neighbourhoods that we represent. To be clear, we do relate to the difficult position of managing operations under a restrictive budget. In this context, we would like to outline our experiences with community police so that as you make tough decisions you are informed of what is at stake for our neighbourhoods. We urge you to keep the Core Values of the police force in mind - cuts to community policing will directly impact your capacity to seek constant improvement, invest in people, garner trust and respect, and engage in openness and partnerships. The inevitable erosion of personal trust relationships between residents and the police force is our main concern; as you are aware, trust is a vital element of community building, and a loss of trust has far-reaching consequences.

Community police officers play a vital role in ensuring the health and safety of our neighbourhoods. Since the beginning of the program in 1994, we have seen an improvement in the way residents relate to law enforcement. We have also seen progress in the way that the police force understands the most vulnerable and often-stigmatized members of our communities. These enhanced, mutually beneficial, trust relationships have been garnered gradually and with significant investment and effort by community police.

As you are well aware, community policing has many concrete benefits. We have seen residents who once mistrusted police approach their community police officer for guidance or parenting advice on how to divert their child from engaging in dangerous or criminal activity. Some newcomers have arrived to Canada suspicious of police because of previous experience with authoritarian law enforcement; community policing has had the capacity to break down this barrier, and empower newcomers to access police services when necessary. Those who work directly with vulnerable populations, such as victims of domestic violence, feel that they can make referrals to their community police officers because they are familiar with their disposition. Schools and Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) teams rely on the expertise of community police officers regularly for dispute resolution, and early intervention.

Youth in particular have a lot to lose with the proposed elimination of community policing. For many, community police officers are key role models, who go above and beyond to be engaged and available; they are caring adults who will hold youth accountable to good behaviour. Over and over again, community police have intentionally built relationships with the youth in our communities. Did you know that officers often come in on their days off to take part in community events? That two officers ate dinner in the Old North End on Christmas Day last year? Or that when the community police officer showed up for a holiday party in Crescent Valley last month, they were swarmed by kids who were thrilled to see them? These kids don't want to disappoint their officers. They are also the faces youth expect to see when things go wrong and they know that they are accessible from the safe space that is their community centre. Accordingly, community police both set youth up for success, and are responsive, caring, problem solvers in an emergency.

We have also witnessed community police officers educating the police force at large about the systemic barriers faced by at-risk populations including drug users, sex workers, and the homeless. This has resulted in a shift from focusing on fighting crime per se, to addressing social problems at their root. Accordingly, community police officers often play a role as community navigators and have begun to advocate for additional services that would address gaps in neighbourhoods' social fabrics, including methadone clinics or other harm-reduction initiatives, additional social workers, and mental health resources.

If community policing continues to be phased out, we would anticipate that call rates would go up and that trust would go down. We worry that crime would increase and that people would not feel safe in our neighbourhoods. Should these cuts be a temporary response to budget shortfalls, we are concerned that the exceptional officers who have familiarized themselves with the intricacies of our communities would be displaced. We question the cost-effectiveness of eliminating proactive, preventive, street-level interventions in favour of reactionary emergency responses and in-depth investigations.

Please feel free to contact us should you require further information.

Thank you for your consideration. Signed,  
The Neighbourhood Action Group, comprising:  
Barry Galloway | ONE Change | The Old North End  
Anne Driscoll | Crescent Valley Resource Centre | Crescent Valley  
Juanita Black | Around the Block Community Newspaper | Crescent Valley  
Penni Eisenhauer | Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association | Waterloo Village  
Mary LeSage | People United In the Lower South End (P.U.L.S.E.) | South End  
Julie Baribault | Westside PACT (Police and Community Together) | Lower West  
With the support of:

- 1) Amy Shanks | The Boys and Girls Club
- 2) Christina Fowler | The Saint John Learning Exchange
- 3) Evelyn McNulty | Romero House Soup Kitchen
- 4) Joanne Barry | The North End Wellness Centre (New-C)
- 5) Judy Murphy | The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John
- 6) Katie Stevens | Fresh Start Services for Women
- 7) Kelly Morrell | Domestic Violence Outreach at St Joseph's Hospital | Domestic Violence Community Action Group
- 8) Margo Butler | The John Howard Society of Saint John
- 9) Randy Hatfield | The Saint John Human Development Council
- 10) Tanya James | Community Connector at the North End Wellness Centre (New-C)

CC: Cst Cory Jamieson, Sgt David Hartley-Brown, Cst Jocelyn Maclean, Cst James Whalen, Cst Duane Squires