



# Around *the* Block



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## From the Editor's desk

### It's time to hear your voice: VOTE!

Lorna Brown,

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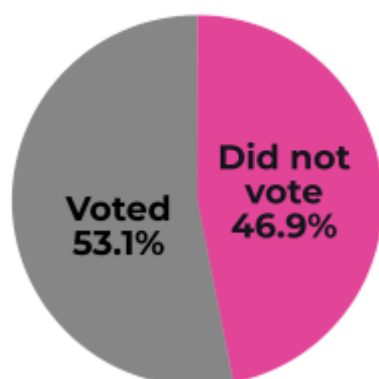
Superhero movies always do well. We all know the fantastic exploits and costumes of characters from the Marvel Universe and the X-Men Franchise. And despite being overshadowed recently by these newer kids on the block, Superman is someone we still immediately recognize in his tights and cape. We are drawn to the escapism of these fantastic stories.

But it's possible for you to be a superhero in real life. On September 14th, you can put on your tights and cape and be a superhero for democracy: you can VOTE. Your vote is your voice, and your voice matters. It is how you say what you want to see happen in your community and your province. And when enough of us raise our voices in the same way, we get to choose the person who will represent us.

In our priority neighbourhoods, too few are raising those precious individual voices to make a chorus that will be heard. But that's how democracy works. It doesn't work when you stay silent. We have recently heard the sudden power of collective voices in the Black Lives Matter movement. Yes, one person can make a difference – when you add one plus one plus one until there are dozens and hundreds and thousands. We can't become the thousands without each of us making our one voice heard.

Be empowered. Be heard. Be a hero. VOTE!

### Last election



*The turnout in Saint John Harbour riding in 2018 - this includes the South End, Waterloo Village, and the Lower West Side (Image: SJHDC). See the Provincial Election Special following page 8.*

## Proud Sponsors of Around The Block



SAINT JOHN



## Sharps kiosks in the community



**By Diane Kerns, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator, Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc. (Photos: Diane Kerns)**

It seems just a short time ago that we talked about working to get large Sharps Kiosks into our community but in fact, it has taken a couple of years to make it happen. In August, all of the efforts paid off and three new boxes were installed. They are located at Cliff Street near Waterloo Street (*below left*), the lower parking lot of the Diocesan Office on Bayard Drive (*below right*) and at the Social Enterprise HUB on Prince Edward Street (*above*).

The past three years have been a success with collection of used syringes in our smaller boxes and we are hoping this larger version will provide a much-needed place for drop-off of used needles. Four of the smaller boxes remain available for use and are located at Coburg Street, Victoria Park, Nick Nicolle Centre and Rainbow Park.

Many thanks to Social Development for their assistance with installation; to the Diocesan Office, the HUB and the City of Saint John for providing a home for the kiosks; to the Mayor and the Harm Reduction Task Force; to our summer staff, Andrew Keyes, for making this happen; and of course, to the Sharps in Community Committee that has been the driving force in making this project come to life.





## Summer Staff at ONE Change Take Up “Boxing”



Abdiaziz Adan with activity kit materials (Photo: Jessica Bradley)

By Jill Richards-Cook

Summers for children at ONE Change would typically consist of weeks of summer camps that offered games, activities, creative projects and day-tripping excursions. Due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 virus, this has been anything but a typical summer. That did not stop the staff at ONE Change - Chelsea Brown, Abdi Adan, and Jessica Bradley - from coming up with lots of fun activities for the kids in the neighbourhood and beyond.

Together they created Summer-Camp-in-a-Box activity kits that contained materials for 20+ activities, outdoor games, books, Pokémon cards and plushies. There were two send-outs (40+ activities for children to do at home), distributed to nearly 100 families - almost 200 children. That is a lot of organization and boxing! Staff also created knock-out how-to videos for the projects which were released each weekday at 2 p.m. and featured youth leader, Chelsea, filmed by Jessica and edited by Tech Mentor, Abdi.

Special thanks to Brilliant Labs for their project contributions/videos filmed/produced by Nick and Zach (ONE Future), our partners at the Saint John Boys and Girls Club for their funding assistance, and our friends at Quality Learning New Brunswick for book donations and suggestions of enjoyable book titles. (See also page 7.)

## ONE Future Digital Media Marketing through Storytelling

By Jill Richards-Cook

Want to learn the art of film making? Here is your shot. The Digital Media Marketing through Storytelling program is offering participants (18 to 30) a chance to learn the skills required to offer businesses or non-profits the essential social media and video/recording/editing skills which are a key to their marketing strategy.

Storytelling is how marketers create a story on social media that portrays the organization/business’s personality and helps attract the attention of those interested in their products, programs, or services. Essentially, it helps to build their brand. Our program will make use of cell phones, cameras, and computers to create short multi-media stories by creating videos, audio recordings, and/or photos and teach how to direct to them to appropriate social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.), depending on the target audience. We will prove “a picture is worth a thousand words,” explain how to create that image and get it viewed.

Digital Media Marketing through Storytelling offers 10 weeks of paid training in a socially distanced classroom with filmmaker/producer Andrew Tidby and our own Sean Simpson, combined with Workplace Essential Skills and is followed by a paid job placement. If you are interested in upcoming ONE Future programs or if you are an employer interested in offering a (funded) placement contact: [jill.onefuture@gmail.com](mailto:jill.onefuture@gmail.com)

## ONE Future participant



Left to right: Jonathan Driscoll, Madian Khalil, and Erik Olmstead (Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Jonathan Driscoll

Since the ONE Future program I have found myself getting back into a routine, as well as looking forward to each and every day and seeing the smiles on the faces of the many people who come through our doors. The Tech Mentorship program started in late October 2019, and in early February 2020, I started my work placement alongside Christa Petts, who has been there to mentor me and make sure that I strive toward my full potential.

This program gave me the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and I can’t wait to see what my future holds and the new people I will meet and help along the way. Community is a huge part of who I am and who we are, because together we are ONE.



Chealsea Brown (L) and Jessica Bradley, (R) from the Summer-Camp-in-a-Box team - see story above left (Photo: Jessica Bradley)

## North Neighbourhood Contact

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85 Durham Street  
658-2980





## Comings and goings: People United in the Lower South End (PULSE)

By Mary LeSage, PULSE

Our hours will be changing in September!

We will be open Wednesday mornings from 9-12 starting September 9th!

Please remember our monthly Food Purchase Club money is due September 11th and October 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!

As always our nurse is available upon request!

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

Cst Duane Squires can be reached at 977-1733 or [duane.squires@saintjohn.ca](mailto:duane.squires@saintjohn.ca).

Mary LeSage can be reached at 632-6807 or [operationsmanager.pulse@gmail.com](mailto:operationsmanager.pulse@gmail.com)



## PULSE rocks - and it certainly does!



## Do you love fruits & veggies?



A food purchase order (Photo: supplied by PULSE)

By Lisa Morris

SJ Food Purchasing is a great way to save money, eat healthy and try new recipes. There are \$15 and \$25 orders available and money is due 2nd Friday of the month and order is back the 3rd Friday.

Example: In November money is due on the 13th and can be picked up on Nov 20th.

If you are looking for a healthy snack idea, try freezing grapes! Delicious!

## PULSE Pantry

By Mary LeSage, PULSE

The PULSE Pantry was created by both residents and community partners. It's a friendly, nonjudgmental environment where residents in need can receive food items once per month, to help create one-two days' worth of meals and connect with programs and services in the community.

All we need from you is your address and how many in your family, so we can learn the ever-changing needs in our community.

Located at 251 Wentworth St. If possible, please call ahead: 632-6807.

Please remember to respect social distancing rules; free masks are available.

Dates subject to change, please follow us on Facebook to keep up to date.

### PULSE Pantry Fall Hours

September	4th & 18th	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
October	2nd, 16th & 30th	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
November	13th & 27th	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
December	11th & 18th	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## South Neighbourhood Contact

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251 Wentworth Street  
632-6807





## Summer Squad – the fun must go on!

By Kathryn Magee, Summer Squad Program Coordinator

Another successful year of Summer Squad in Crescent Valley has come to an end. Things looked a little different this year for the campers and the counsellors due to COVID-19. Thirty kids were divided into two groups and came on alternate weeks. We were also only able to do out-trips that were within walking distance of the Centre. Despite the circumstances, it was still a summer packed with fun. Halloween, Christmas, birthdays, and the end of summer were all celebrated. We spent plenty of time in the Growing Place and at the Hazen White - St. Francis School field. The biggest hits with the kids were Story Tent in The Growing Place Community Garden, bowling at Fairview Lanes and of course swimming at Rockwood Park.

Many thanks to everyone who made Summer Squad possible, including: The New Brunswick Children’s Foundation, McInnes Cooper, United Commercial Travellers - Jack Kidd Council, CV Community Tenants Assoc., CV Resource Centre, Kiwanis Club Saint John (for the awesome t-shirts), and to the NB SEED and Canada Summer Jobs programs for funds to hire five Summer Squad counselors. Many memories were made this summer and we’re really looking forward to next year’s Summer Squad.

## Basketball Court Clean Up



Lions Club members and Crescent Valley volunteers after a good clean-up! (Photo: CVRC)

By Justin Shepard, Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)

The Taylor Avenue Basketball Court in Crescent Valley is looking better every day! A partnership between the Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Social Development, Saint John City Police, The Saint John Lions Club and volunteers from inside and outside the Crescent Valley community have led to a variety of improvements to this cool recreational space. New netting was installed on the hoops, the backboards were painted, a sagging unsafe fence was mended, and a few big clean-ups have led to the court looking much better. There are still some plans for improvement on the horizon so keep your eyes peeled. Big thanks to all the participating organizations and volunteers for your generosity and for contributing to these important community improvements!

# UP TO THE JOB

RECOVER, REINVENT, RENEW.

VOTE/VOTER

## TREVOR HOLDER

## The Growing Place – Planting in a Pandemic

By Olivia Clancy, Food Security Coordinator, The Growing Place Community Garden & Greenhouse

This summer has been a huge success in The Growing Place community garden at Crescent Valley. Our second season brought us more gardeners, more vegetables, and more activities than ever before! With 38 plots in action, the garden has been teeming with life, including plants, animals, insects, and people. We have been taking advantage of our community space by hosting COVID-19 friendly events for families. A craft with coloured pasta, a community mural, a garden picnic, and weekly lawn games in the garden have kept neighbourhood families busy and active in fresh air. Who doesn’t love lawn games?!

The events have been fun, but vegetables are the real star of the garden. Produce from five garden plots is donated weekly to the North End Food Bank, including peas, radishes, lettuce, zucchini, Swiss chard, and beets.

We were fortunate to be able to hire two SEED students for 12 weeks; Claire and Ellie have been maintaining our food bank plots and running the garden events, among many other things. Their dedication to the garden has been invaluable this summer! Here is what they said about their experience working in the garden: “This has been an amazing opportunity. You get to know the community and see how much the garden impacts them. This hands-on learning opportunity has offered enormous growth for us, and it has been such a pleasure to contribute to this vibrant neighbourhood.”

It is been a great summer of gardening and we can’t wait to see what fall will bring!



Students Claire Dingee (left) and Ellie Bidgood (right) under the bean trellis in July (Photo: CVRC)

### Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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Colourful picnic tables!



Creative kids at the Carleton (Photo: Kate Worden)

By Kate Worden, CCC

Neighbourhood kids from the Boys & Girls Club summer program at the Carleton Community Centre (CCC) took on the project of painting one of the community picnic tables.

You can spot this fun table sitting out in the play park!

Carleton All Star Cheerleading coaches also painted a community picnic table at the CCC during their team building event. You can find their bright colourful table out front of the CCC next time you stop by!

A big THANK YOU to Kent Building Supplies West for their support in our picnic table project.

Carleton Community Centre update

By Kate Worden, CCC

Despite everything going on, we have been dedicating our days to bringing back programming safely and introducing new programs.

Our new SJ BikeShare satellite location opened for westside residents and is creating some excitement! Within just a few weeks, neighbourhood youth are receiving bicycles and applications continue to roll in.

Our “grab & go” meals in partnership with Hillcrest SJ are being well-received and are served every Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m. This, along with the beginning of our grassroots community pantry and bi-weekly Community BBQ events, is in continued effort to support food security in our neighbourhood.

So, what’s on the horizon for the Carleton Community Centre (CCC)? Carleton All Star Cheerleading is offering learn to cheer, tumbling, competitive and a class for all abilities. We’ve also partnered with East Coast Boxing to introduce teen and women’s-only classes to the westside this fall.

Watch our Facebook page for announcements  
@Carleton.Community -  
or give us a call at (506) 658-2920!

# Special Abilities Cheer Team

ARE YOU READY TO BE A WARRIOR?

WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER A SPECIAL ABILITIES CHEER TEAM!

AGES 4+YRS | RUN FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY

LEARN FUNDAMENTALS OF TUMBLING, STUNT, DANCE!

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SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIOURAL GROWTH, EXERCISE AND LOTS OF FUN!

REGISTER TODAY AND WITNESS YOUR CHILDS LIFE CHANGE!

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Saint John Energy TOP ENERGY SAVING TIPS



- Use lower wattage bulbs in areas that require less lighting such as sheds and entrance ways
- Use LED bulbs as they use up to 80% less electricity than incandescent lighting



## Romero House – COVID-19 Update

By Evelyn McNulty

It has been an interesting, grueling, thought-provoking and humbling few months. I have witnessed many amazing acts of generosity and caring from so many groups, businesses and individuals. I have also had the privilege of serving meals from our window every day and because of that have seen the trials and tribulations our folks face daily being magnified by COVID-19.

After 25 years of service at Romero House I can honestly say that in the last few months I have worked harder, while under more stress, than ever before. The positive note to this is that I gained so much. I have had the opportunity to listen intently to the stories of those coming to the window and learn from their experiences. I have watched unhappy faces light up when greeted with a kind word, a friendly face or a little shared humanity when the day was especially bad. I have gained some new insights into the issues of poverty, mental health and food security as these things relate to the folks we serve. We have always been so much more than a place to get a meal and we have done our best to continue to be so even with the restrictions the window presents.

Together we have provided an essential service to those in need in our community for over 38 years. Right now, I believe, our services are needed more than ever before.

### Romero House by the Numbers

- We closed our dining room and began serving “out the window” on March 17th
- In 2019 we served a record # of meals – 82,402
- From March 17th to August 3rd (20 weeks) we have served 39,851 meals - a 27% increase over the same time period last year.

### Total & (Average) # of Meals Served Daily “Out the Window”

- |         |       |       |
|---------|-------|-------|
| • April | 8,333 | (268) |
| • May   | 8,169 | (263) |
| • June  | 8,581 | (286) |
| • July  | 9,456 | (306) |



A sea of bags each morning (Photo: Romero House)

## Literally “Around the Block” at Sophia Recovery Centre



Nicole and Mary cleaning up (Photo: Sophia Recovery Centre)

By Julie Atkinson, Executive Director

Did you know that Women of Sophia enjoy giving back to the community? This summer we have launched a weekly Community Clean-up program. Volunteer work and community service are important habits of the recovery journey. The program is also a lovely, healthy way to be together outdoors during the warm, sunny weeks of the year!

You’ll see our program coordinator, Nicole Lee, and a group of Women of Sophia picking up litter all around the Waterloo Village neighbourhood every Tuesday throughout the coming weeks.

If your organization would like to join us, we would be happy to make this a joint project! Please give us a call. The more the merrier! 633-8783

#womenhelpingwomen #WomenofSophia

If you or a woman you know needs help or support in their recovery from addiction, please reach out to us at 633-8783 or drop in from Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4:30 pm.

## You are not alone. We are here for you.

**Waterloo-Village  
Neighbourhood Contact**

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139 Prince Edward Street  
647-8047





# Free, virtual, summer STEAM Camps for children in Saint John!

By Brilliant Labs

Following a school year like no other – where students were learning online from home – Brilliant Labs’ summer STEAM Camps also went virtual! To support this initiative, Brilliant Labs partnered with the Saint John Human Development Council to develop and deliver free, youth-focused, virtual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) camps across Atlantic Canada.

For seven weeks, children aged seven and up had fun online learning how to be artists, designers, engineers, inventors and scientists every weekday throughout the region. The virtual camps offered content (in English and French) that was aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

There were also Special Interests Camps for children in Grades 4+ looking to go further this summer and learn cool stuff, from coding your own games using Unity to creating a YouTube Channel to Cyber Security, Bio-Making, and engineering circuit boards!

For those without internet access, prerecorded, MakerFun material was also made available through Community TV episodes on EastLink and Rogers Television. As well, free activity kits to accompany the virtual content were also available at no cost to participating children.

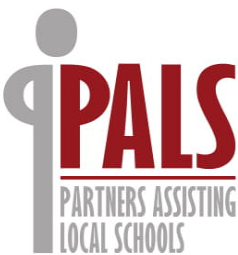
The STEAM camps were made possible in Saint John and the surrounding area thanks to community partners and the generous support of our funders: Government of Canada through the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) and the United Way Saint John, Kings & Charlotte Counties; Canada Summer Jobs; Canaport LNG; and the Ted Rogers Foundation. Through their generous support, children learned how to create and innovate online, with their peers!



## 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



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We ALL have something to offer!



# Saint John the Baptist King Edward (SJBKE) update

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

Out of necessity, society has expended a great deal of attention on our current crisis. Nowhere is this more evident than in schools, where questions of what the future will hold dominate questions about students, staff and, indeed, life itself.

In these extraordinary moments, I've realized that what people are seeking is normalcy, safety, and the routine we've all lost. This is why I think it very important to celebrate those among us who have persevered through this crisis to give us that comfort in the setting we all know best - our buildings. For SJBKE School, that means highlighting the efforts of three extraordinary people- our custodians, Rose, Scott and Bryan.

Coronavirus presented a unique challenge for spring and summer maintenance work. When big buildings are closed, it doesn't take long for the air to go stale, for bright-work to tarnish, for floors to become dull. Of course, all schools are ordinarily cleaned in summer, but this year was something very special, at least to me. Every floor stripped and waxed; every piece of furniture moved and given attention; walls, vents, doors and anything you can imagine in a school setting has been attended to.

While this work is a feature of every summer cleaning, this year our custodians went so very far beyond. The lasting image of 2020 for me is a pyramid pile of garbage cans, all rinsed and scoured out ... and gleaming. Who does this?! People who care - people who have jobs but realize that they are contributing to something so much greater, to a setting where we welcome the vulnerable, children who crave the safety and normalcy of our school community, this place that is a little bit of home for all of us.

It is that sense of family, of belonging, exemplified here by our custodians, that reminds us all that the way forward, with or without a vaccine, is together. The connection begins with something as ordinary as a garbage can.



The gleaming floor at SJBKE (Photo: Ben Gillcrist)

Who does this?! People who care ... the way forward, with or without a vaccine, is together.





Community Partners • *Community Partners* • Community Partners • *Community Partners* • Community Partners

# My work at the Saint John Community Loan Fund



Guillermo at the HUB (Photo: Abigail Reinhart)

**By Guillermo Marroquin,  
Saint John Community Loan Fund**

My name is Guillermo Marroquin, I am currently working for the Saint John Community Loan Fund (SJCLF) as financial and project analyst. I am an Ecuadorian that came to Canada in 2017 to study the one-year intensive Master’s in Business Administration at UNBSJ. However, this was not my first Canadian educational experience. In 2002 I completed an MSc in Energy and Environment at the University of Calgary.

Once I finished my MSc in Energy and Environment I got involved with electric utilities in Ecuador, and in structuring the business aspects of projects in renewable energies while looking at the community and environmental issues.

Between 2010 and 2014, I decided to do a shift in my career and work for the local government of Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, which at that time was interested in implementing affordable housing projects for low-income residents of the city.

Affordable housing work was so fascinating that I moved to the National Development Bank, for facilitating the financing of housing projects. I had the opportunity to develop policies and create new financial products that promoted the growth of this important sector for poverty alleviation with national reach.

During that experience, I learned how the Canadian perspective for Public and Private Partnerships (3Ps) would be a good model to follow in Latin America for increasing the infrastructure for development (ports, airports, roads, hospitals, etc.). I found 3Ps so appealing that I enrolled in the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships that took place in Toronto in 2016.

What’s next for me? I believe in continuous learning and remain devoted to the fields of sustainable development, affordable housing, and energy. Now I am working with the SJCLF, an organization where I could contribute to a positive change. I could bring my experience in various aspects for example: financial analysis, financial modeling, risk analysis, project development, and socioeconomic analysis.

These days I am doing research into Social Finance and the connection with affordable housing projects. I am continuing the outstanding work carried out by the summer interns Stanley and Danilla who worked in estimating the supply and demand of affordable housing in NB and in improving the processes in microfinancing operations in the Fund respectively. Our objective at the Loan Fund will be to grow the capital pool and leverage impact across the Province. My job is to make sure our financial models work.

## Prepare your budget for the fall



Darlene Jones (Photo: Saint John Community Loan Fund)

**By Darlene Jones , Money Matters Coordinator,  
Saint John Community Loan Fund**

Fall is one of my favourite times of the year. The colours of the leaves and sneaking in one more beautiful day before winter. It is also a restart to the year.

From a financial point of view, fall is the beginning of the two largest spending events; back-to-school and Christmas. Both of these events have a high social status attached to them. Keeping up with the Jones’ is very stressful and results in you feeling like a complete failure as a parent. Let this be the last year you follow this hamster wheel.

“Don’t fear failure. Fear being in the exact same place next year as you are today.” - Mel Robbins

Starting with your child tax credit in September, I would challenge you to start saving \$20.00 a month per child. This time next year you will have \$120.00 saved for back to school shopping and then in a few more months another \$120.00 for Christmas. Starting to save money may be hard at first. Picture yourself with that money in hand and how empowered you will feel while shopping. Perhaps you need to save your receipts from this year as a reminder of the pain you will feel if you don’t save.

Paying it forward is a way to be kind to others; saving money is showing kindness to yourself. You and your family deserve peace.

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## Provincial Election Special

# Around the Block



• Saint John Human Development Council • [www.sjhdc.ca](http://www.sjhdc.ca)

Editor: Randy Hatfield, Executive Director, SJHDC

*Election content prepared by SJHDC staff*

***“If you don’t vote,  
you lose the right to  
complain.”~***

***George Carlin***

## Earn your right to complain: VOTE!

*By Randy Hatfield*

If George Carlin was right, there shouldn’t be much complaining in the Saint John constituencies of Harbour and Portland-Simonds. The two ridings contain the city’s five priority neighbourhoods and in 2018 (and 2015) they had the lowest voter turnout rates in the province.

In the 2018 provincial election the overall turnout rate was 66.4% (it has declined from over 82% in 1967). Turnout rates ranged from a high of 79.2% in Shippagan-Lameque-Miscou to lows of 53.1% in Saint John Harbour and 53.8% in Portland-Simonds.

Turning up to vote is important. And we can do better.

Things might change if more people voted. But far too few people in the province, and particularly Saint John, show up at the polls.

Along with the turnout rate, it also matters who votes. Politicians and political parties, with their focus on getting (re)elected, tend to target their platforms to the people who vote in large numbers.

In 2018 79.3% of New Brunswickers between the ages of 65-84 voted. The turnout rate for younger citizens between 19 and 24 was 50.4%. It’s probably not a coincidence that platforms and political advertising seem to focus more on seniors’ issues rather than on those affecting first-time voters.

Moreover, if those who stay home are concentrated in certain groups – like New Brunswickers living in poverty - then, over the long term, their interests and concerns are likely to be ignored.

This 28-day election campaign is the shortest allowed by law. It’s not much time for political parties to nominate candidates, prepare platforms and connect with voters. And the COVID pandemic will change the way that candidates conduct their campaigns.

New Brunswick citizens over 18 should take advantage of early voting opportunities: request a special ballot so you can vote by mail; vote at advance polls on September 5th or 8th; or go to a returning office to vote. **[See How to Vote in 5 Easy Steps, right.]**

This is an election when we will choose how far and how fast we head in addressing social and environmental issues like poverty, affordable housing, sustainable health-care and a workable strategy to address climate change.

Voters should get informed on the issues – particularly the parties’ platform on poverty reduction – and get to the polls in large numbers.

**Turning up to vote is important.  
And we can do better.**

## How To Vote In 5 Easy Steps!

### Step 1: Register to vote

Registering is the first step to having your say in the election. It’s basically signing up to vote. The quickest and easiest way to register is online. To see if you are registered you can call Elections NB at 1-888-858-VOTE (8683).

### Step 2: Decide when to vote

You have three options when choosing when to vote:

- You can vote on Election Day, Monday, September 14th, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Busy on Election Day? No problem! There are two advance voting days: Saturday, September 5th and Tuesday, September 8th. Advance Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Want to get voting off your “to do list” before the Advanced Polls, or on a day that is more convenient for you? You can head over to the Elections NB returning office. To find your returning office visit [www.elections.nb.ca](http://www.elections.nb.ca).
- If you are not comfortable visiting a voting location you can vote by mail. You can apply for a special ballot at [www.electionsnb.ca](http://www.electionsnb.ca) (click “Vote by Mail”), or you can contact your returning office for more information. Note, if you want to vote by mail-in ballot, you can make application online or or by picking up the application at your returning office. Either way, make sure you do so early. All mail-in ballots must be back to the returning office by 8 p.m. on Election Day (September 14th) or they will not count.

### Step 3: Find your Polling Station

Where you go to vote is called a Polling Station. To find out where yours is you can look on the back of your voter registration card. You can also go to [www.electionsnb.ca](http://www.electionsnb.ca) and type in your street address. Or, you can call Elections NB to find out where your polling station at 1-888-858-VOTE (8683).

### Step 4: Get your ID or proof of address ready

If you forget to register, don’t worry! You can register at the polling station when you go to vote. You have three options:

1. Bring a piece of ID with your photo, name, and home address on it. This piece of ID must be issued by the government. For example you can bring your driver’s license, or provincial ID card with you.
2. You can bring two pieces of ID: One with your name on it (health card, Canadian passport, credit or debit card, etc.) and one with your name and home address on it (bank statement, power bill etc.). The full list of ID pieces that are accepted is on the Elections NB website. [www.electionsnb.ca](http://www.electionsnb.ca)
3. If neither of these options work don’t worry, you can still vote! You will need to declare your identity and address in writing and bring a friend who is on the voter list to vouch for you. Your friend must be from the same polling station. They will vouch that you are who you say you are and live where you say you do.

### Step 5: Go vote!

\*\*

**NOTE:** If you have moved or changed your name, you will need to have corrections made before you vote.

Bring both your original name and ID with your current name OR proof of your old address and your new address to eliminate a long revision session.

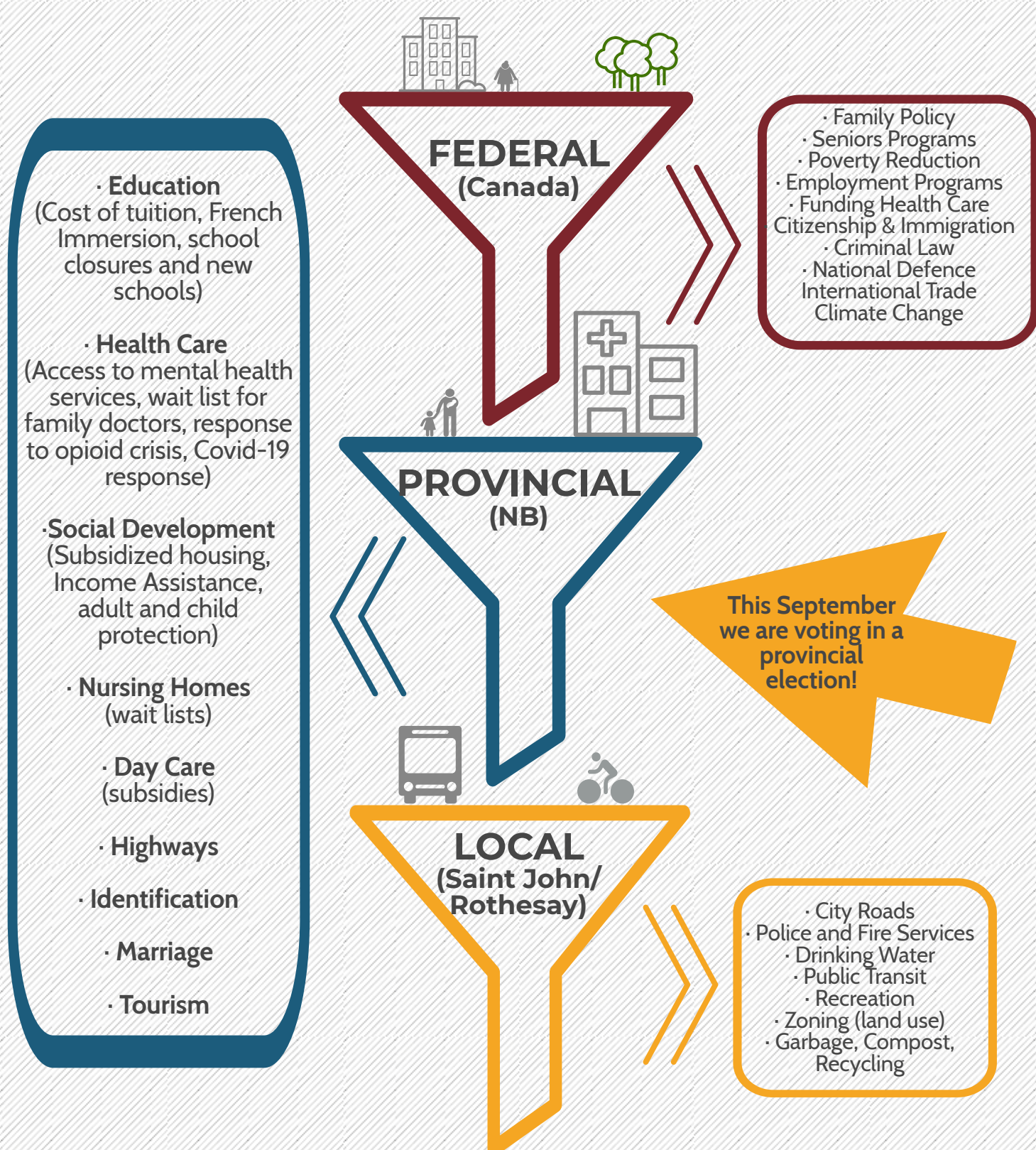
All voter records must be accurate BEFORE your ballot will be issued.





## THE 3 LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT:

Who's Responsible for What?



**Got the kids? Take 'em with you! Voting can be fun for the whole family!**

"Voting is something you should be proud to be able to do, it's really a celebration. When two of my three children turned 18, their first vote was a big deal and we celebrated! My youngest son has come with me to vote in every municipal, provincial and federal election since he was a baby - he can't wait for his turn!"

~ Allison Ferris, Housing Alternatives





## Provincial Election Special

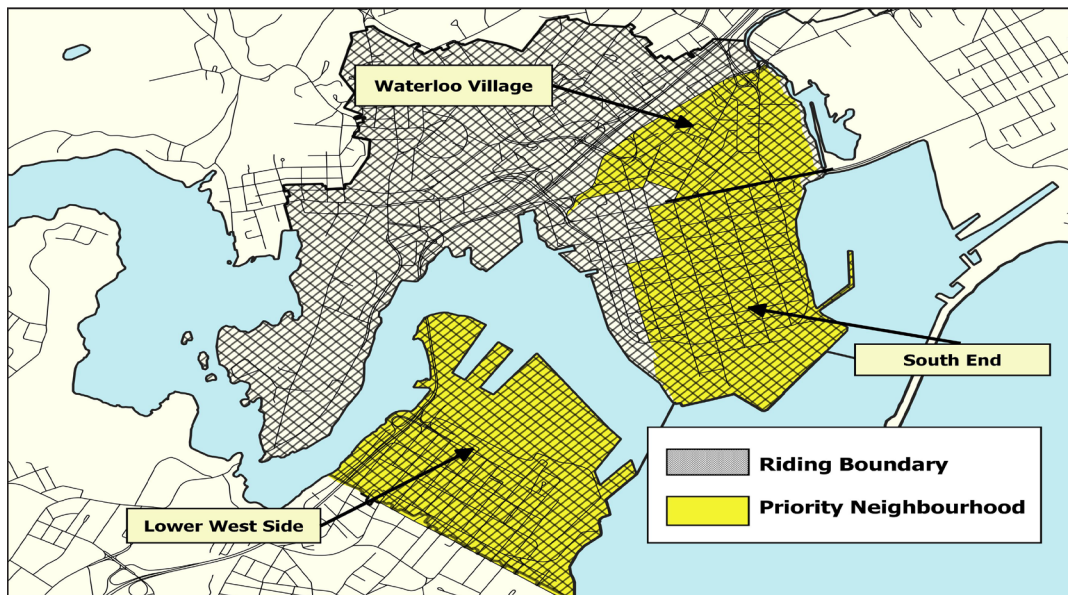
# Around the Block



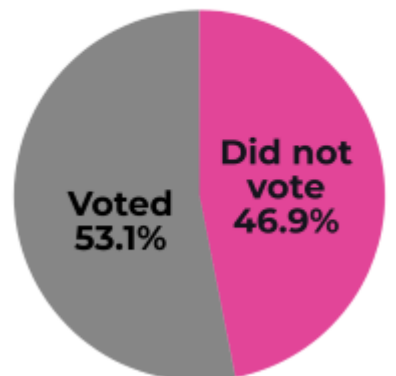
• Saint John Human Development Council • [www.sjhdc.ca](http://www.sjhdc.ca)

## Saint John Harbour

All candidate information is provided as supplied at time of going to press



### Last election



**Mike Cyr**

Independent

**Arlene Dunn**

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**Tony Gunn**

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**Courtney Pyrke**

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NDPCourtney@gmail.com



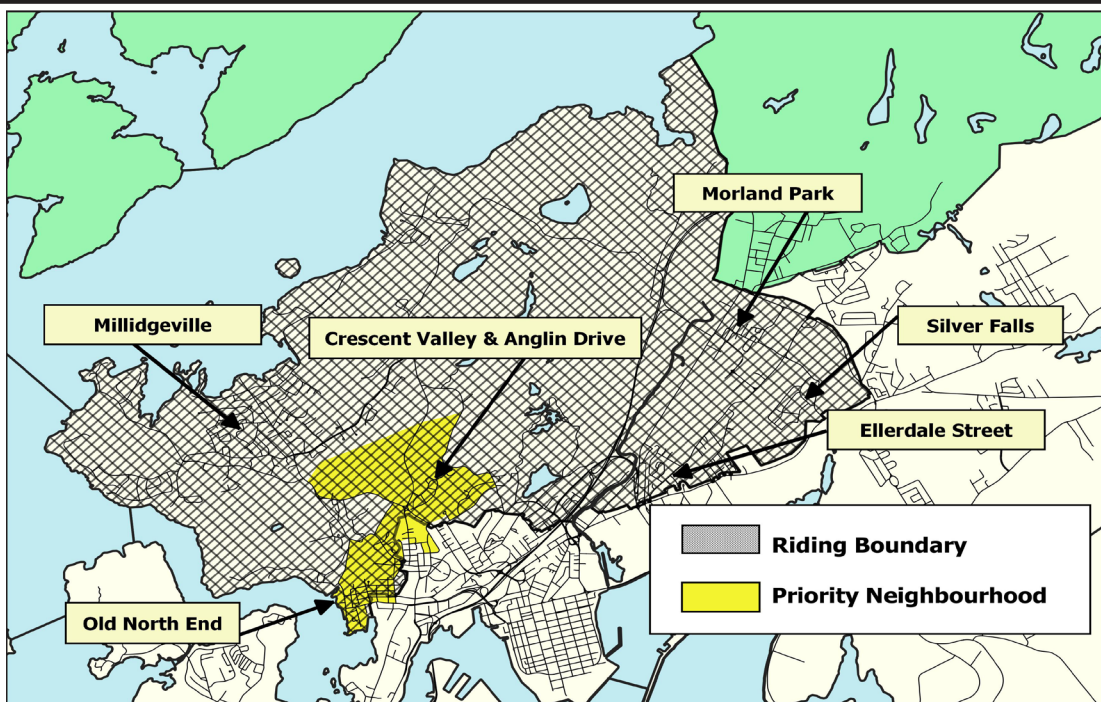
**Arty Watson**

Independent  
506-607-5690  
artywatson2020@gmail.com

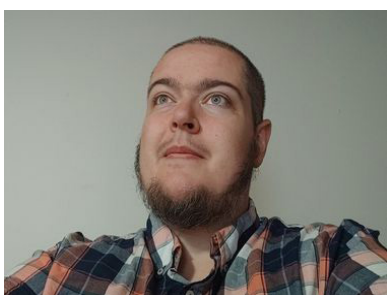
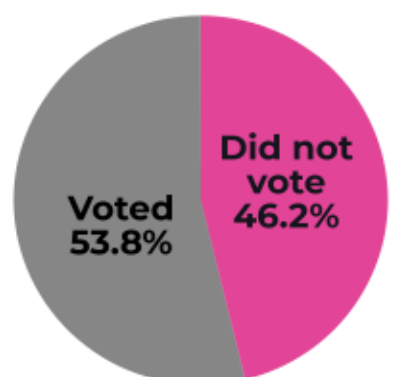


## Portland Simonds

All candidate information is provided as supplied at time of going to press



### Last election



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**Stefan Warner**

Parti Vert N.B. Green Party  
StefanWarner4SJ@gmail.com







## Provincial Election Special

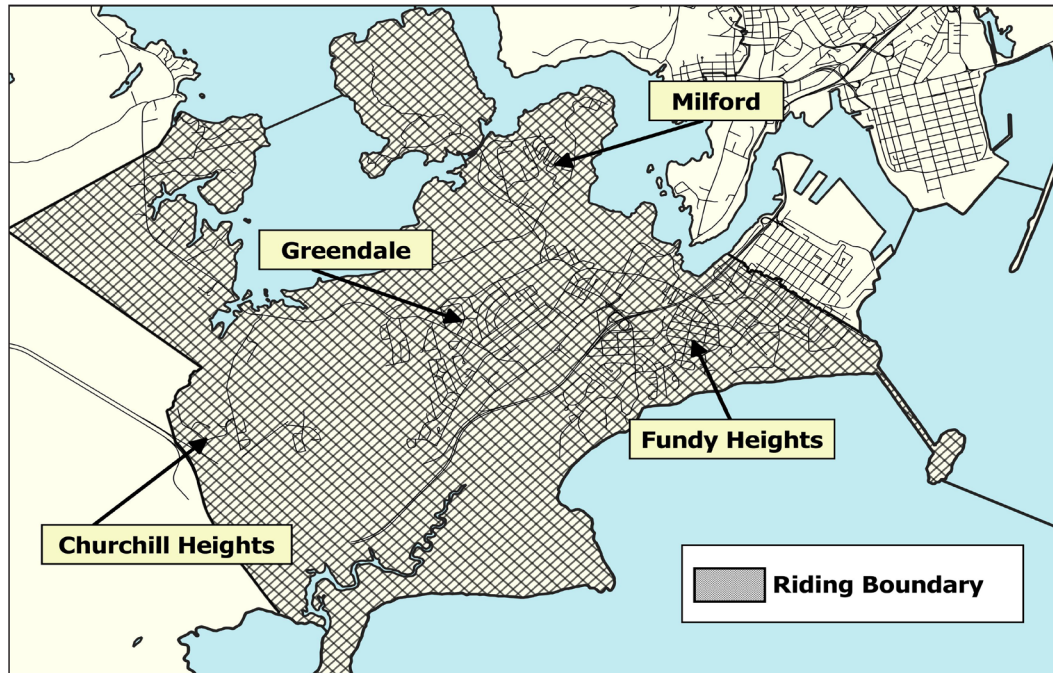
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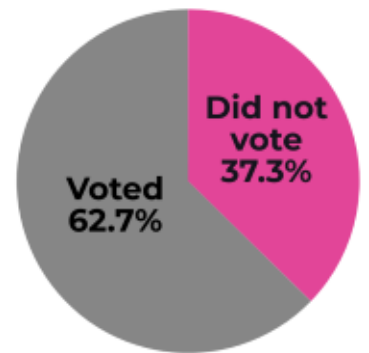
• Saint John Human Development Council • [www.sjhdc.ca](http://www.sjhdc.ca)

## Saint John Lancaster

All candidate information is provided as supplied at time of going to press



Last election



**Don Durant**

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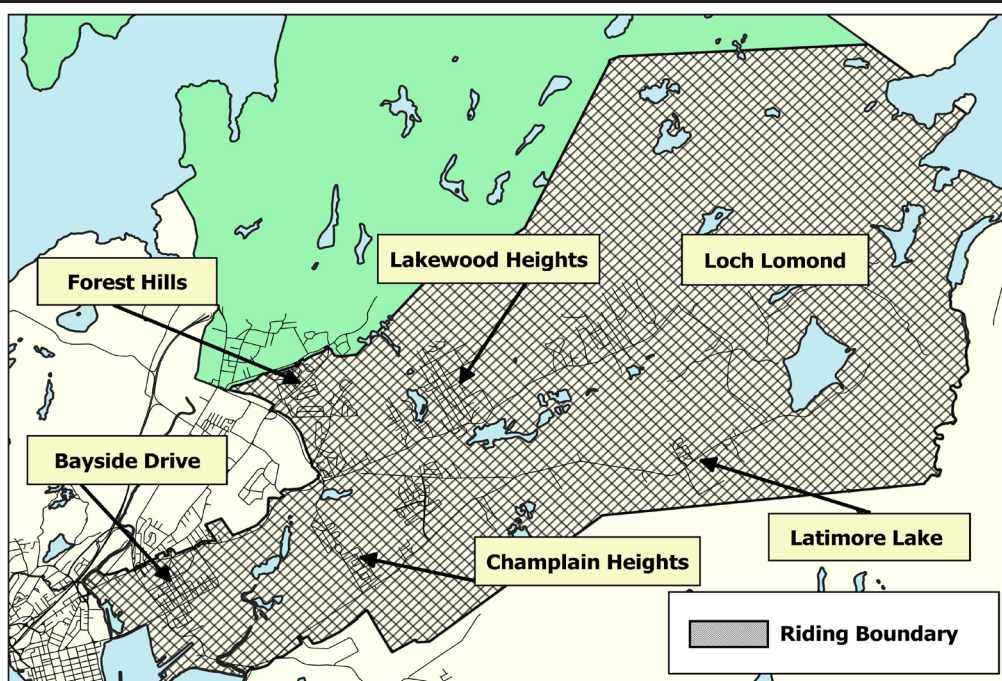
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Liberal Party  
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[sdteare@gmail.com](mailto:sdteare@gmail.com)

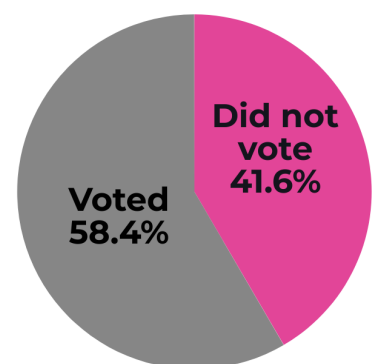


## Saint John East

All candidate information is provided as supplied at time of going to press



Last election



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**Gerald Irish**

Parti Vert N.B. Green Party



**Patrick Kemp**

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**Glen Savoie**

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[facebook.com/GlenSavoieNB](https://facebook.com/GlenSavoieNB)







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## Youth Entrepreneurship

*By Abigail Reinhart, Saint John Community Loan Fund*

The Y.E.S. (Youth Social Entrepreneurship) Program is an interactive learning program that gives youth opportunities to build unique skills and think outside the box while learning how social entrepreneurship is transforming our economy. Our hands-on approach, games and activities are designed to help to increase their knowledge of entrepreneurship, social enterprise and how to make a difference. Together we develop an idea for a community impact project or social enterprise based on their interests and the concerns that they identify. The youth create an action plan and we offer a variety of resources to support their project. Any youth wanting to participate or learn more: contact [abigail@loanfund.ca](mailto:abigail@loanfund.ca).

### Purpose of the program:

- To listen to the needs and concerns of youth and support them in becoming changemakers.
- To encourage young people to think mindfully about the shift that is reshaping the economy.
- To explore meaningful ways to address social environmental and economic needs.
- To inspire self-drive and motivation to recognize opportunities for positive change.



Summer student Eric Cuenat with Boys and Girls Club Youth Leaders who participated in YES this year, in front of their inspirational last-day chalk mural at the HUB



YES participants enjoy the view from the roof of the Social Enterprise HUB, summer 2020



Happy YES participants deep in a project; right is Eric Cuenat

**YES encourages young people to think mindfully about the shift that is reshaping the economy**







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## HUB Summer Student Experience



## HUB Summer Student Experience

*By Eric Cuenat, The Social Enterprise Hub*

After going through the IDEA Centre, a co-op that high schoolers can go take to start their own business, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to The HUB through one of my teachers. I initially was hired to help Abi with the YES Program (Youth Social Entrepreneurship) but due to COVID I would not be able to see them every day. So on the days where I wasn't helping kids, I spent my time getting to know what the HUB was and what everyone was up to.

I quickly realized that every single person in the building had one goal, to help give everyone the voice they deserve in the community they love. This summer has grown my passion for business and giving back to the community and I never thought that I could walk into the same building every day and love it the more I came.

The HUB was a unique experience for me because I really felt like I was treated like an adult for the first time in my life. I was given responsibilities that really made me feel like I was part of the team and my input was always taken into consideration. As time went on, I was trusted with updating websites/Facebook page, crack filling, receptionist in the AM, delivering cheques and I even got to participate in real business meetings! I was able to meet wonderful people who've inspired me to want to do good in the community rather than making a quick buck.

As my time at The HUB comes to an end, I'd like to thank EVERYONE in the building for being so awesome and giving me the opportunity to learn everything from what's a social enterprise to how I should handle my money as a 17-year-old going into university. This has truly been an experience that has changed my life and I am proud to say that I'm a part of The HUB family.

**This has truly been an experience that has changed my life**

## HUB Greem Team Update

*By Jamylynn McDonald, Climate Change Coordinator, ACAP*

The HUB's Green Team continues to work towards sustainability at the Social Enterprise Hub!

The summer has flown by and our solar panels have been working everyday – even in the fog. In July they generated 2.2MWh of energy!

The beautiful rain garden (right) beside Stone Soup Café has been working in combination with two rain barrels (behind the HUB) to capture rainfall and reduce the potential for flooding and erosion around the building.

We continue to compost in the building and the success of this program has encouraged the team to think about developing a pilot for plastic recycling. This fall, we will launch a battery and recycling drop-off in the HUB's lobby to help divert waste from our landfill. Stay tuned and think green!



*The rain garden at the Social Enterprise HUB - where the Green Team is always innovating! (Photo: Aiden Isbill)*

## Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) update



*Sam Flewelling (Photo: Kelly Lawson Photography)*

**By PCAP**

The Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) in Saint John would like to welcome their new Clinical Coordinator, Sam Flewelling. Sam started in June 2020. Sam comes to us after working in a variety of nursing environments in Charlotte County and Saint John over the course of her career. Sam brings to PCAP her most recent experiences working at the Saint John Regional Corrections Centre and Addictions and Mental Health for Horizon Health Network. Before coming to Saint John, Sam enjoyed acute care nursing in the hospital, working as a community health nurse in the Healthy Learners Program for Public Health and enjoying Clinical Instructor work at both UNB and UNBSJ. Sam is excited to bring her experiences and passion to the PCAP team, who support high-risk women who have experienced alcohol- and substance-use during pregnancy. PCAP is responsible for providing direct outreach, home visitation, case management and advocacy to these mothers and babes. Sam is infusing herself into the dynamic welcoming PCAP team and thrilled to be one of the newest residents of the Social Enterprise Hub.





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## Saint John Learning Exchange (SJLE) Update

By Erin MacKenney, Coordinator, Saint John Learning Exchange (SJLE)

The Learning Exchange is thrilled to announce that we are back to offering face-to-face and virtual services to learners.

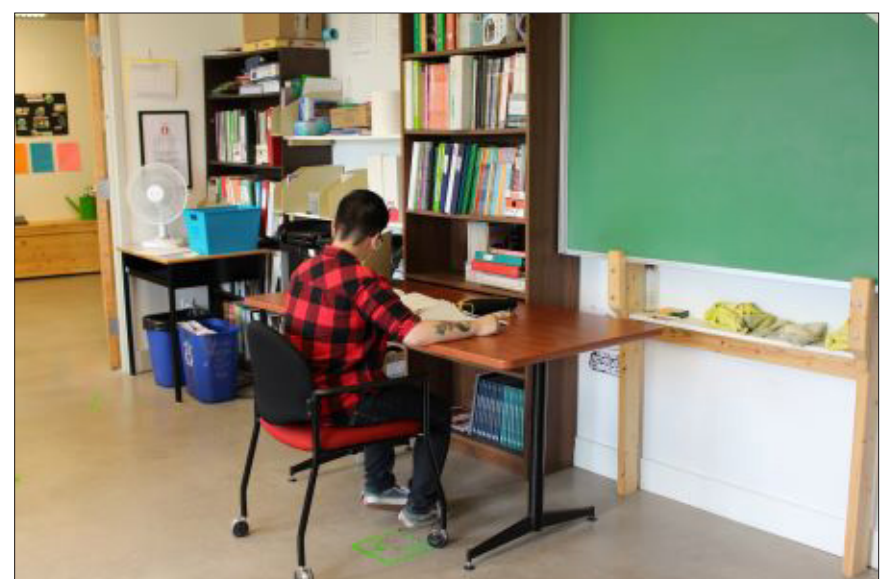
The lockdown was hard on us all, and we felt lucky to return to the office in June and see all of our learners again. We have been hard at work to make sure that we have all the proper safety measures in place to keep working with our learners. Learners have the opportunity to attend classes in person or to work online on their academic and employment goals.

Our learners are doing great: setting goals, achieving them, and earning incentives as a result. So, if you're thinking that now is the time to finish working on your GED, get your Adult Diploma, or prepare to go to work, we would love to meet with you!

Give us a call at 648-0202 or email us at [info@sjle.org](mailto:info@sjle.org).

(Photos of learners: SJLE)

**Our learners are doing great: setting goals, achieving them, and earning incentives as a result!**



Wayne Long  
MP/Député • Saint John-Rochesay  
1 Market Square • 657-2500





## The Community Masks Project

*By Emily MacMackin, Communications Specialist, Saint John Newcomers Centre*

On August 4th, we launched our Community Mask Project in partnership with the University of New Brunswick at Market Square in Uptown Saint John. The project, led by UNBSJ experiential learning student Jason Walsh, was the product of many discussions that emerged during the COVID-19 self-isolation period in March and April.

With the assistance of Rob Moir, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Business at UNB Saint John, The Saint John Newcomers Centre was able to secure several 3D printers including one that will remain in the Centre over the long term. Newcomers will be invited to use the in-office printer to print 3D face masks in the future.

Thank you to Brilliant Labs, ConnexionWorks, and the Port of Saint John for providing both in-kind and monetary donations. If you are interested learning more or participating in 3D printing information sessions with The Saint John Newcomers Centre please contact [jason.walsh@sjnewcomers.ca](mailto:jason.walsh@sjnewcomers.ca).



*Emin Civi, Duyen Nguyen, Mohamed Bagha, David Dobbeltsteyn with 3D printed masks (Photo: SJ Newcomers Centre)*

**Newcomers will be invited to use the in-office printer to print 3D face masks**

## Projet de masques communautaires

*Par Emily MacMackin, Spécialiste en communications, Centre des nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean*

Sur le 4 août, nous avons lancé notre projet de masques communautaire en partenariat avec l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick à Market Square dans le centre-ville de Saint-Jean. Le projet, dirigé par Jason Walsh, étudiant d'apprentissage expérientiel, était le fruit de nombreuses discussions qui ont émergé pendant le confinement du COVID-19 durant les mois de mars et avril.

Avec l'aide de Rob Moir, doyen associé de la faculté de commerce de l'UNB Saint John, le Centre des nouveaux arrivants de Saint Jean a pu se procurer plusieurs imprimantes 3D, dont une qui restera au Centre à long terme. Les nouveaux arrivants seront invités à utiliser l'imprimante 3D pour imprimer les masques 3Ds au bureau du centre dans la future.

Merci à Brilliant Labs, ConnexionWorks et le Port de Saint-Jean pour leurs dons en nature et en argent. Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus ou à participer à des séances d'information sur l'impression 3D, veuillez contacter [jason.walsh@sjnewcomers.ca](mailto:jason.walsh@sjnewcomers.ca).

## Music in the Park



*Del Worden and friends perform at Chown Field (Photo: Debbie McLeod)*

*By Debbie McLeod and Lynne Kaine*

The City of Saint John and Social Development teamed up to provide a safe Music in the Park at Chown Field. Two musical events were held, August 10th and 17th, and were well attended. Delbert Worden and friends entertained the crowds of people for an hour and a half each night. People brought chairs or blanket to sit on and sat with their bubble family and friends. There were COVID-19 measures in place so people felt safe attending the outdoor event. The Kool 98 cruiser was there with lots of giveaways. Music in the Park was so successful that two more events were planned at time of writing, for August 24th and August 31st.

**The Saint John Newcomers Centre**

**Le Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean**

**Join us for our virtual programs!**  
**Rejoignez nous pour nos programmes virtuels!**

**welcome@sjnewcomers.ca | 642-4242**

Questions about our services? Call anytime or visit us at [www.BrenansFH.com](http://www.BrenansFH.com)

*It's traditional...*

There are many traditions surrounding funerals. The oldest have been with us for centuries, the newest; they're being created every day.

It's our tradition to do everything we can to ensure that each family that turns to us gets the service they expect, the respect they deserve, choices that suit their budget and everything they need to find meaning for today and hope for tomorrow.

**Brenan's**  
 FUNERAL HOMES  
 & CREMATORIUM

Sharlene MacDonald	Gary Smith	Lethe Kerr	Karen Belyea	Kate Lavhey	Doug Ellis	Patrick Olsen
1461 Manawagonish Road 634-7425		111 Paradise Row 634-7424		152 Pettingill Road 849-2119		



## 70 Summer Dreams Come True



Smiling summer camp kids in their bubble at Camp Glenburn  
(Photo: Nathalie Logan)

**By: Nathalie Logan, Communications Coordinator, YMCA of Greater Saint John**

This summer looks a little different and with so many families being financially strapped we are so grateful to our donors and community members for sending 70 kids to Camp Glenburn, where they will make memories that will last a lifetime.

“We are thrilled to have Camp Glenburn open this summer, I think it’s something kids really need after months of isolation,” says Shilo Boucher, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Saint John.

For some kids camp is the highlight of their summer and it is an opportunity every child deserves. Our Strong Communities Campaign has provided many children from priority neighborhoods, at no cost to their families, the opportunity to experience the magic of Camp Glenburn.

Camp Glenburn is a place for children to learn, grow and have fun! At camp children are safe, active and happy. They learn to become more independent, self-confident and develop an appreciation for the outdoors.

**It’s something kids really need after months of isolation**

## De la fierté au bout du crayon!



Benjamin a reçu son dessin original encadré par le district comme prix de participation.  
(Crédit: Gracieuseté)

**Par Jonathan Poirier, Agent des communications et relations publiques, ARCf (Association Régionale de la Communauté francophone) de Saint-Jean**

Chaque année, le District scolaire francophone Sud invite les écoles et les centres de la petite enfance à un concours de dessin pour l’élaboration de son calendrier annuel de la Semaine provinciale de la fierté française. Les meilleurs dessins réalisés par les enfants soumis au district sont choisis pour être affichés dans les pages du calendrier.

Pour l’année 2020-2021, un enfant du CPE La Vallée enchantée a gagné le concours. Benjamin Comeau, 5 ans, a créé un dessin qui a été retenu pour le nouveau calendrier. Il fait partie du groupe d’après-classe de Manon Duguay. Benjamin a reçu son dessin original encadré par le district comme prix de participation.

## Bee Me Kidz Update

**By Kerri Brooks**

We’re BUZZING with excitement to see old and new families in September!!!

Although we couldn’t see our families face-to-face this spring or summer, we were able to provide and deliver a total of 2536 nutritious food boxes to over 11,286 individuals! In addition, we included fun family activities tied to different emotions to keep the Bee Me Kidz engagement going at home! We LOVED seeing parents sending in pictures of the awesome crafts that our kidz made! Great job, boyz & girlz!

Our Bee Me Kidz team is BUZZy preparing for the school year to make sure all safety precautions are set and ready to go! Lots of exciting activities & games are BEE-ing planned and you don’t want to miss out on the fun!

Our program is set to begin on Saturday, September 29th. We are currently taking registrations using our NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION form through our Facebook page: “Bee Me Kidz” or call/text Saige at 654-1377 to sign up over the phone. BEE sure to register soon, as spots are limited.

Can’t wait for another amaZZZing year with our Bee Me Kidz community, always striving to “be the best me they can bee!”





## Saint John Food Purchasing Club



A food purchase order (Photo: CVRC)

**By Olivia Clancy, Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)**

Did you know that there is a cheaper way to buy fruits and vegetables?

Each month, the Saint John Food Purchasing Club buys produce in bulk to give everyone the chance to get lots of veggies for a fantastic price. Pay for the order you want (\$15 for one large bag or \$25 for two bags) by one of the dates below. Pick up your order on pick-up day the following week at the same location you placed your order, between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

You do not need to buy an order every month – just when it is beneficial to you! The orders may not be ready for pick up before 12 p.m.

Food Purchase orders can be placed at any of the following locations:

- Crescent Valley Resource Centre, 130 MacLaren Blvd., 693-8513
- St. Joseph's Community Health Centre, 116 Coburg St., 632-5537
- Nick Nicolle Community Centre, 85 Durham St., 658-2980
- P.U.L.S.E., 251 Wentworth St., 632-6807
- St. Mary & St. Bartholomew Church, 646 Westmorland Road
- Carleton Community Centre, 120 Market Place, 658-2920

**The remaining dates to place and pick up an order for 2020 are:**

- September - Money due Sept 11th | Pick up Sept 18th
- October - Money due Oct 16th | Pick up Oct 18th
- November - Money due Nov 13th | Pick up Nov 20th
- December - Money due Dec 11th| Pick up Dec 18th

**These bags are for everyone  
and anyone -  
give it a try this month!**

## GED Testing Centre



The GED Testing Centre (Photo: Maureen Creamer)

**By Maureen Creamer, Test Administrator**

Saint John Kings Adult Learning Inc, an organization that offers adult learning programs, has opened a GED testing centre in Saint John. We are conveniently located in Place 400 on Main Street.

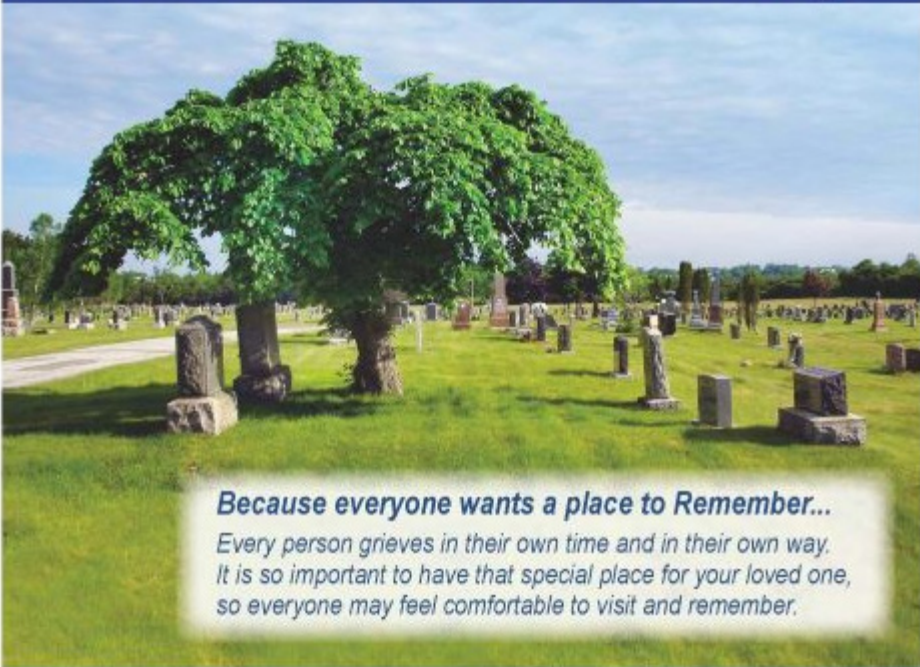
Tests are completed on computer and results are available as soon as the test is finished (except for the Writing test because the essay has to be marked).

It is easy to create an account on ged.com where you can schedule your tests at a time that is convenient to you. All you need to bring is a current, government-issued picture ID.

There is no charge to write the tests and you do not have to attend a program.

**If you have any questions, please call or text  
(506) 343-0366 or please check out our Facebook  
page for more information  
(Saint John Kings Adult Learning Inc.)**

### Cedar Hill - Greenwood Cemetery



*Because everyone wants a place to Remember...*  
Every person grieves in their own time and in their own way.  
It is so important to have that special place for your loved one,  
so everyone may feel comfortable to visit and remember.

Traditional & Cremation choices available at Cedar Hill Extension  
and Greenwood Cemetery  
– Please contact our office: 9 am - 4:30 pm weekdays to discuss –  
**650 Manawagonish Rd. Saint John, NB – 672-4309**



## September is Big Brothers Big Sisters Month!



(Photo: Big Brothers Big Sisters)

**By Rhoda Welshman, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John**

Potential. It exists within every kid. Yet many children and youth are in urgent need of someone who will stand in their corner. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John serves more than 400 children in communities stretching from St. Stephen to Sussex with satellite offices located in St. George and St. Stephen. We are committed to maintaining and supporting vital mentoring relationships. These relationships are critical to the success, mental health and well-being of our young people.

We offer a variety of short and long-term one-on-one and group mentoring programs for youth ages 6-21 including: In-School Mentoring, Go Girls!, Game On!, Big Bunch, Mentor Links, Propel Your Education and Career, and of course our traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters and Big Couples programs. Our volunteers range from ages 16-76, each one bringing something unique and similar to their match. Additionally, we host various fundraisers and events throughout the year. So, there's honestly something for everyone!

You can be the spark! By changing the course of young lives, we shape our community's social and economic future; investing in young people's futures pays off, with a social return on investment of \$23-to-1 through improved economic, health, and social outcomes for young people with mentors. Stand with us as we celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month across Canada. Follow us on social media and visit our website to learn more about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

**We are #BiggerTogether**

Rhoda.welshman@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca  
635-1145



## Around The Block Team (Issue 72)

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## Anglin Drive Graduates of 2020



Mallory Ross (Photo: supplied by T. Roy)

**By T. Roy**

This 2019/2020 school year has been one for the history books. The students of this year have been put to the ultimate test of dedication and hard work. The Coronavirus swept in just after March Break and changed the entire world. The world was put under strict lockdown orders in order to suppress the virus.

All schools were closed down on March 9th, 2020. For some it was a welcome extension to the March break. For the potential graduates of 2020, it was a stressful time. The students were left with so many questions. Will I graduate on time? Will there still be a graduation ceremony, and dance? These events are monumental and very important to any student as they wrap up their Grade 12 year.

The Anglophone South School District put in action an online academic learning environment. Students would log in at set times and have a virtual classroom. Projects and assignments were submitted via email. It was a learning curve for all involved.

As June drew closer, the grads were getting restless as they waited to hear about the ceremony and dance. Unfortunately, due to the potential spread of the virus the decision was made to cancel all large gatherings. The individual schools came up with brilliant ways to celebrate each student and their success, while still keeping within the COVID-19 guidelines. St. Malachy's High School had each student receive their diploma on the steps of the school and receive a photo of them with the school principal (six feet away). Each individual high school implemented a unique idea that still made the occasion joyous and memorable.

The Anglin Drive area is so pleased to announce that we had some hardworking students who pushed through the obstacles of online learning and received their diplomas in 2020. We would love to congratulate the dedicated students of our community:

- Kegan Banks-Roy, Graduate of St. Malachy's High School
- Mallory Ross, Graduate of Simonds High school
- Chance McGraw, Graduate of St. Malachy's High School
- Shelby McGraw, Graduate of St. Malachy's High School
- Jasmine Shatford, Graduate of Woodlawn Learning Centre
- Alyssa Maxwell, Graduate of Harbourview High School

## We are so very proud of your accomplishments!



#### Editor's note

If you think it's too early to start talking about the holiday season, think again. COVID-19 has changed some familiar deadlines. Please note the dates in the two articles below. Make sure to read the next issue of *Around the Block* for more details!

## The Empty Stocking Fund



A festive-looking choir! (Photo: Empty Stocking Fund)

**By Patti Blake, Coordinator, Empty Stocking Fund**

The Empty Stocking Fund is now 108 years old! This is a charity whose mandate is to ensure that all children in the Saint John area have a joyful Christmas morning. On average, they support around 2300 children ages one to twelve.

**Be sure to pick up the October issue of *Around the Block* as applications will be published in that issue.** To apply, you must have a valid ID for each of your children to be witnessed by participating churches, Dept. of Social Development or other agencies. Mark your calendars and do not wait until the last moment. The deadline is firmly Nov. 16th. Each child may be registered once.

Be sure to look for the telethon which will be broadcast from the Imperial Theatre on Nov. 21st. Due to social distancing some of the content will be pre-recorded but the program is always a delight. You can catch it on Rogers TV or live streaming from [rogerstv.com/empty-stocking-fund](http://rogerstv.com/empty-stocking-fund).

## Saint John Christmas Exchange



**By Beth Roy**

The Saint John Christmas Exchange is a non-profit agency, operating in co-operation with churches/agencies in the Saint John area. Our goal is to provide food for Christmas dinner for those in need. Due to COVID-19, we are asking individuals/ families to register in early October at a local church. You can register for both the Empty Stocking Fund and the Christmas Exchange at the same time, but **only register once.**

Churches require current government ID (identification) for each family member. The Exchange checks all those registered for duplication. The church/agency where you register provides for you and will advise when you can pick up your gift card or basket. **The Christmas Exchange will not give gift cards this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Christmas Exchange does not take registrations.**

## Teen Resource Centre (TRC) adopts a flowerbed!



Youth and staff of the TRC in King's Square  
(Photo: Gabrielle Benoit)

**By Gabrielle Benoit, Summer Student, TRC**

"Thank you Thursday" has been a part of our weekly programming here at the Teen Resource Centre all summer long. This day was created to educate our youth on the importance of giving back to our community. COVID-19 has made this motion especially important. The decision to temporarily suspend funding for annual planting in Saint John has left flowerbeds across the city available for adoption. We thought this was the perfect opportunity to give back to the community! After being approved for a flowerbed, and with the help of youth and staff, we set out with flowers and tools and spent the afternoon planting in our newly adopted flower bed. We were so excited to have found an activity that was so enjoyable while also being able to give back to the community!



The team hard at work (Photo: Abigail Ferris)

#### Editor's other note

**And in case you have forgotten since reading page one:**

# Go vote!