



Around the Block

Issue 15 • February 2011 • sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com • TAKE ME I'M FREE



Photo by Mark Leger

Proud New Home Owner - Habitat For Humanity

Six years ago I was an unemployed single mom with two children on social assistance and had an opportunity to move into low-income housing in Crescent Valley. When I moved I had it in my head that this was not rock bottom, but a chance to get my feet on the ground and get assistance and move forward with my life.



Photo courtesy
of Lisa Morris.
Lisa Morris and her
three children love
their new home.

Six year later, I am a working single mom with three children who has been given the opportunity through Habitat for Humanity to buy my own home in the South End of Saint John. This has been one of the biggest opportunities I have been given. Although things are still not easy with finding child-care, transportation and being a single mom living on a limited income, I have a safe,

warm, and beautiful home to go home to where we can rest and grow and make memories with family.

My first night at the new home with the children was one of the proudest moments I have ever had. Being able to provide my children with such a beautiful home makes all the obstacles and day-to-day struggles I face so much easier to cope with. I can hold my head high and be proud of all I have done and achieved. This is not a hand-out but a hand-up and I look forward to helping others do the same.

Habitat for Humanity has given me an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise and the people I have had a chance to meet have impacted me greatly. I am beyond words in expressing my gratitude to the volunteers who put in so much time and energy to give families like mine such an amazing opportunity. Thank you! Lisa Morris



Housing Alternatives Celebrates 30th!

By Kit Hickey

Founded in 1981 with the assistance of CMHC and the Human Development Council, Housing Alternatives is a nationally accredited, non-profit organization.

Our mandate is to add to the housing supply and to provide housing related services, so as to improve the quality of life for people of low to moderate income in the Saint John area.

Housing Alternatives provides property management services to over 500 housing units including nine housing co-ops. Collectively owned and operated by their member residents, co-ops in Saint John have been praised by government and the public alike for their dramatic contribution to community involvement initiatives, neighbourhood revitalization, preservation of historic properties, modest design innovations and the provision of outdoor spaces appropriate to community living.

For further information please contact Housing Alternatives: 632-9393.

Coordinator's Comments: Focus On Housing

By Juanita Black, Coordinator, Around the Block. Phone: 647-4850.
Email: sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

Welcome to Issue 15 of *Around the Block*, with the theme of housing. There are many sides to a building that make it a home, and each and every home is protected by City and Provincial laws, laws that protect both the landlord and the tenant. In this issue we focus on the many new housing starts in Saint John, information from the Building Inspectors office, Office of the Rentalsman and much more to guide us with any questions we might have concerning home maintenance. We also include safety tips that also need to be done in the winter and we learn of future dreams for new developments.

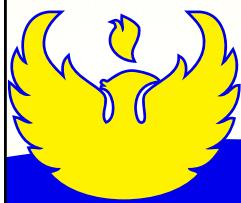
Staff and volunteers are pleased and proud to partner with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Department of Social Development to bring you this issue. Also, thanks to Kit Hickey from Housing Alternatives for helping us with contacts in the housing sector for articles and information.

It's been a long winter so far, and it is only February, but just think when the next *Around the Block* comes out in April we will all be talking about our flowers and community gardens. Watch out for our Spring Community Beautification issue!

Easter Colouring Contest!

Hey kids - check out page 10 for our Easter Colouring Contest. Prizes for the winning entries!





Lorne Middle School and its Partners:

"Discovering, respecting, and achieving the potential of ourselves, others, and our community."

Lorne Middle School Speaker Series

By Greg Norton, Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Lorne Middle School (LMS) Community a very healthy and happy 2011. The Lorne staff and I look forward to working with each of you to provide the very best education has to offer.

Please familiarize yourself with the monthly newsletter or our website <http://lornems.nb.ca/> for important info regarding upcoming community school events.

Community residents will have an opportunity to attend a free legal speaker series, covering topics such as landlord and tenant issues, family and custody issues. LMS will also host financial experts to help you stretch your dollars and increase financial literacy. Please phone 658-5351 to find out how you can become better involved at your community school.

Lending Libraries

By Cheryl Brown

In the photo on the right, Brenda Hope, ONE Change Adult E-Learning Centre Manager, looks at some of the lending library's new books for adults. The adult books, suitable for adults looking to improve their reading, are at various reading levels and include some of the new "Quick Reads" written by popular authors, as well as reference and cook books.



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Brown

Three north end neighbourhood libraries received an infusion of these books through their partnership with the Storytent last summer as part of the sponsorship by major funders the City of Saint John (neighbourhood stimulation grant) and the Saint John Free Public Library. A larger collection of adult books at various levels can be found in the new reader section at the Saint John Free Public Library in Market Square. Check them out!

For more information contact one of the libraries: ONE Change Lending Library - 223 Victoria Street, 635-2035, Crescent Valley Resource Centre Lending Library - 130 MacLaren Blvd., 693-8513, and Anglin Drive Lending Library - 143 Anglin Drive, 658-9119.

Diapers And Formula

The Diaper and Formula Program provides a three day emergency supply of diapers and/or formula for those in need. We serve approximately 15 families per month. The cost associated with buying diapers and formula becomes a challenge for those living on a limited income. Thanks to the donations we receive from local businesses and organizations, and the cooperation we receive in fundraising events we are able to continue providing this service to the community.

North Neighbourhood Contact

June Rennick

Phone: 635-2035

E-mail: theonechangeinc@nb.aibn.com

Thank You Christmas Volunteers

By Gerry Leavitt,

ONE Change Volunteer

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Christmas party held at the North End Community Centre.



Photo Courtesy by Gerry Leavitt

The time and effort put into this event made it possible for all of us to have a good time. There were many people who had done their part, and the people that are shown here are the ones who volunteered their time to ensure everyone had a good meal. These people showed up because they wanted to be involved to lend a helping hand.

Thanks again, to everyone.

Home Ownership Made Easy

By Kit Hickey

The ONE HOME (Home Ownership Made Easy) demonstration project arose from a need for affordable home ownership articulated by a gathering of Old North End residents in the fall of 2005.



Photo Courtesy of Kit Hickey

The project set out to provide qualified low income families with training and assistance in acquiring their first home. It allows candidate families to build assets, with the added benefit of revitalizing one of Saint John's priority communities. It attracted more than 15 community partners and enjoyed a high level of in-kind support.

The ONE HOME project delivered three well constructed homes to the North End of Saint John. They will contribute to addressing the ongoing need for affordable home ownership in the neighbourhood.

For further information please contact Housing Alternatives: 632-9393.

Clothes Closet

By June Rennick

Lost weight? Maybe you have put on a couple of pounds during the winter months. The Clothes Closet is designed to allow us, the ONE community members, the opportunity to recycle our clothes. If you have clothes you are no longer wearing please consider donating them to the ONE Clothes Closet. They can be dropped off at the North End Community Centre. Please call ahead at 635-2035.

The ONE Change – Clothes Closet will be closed during the month of February and will re-open on Monday, March 7th.

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

Gary Sullivan

Councilor for the City of Saint John

Representing Ward 2

Gary.Sullivan@saintjohn.ca





South End • South End



Photo Courtesy by Mary LeSage

Welcome To Tannery Court

By Mary LeSage

You may have noticed the excitement around Carmarthen and Queen Street lately. The finishing touches are complete and people are finally moving into their new home, Tannery Court. It is a new 50 unit housing complex geared to the non-elderly on fixed or limited incomes who are currently on the Department of Social Development's waiting list. The residents will have the chance to participate in the operations of the building. From coordinating tenant events to planning the day to day operational spending, residents of the complex will be contributing to the success of their housing community. We look forward to hearing from residents of Tannery Court in the near future!

My Life In The South End

By Ashley Sharon

I am fairly new to both the South End and Saint John. I specifically chose to live on Britain Street as it was close to my family. I have made friends quickly in the neighbourhood. My friends look at the outside of my house and when they walk in they are surprised that it looks so 'nice.' It's not what's on the outside that makes a home a home, and it's those inside who matter to me. People ask me why I chose to live here and I say to them, Why not here? What makes your neighbourhood better than mine? Very rarely do they have an answer. I go on to say that my neighbour came over to help me shovel after the last storm without me asking.

I love the South End. If I want to get my exercise, I don't go to the gym, I just walk up one of the many hills at a brisk pace and my workout is done!

What's Going On At P.U.L.S.E.

By Mary LeSage

I have been busy painting and wallpapering the boardroom and new Community Police Officer's office. The building is really coming along. We held an All Candidates Meeting in November for the six candidates with a healthy community turnout. Mel Norton was eventually elected as the second Councillor for Ward 3. We have some exciting projects in the works for the up and coming months. Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to stop by the building, call us or join us on Facebook under the group name PULSE Inc. My office hours are Mon 11-2 pm, Tues 9-12 pm, Thurs 12-3 pm, Fri 9-12 pm. Phone: 632-6807.



SE Gets New Community Officer

By Cst. Deanna Holloway

Hello, my name is Cst. Deanna Holloway and I'm the Community Officer for the Lower South End. I graduated from Memorial University in 1995, graduated from the Atlantic Police Academy in 1997 and worked in Prince Edward Island with the Summerside Police Service in 1997 for two years.



Photo courtesy of the Saint John Police Force

In June 1999, I began working with the Saint John Police Force and have been here almost 12 years. I have worked on the Patrol Unit for several years, some of those years working in the South/Central zone. I worked in the Major Crime Unit for two years. I had the pleasure of working on a number of projects while working with the Saint John Police Force and look forward to being your Community Police Officer and serving our community.

Playing Outdoors In The Winter

By Carolyn Darvin

In the winter, my family and I like to enjoy the outdoors, as long as it is not bitter cold! If it is too cold outside, you will likely find us skating at one of the open skates at the arena. Anything for a hot chocolate!! Another fun thing is sliding. Nothing better than bundling up and sliding down one of the many hills in Saint John. Big or small we will tackle them all, is what the kids say. I remember as a child we used to go cross-country skiing. Hopefully when the kids are a little older we will be able to do that as well. A favorite past time for sure. It is fun to listen to the kids at the end of the day on what their favorite part of the day was. It's funny how it always comes back to the marshmallows and hot chocolate!



Photo Courtesy of Carolyn Darvin

The Library

By Dawn LeBlanc

Come in children
Don't be afraid to enter.
Many adventures await you,
Many kingdoms anticipate your arrival.

I have been to many of them and more are there to be discovered
Oh, there are things that can bite-
and slither, creep and crawl-
Overhead & under foot – but understand;
They are under your control
You can stop them with a turn of a page.

I have been to the land of the fairies
I have been to Jupiter, watched unicorns at play,
climbed the highest mountain and explored
sunken ships of treasure.

You can go there too, all you have to do is
open the door of the library and step through
All of this and more is waiting for you.

South Neighbourhood Contact

Mary LeSage

Phone: 632-6807

E-mail: pulseinc@bellaliant.com



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85 King Street
Saint John, NB

www.picturesplus.ca
652-7587



Crescent Valley • Crescent Valley



Photo Courtesy of Irving Oil

Bringing Holiday Cheer To CV

Lesley MacLeod

On December 17th, over 180 Irving Oil employees joined the Crescent Valley Resource Centre to spread a little holiday cheer throughout the neighbourhood. The festivities began with the door-to-door delivery of over 300 Christmas wreaths, Sobeys gift cards, bus passes and boxes of chocolates by scores of Santa hat-wearing employees. Later on, Irving Oil hosted the 2nd Annual Crescent Valley Tree Lighting ceremony at the Resource Centre, complete with 2,000 pairs of mittens and gloves, loads of Christmas sweets, hot chocolate and an appearance by Santa Claus!

The evening was capped off with a donation of books to the Crescent Valley Resource Centre Library, in support of the Resource Centre's literacy program. Holiday spirit is alive and well, and we're already looking forward to celebrating next year!

Housing Renovations Continue In CV

By Debbie McLeod

It is nice to see the units in Crescent Valley getting a complete renovation as the units become vacant. NB Housing has completed 24 units and 11 are still in progress.

Some of the renovations include: new windows, plumbing, interior doors, fixtures, lighting, new kitchens, new flooring and new bathrooms that now house the washer and dryer, as well as a new ventilation system that recognizes excess moisture in the air and vents it automatically.

Tenants are enjoying the newly renovated units especially the bathrooms and the kitchens. With all the newly installed windows, ventilation system, new electrical panels and wiring the upgrades make the units more energy efficient for all the residents moving in.



Photo Courtesy of Debbie McLeod

Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

Anne Driscoll: 693-8513
CVRC.driscoll@gmail.com

Juanita Black: 647-4850
sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

CV Welcomes New Community Officer

By Cst. Don Metcalfe

I am the new Community Officer for Crescent Valley. I have been a member of the Saint John Police Force for sixteen years where I worked mainly in patrol services. During this time, I have worked four short terms in District Investigations dealing with break and enters, assaults, thefts, and other criminal code offenses. While serving on patrol, I took courses which enabled me to perform breathalyzer readings on suspected impaired drivers. As well, I completed drug evaluations in the cases where no alcohol was detected though believed to be impairing the suspects.



*Photo courtesy of Cst. Don Metcalfe.
Don and his son Dawson.*

Sixteen years ago, I began my career working in the north end with Staff Sgt. Jim Flemming and I distinctly remember Jim trying to get the wheels spinning in community policing in the Indian town area. As I look around the entire city, community policing has become a vital part of the Saint John Police Force and I hope to use my knowledge and training to assist the residents of Crescent Valley. Phone: 674-4295.

Welcome Anne Driscoll

The Board of Directors of the Crescent Valley Resource Centre recently welcomed Anne Driscoll as interim executive director. In this capacity she will work with community partners, residents, volunteers and staff to further the goals of the centre.



"Anne has a good grasp of the opportunities and challenges involved in the non-profit sector, and an appreciation for the work done by our volunteers," said Nancy Savoie, president of the CVRC board. "Anne's years of experience working in this field has been a tremendous asset to us and we look forward to her help in setting the CVRC on a firm footing."

Anne's background at the Human Development Council (20 years), AVIDE Developments (one year) and other community service fits in well with the Centre's mission to improve the Crescent Valley neighbourhood by creating a clean, safe, peaceful neighbourhood for people of all ages and abilities.

Crescent Valley Speak-Up

Your Voice Counts!

Save The Date: March 22nd

Come and share your priorities: Housing, Garbage, Safety, Recreation, Support & Programs....

Call 693-8513 for more info



Hon. Trevor A. Holder
MLA Saint John-Portland
Constituency Office
229 Churchill Boulevard
Telephone: (506) 657-2335
Email: trevor.holder@gnb.ca



Lower West • Lower West



Photos courtesy of Krista Turnbull

St. Patrick's School

By Krista Turnbull, Community School/PALS Coordinator

In December the K-Kids of St. Patrick's School were inducted. Our K-Kids club is a charter club sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Saint John. Our pledge is to serve our neighbourhood and our school, to show respect toward our environment, and to try to make the world a better place in which to live.

The students have been very busy with a recycling program at the school, collecting pop/juice can tabs to purchase a child's wheelchair, making regular visits with our veterans at Ridgewood, providing assistance with St. Pat's monthly community family movie night, and other events at the school.

Thanks to our sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Saint John, especially to Joanne Thompson who helps us out every week and to our PAL, Brad Trecartin, for their dedication to the club.

Market Place Wellness Centre Programs

Nurse Practitioner: If you do not have a primary care provider, the Nurse Practitioner at the Market Place Wellness Centre is accepting patients. Please call 674-4335 for information.

Patients with Diabetes without a Family Care Provider: Patients who are living with diabetes but do not have a Primary Care Provider can call Andrea at 632-5699 on Monday –Wednesday to set up an appointment to see Terri Kean who is a Nurse Practitioner with Diabetes Specialty. Terri can help you manage your diabetes, as well as the things that go with diabetes, such as increased blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, etc. You can see Terri at the Market Place Wellness Centre or at her office at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Quit Smoking Program: For information about our Quit Smoking Program, please call 674-4335.

Art For The Fun Of It!

Kim Cookson will be offering free to seniors, ART FOR THE FUN OF IT, at the Market Place Wellness Centre in the lower level of the Carleton Community Centre on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. Please call 674-4335 to register.



Dorothy Sheppard
MLA Saint John Lancaster

Saint John Lancaster
Constituency Office
649 Manawagonish Road
Saint John, NB Canada
E2M 3W4

Tel: (506) 643-2900
Fax: (506) 658-9885
Dorothy.Sheppard@gnb.ca
www.gnb.ca

New Homes On The West Side

By Jim Murray

On the West Side there have been some housing developments completed in recent years. The empty lot that was left when New Albert School was demolished is now townhouses and garden homes. Another development consists of apartment complexes on Blue Rock Court. The development on Lancaster Avenue, where the old DVA hospital used to stand, is in various stages of completion. It is nice to see these empty lots filled, but the need for safe, affordable, accessible housing is still a priority in our community. The community is hoping that the province will move forward to help the city get rid of properties that are unliveable, dangerous and considered fire hazards.



Photos courtesy of Cst. Deanna Holloway.
Top: Blue Rock Court
Bottom: Duke St. West

Community Kitchen Update

The Westside P.A.C.T. Community and the Market Place Wellness Centre will be launching a Community Kitchen very soon. Learn how to plan, prepare, and cook tasty, inexpensive meals. We will also discuss nutrition and budgeting for healthy food choices. If you are interested in participating, or for more information, please call 674-4335.

Thank You Westside Partners

By Mary Lou Price

Westside P.A.C.T would like to thank their supporters for helping make the annual Christmas drive a success! Thank you to the Saint John Police Force, Lancaster Zellers, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 213, Lancaster Kiwanis, and the Galbraith family as well as our anonymous community member, who knitted all of the hats and mittens. We were able to outfit 52 children due to community generosity!! Thank you all so much!!!



Photos courtesy of Mary Lou Price

Westside Well Babies

WHO: Anyone who has a child 2 and under.

WHY: Drop-in to have your baby weighed and have your questions answered by a Public Health Nurse and/or Nutritionist.

WHEN: The second Tuesday of every month from 9am to 11am and the fourth Friday of every month from 1:00pm to 3pm.

WHERE: Market Place Wellness Centre – lower level of Carleton Community Centre, 82 Market Place, Saint John 674-4335 or 693-8735. Everyone welcome.

West Neighbourhood Contact

Mary Lou Price
693-5123
MaryLou.Price2@HorizonNB.ca



The TRC 'Hope Chain'

By Mel Barrett

The teens at the Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) are always looking for ways to make a positive change in their community.

So when the New Year was approaching, the "Hope Chain" made its way into TRC Drop In. The teens cut up pieces of colourful paper and added links to the chain with New Year's resolutions, pieces of advice, quotes or dreams they have for the upcoming year.

The only rule was to be positive and respectful and within weeks, the chain began to make its way around the room. Drop In now has another piece of art to be proud of and it makes a great addition. Teens can check out our Hope Chain and all our other unique art work at the month's "Tuned" Coffee House on February 25.



Photo Courtesy of Mel Barrett

Village Gets New Community Officer

By Cst. Dan Weber

I welcome this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I am Dan Weber a Constable with the Saint John Police Force and am in my 7th year of policing with the force. I come to the Community Services Unit from the Patrol Division where I have gained the majority of my experience in the South/Central area of Saint John.



Photo courtesy of the Saint John Police Force

I look forward to my posting to Waterloo Village. The Village area hosts a vast array of residents and groups working together to achieve social betterment. My focus is to reduce crime and disorder in the area and I look forward to working together with the community in the process. I can be reached at the Teen Resource Centre, 28 Richmond St., 674-4258. E-mail: daniel.weber@saintjohn.ca

Christmas Parties In Courtenay Bay

By Lisa Chamberlain

The Courtenay Bay Tenants Association had two Christmas parties. On December 11 the first one was for children ages up to 12 years old. From 2- 4 pm there was face painting and colouring, while waiting for Santa Claus.

The kids were very excited when Santa Claus arrived. He sang songs and passed out the presents and treat bags. The second party was for teens ages 13 to 18. They had a bowling and pizza party from 7- 9 pm. It went very well and they had a lot of fun.



**Carl Killen
MLA, Saint John Harbour**
**72 Germain Street
642-9774**

New Community Organizer

By Penni Eisenhauer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Community Organizer with Vibrant Communities.

For the past year and half I have gained experience and knowledge as a Neighbourhood Assistant; and have worked in two of the priority neighbourhoods being the Old North End and Lower South End. These opportunities have provided me with experience in building relationships in the community with residents and community partners; engaging residents to become more active and involved in their neighbourhood; providing support in developing and implementing neighbourhood priorities; collaborating with neighbourhood groups and partners in sharing information about resources, programs and services; and supporting residents in fundraising activities and community events.



I look forward to developing relationships with the residents and community partners of the Village Waterloo neighbourhood and the Reading Cres. / Roxbury Dr. East Side neighbourhood. If you are interested in getting involved in your community feel free to contact me at commorg.penni@gmail.com or 506-343-5382.

Everynight

There is a place I used to stay every night. Lots of people were always there, young and old. We didn't discriminate; we took in all who fell into this life. We didn't have rooms, or beds, we didn't always have food. We had alleys and benches; we had soup kitchens and food banks. We had the depressing quiet of the night. We were outcasts, some of us you would never know. It turns you cold. Takes away your happiness. Leaves you empty. You grow old quickly. You can feel it.

This was written by an 18-year-old male who struggled with drug addiction, homelessness and crime in the South End of Saint John for over a year. He now attends programming at the TRC has recently returned home to his family and has begun working on his GED.

Christmas Parties In Courtenay Bay

By Lisa Chamberlain

The Courtenay Bay Tenants Association held their second annual House Decorating Contest, which took place on Dec. 16. While waiting for the winners to be announced there was a gathering and refreshments at the Brunswick Drive Highrise. The prizes were Wal-Mart gift cards. Thank you to Colin McDonald for being the judge.

1st place: Linda Naves and George McLeod, in loving memory of Joanne McLeod.

2nd place: Carolyn MacLennan

3rd place: Chuck and Amy Evans.

Money Matters

The Saint John Community Loan Fund is pleased to offer our Money Matter\$ program again this coming March! Wanting to learn to budget? How to save money on your monthly spending? Fix or build credit? Money Matter\$ is for you! Classes will be offered one evening per week for 5 weeks and topics include Budgeting, Credit, Consumerism and Banking. The program is free and registrations are being taken now. Contact Alexandra Warner at 506-652-5601 or email training@loanfund.ca for more information.

Village Neighbourhood Contact

Penni Eisenhauer 343-5382
commorg.penni@gmail.com



Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices • Community Notices

11th Annual Seniors Wellness Fair

Friday, April 8, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Loch Lomond Villa, Simonds Lions Auditorium. Learn about safe and healthy living from over 30 exhibitors. FREE admission, parking, refreshments and door prizes. Some free transportation available. Call 648-6056 for more information. EVERYONE WELCOME.

Family Law Services & Resources

FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTRE: 658-2261

Mediation: Up to 10 free hours of mediation is available for issues affecting children: custody, access and child support.

Family advice lawyer: Receive one free hour of information and/or aid with filling out forms with the family advice lawyer at the Family Law Information Centre.

LEGAL AID NB: 633-6030

If you meet the financial eligibility criteria, a Family Solicitor can help you to get or change a child support order, respond to a motion by the other party to change it or handle your application for custody or access of children.

FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTRE: 1-888-236-2444

The service, an initiative of Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB), offers general information and resources about family law. Ask an Expert video topics include: "How do I know if I should take my case to court?", "How can I reduce the impact of separation on the children?", "What should I know about representing myself?" etc. Self-help guides - Doing Your Own Divorce, Child Support Variation Kit, Financial Statement and Income. Web site: www.familylawnb.ca/english/index.php.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN: 1-888-236-2444

A free information program for parents living separately. It's a six-hour course (delivered in two sessions) which focuses on helping parents help their children by teaching ways to reduce the conflict between parents and relieve stress. It also reviews legal issues and alternatives to court. Web site: www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca/en/uploads/file/pdfs/For_the_Sake_of_the_Children_EN.pdf

Job Opportunities With Census 2011

The 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada.

If you are over 18 years old and can commit to at least 20 hours per week including evenings, weekends and holidays, apply now. Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early March to the end of July 2011, depending on assignment. Please tell friends and family about opportunities to work on the census. Visit the 2011 Census website for more information. To download and submit an online application, visit the website at www.census2011.gc.ca

Plus de 35 000 emplois sont offerts au Recensement de 2011 partout au Canada.

Si vous êtes âgé de plus de 18 ans et que vous êtes prêt à travailler au moins 20 heures par semaine y compris les soirs, les fins de semaine et les congés fériés, postulez maintenant. Le taux de rémunération (de 14,72 \$ à 18,04 \$ de l'heure) varie selon l'affectation. La période de travail commence au début mars et se termine vers la fin juillet 2011 selon l'affectation. N'hésitez pas à parler à vos amis et votre famille de ces perspectives d'emploi au recensement. Visitez le site Web du Recensement de 2011 pour obtenir plus d'information à ce sujet. Pour télécharger et soumettre une demande en ligne, visitez le site Web www.recensement2011.gc.ca

Take Pounds Off Sensibly

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the non-profit, non-commercial weight loss support group has opened two new chapters in the Saint John area. One chapter is at Silver Falls United Church on Loch Lomond Rd., meeting on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. The second chapter is at the Church of Saint Andrew and St. David on Germain Street and meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Also, on-going meetings at Portland United Church are Mondays at 6 p.m. and at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Manawagonish Road on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. YOUR FIRST MEETING IS AWAYS FREE! For further information, please call Donna or John Buckley, Area Captains, Saint John. 506-849-0550 or e-mail at topscaptain@yahoo.ca or topsking@live.com.

Looking For Work In The Spring!

We can help connect you with employers:

* **Job Bus Tour in early March** (stay tuned for the date) and

* **Catch the Wave to Employment** workshop on March 17th.



Catch the Wave...
to Employment

Join us in meeting employers with the tourism, banking, retail, contact centre, and nursing homes sectors and connecting with other resources in the community. Call Brenda at 642-9033 or Cathy at 832-5624 to register.

ABZzzz's Of Sleep

Are you tossing and turning instead of sleeping? Does your mind race at night? Do you wake up feeling tired? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, this session will help you to better understand: How much sleep is really enough? Factors that affect sleep. Tips for getting a better night's sleep. Date: Thursday, February 10th, 2011. Time: 6 - 7:30 pm. Location: Saint John Free Public Library Market Square. No registration necessary. For more information call 632-5537. FREE OF CHARGE. This program is being offered in partnership with The Atlantic Sleep Centre, Saint Joseph's Community Health Centre and Community Mental Health Services.

Why do good? Because you can...

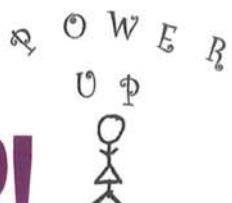
Do Good Today is a website enabling the people of Saint John to do good. We all have

it in us to do something good each day, no matter how big or small. Do Good Today's mission is to start a movement in the Saint John community where we, as a group, make our community the best we possibly can. Now, make a decision to help. We're not offering grand solutions and billion dollar schemes, but instead, simple things that work.

Do Good Today

How are you going to do good today? Visit: www.dogoodtoday.ca

Plug in to POWER UP!



POWER UP (Promotion Of Women Empowerment Resilient Urban Project) Is taking registration for the next course. It will run from April 19 – June 23. Deadline for registration is March 25. For more information please call Brenda 642-9033.

GOT QUESTIONS?

GET ANSWERS

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Attention Women

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- Do you procrastinate
- Underestimate your abilities
- Feel stuck and don't know where to start



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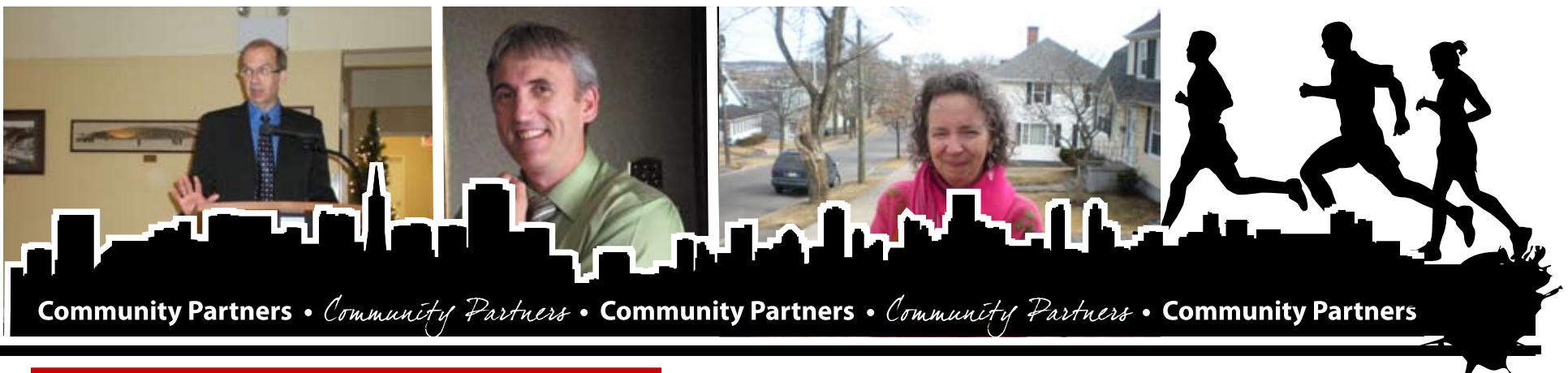


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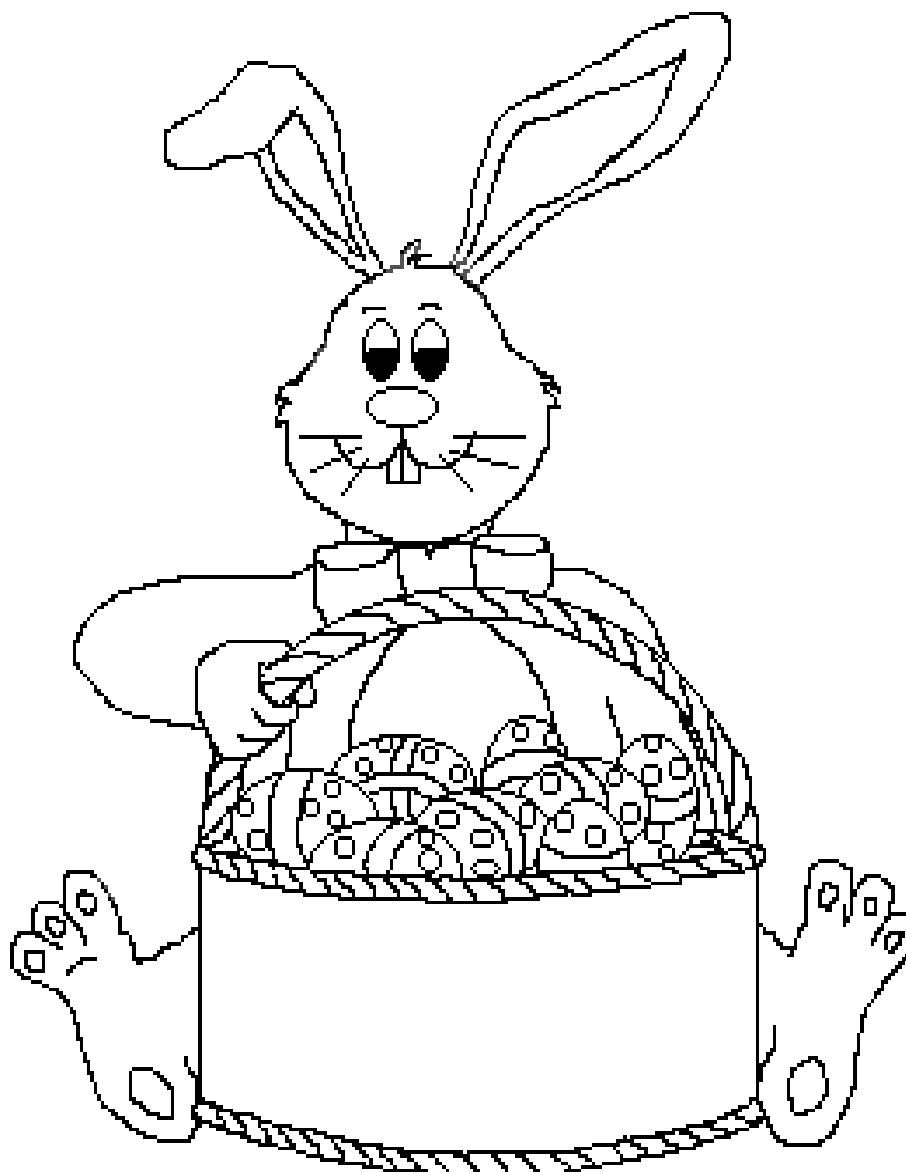
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EASTER COLORING & DESIGN CONTEST



TWO AGE CATEGORIES : 5 AND UNDER ~ 6-12 YEARS

AGES 13-15. Design an Easter Egg. Egg should fill 8x11 page.

\$10 Prize for each Category.

Drop off Points: ONE Change, 223 Victoria St.; Crescent Valley Resources Centre, 130 MacLaren Blvd.; P.U.L.S.E., 251 Wentworth St.; Carleton Community Centre; St. Patrick's School; and the Village Boys and Girls Club. The deadline is March 14. Entries must include Name and Phone Number.

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

Winter Word Scramble

zeeefr	r _ _ z _
racfs	_ c _ r _
kabwonns	s _ _ b _ n _
takngis	_ k _ _ i _ _
dislngi	_ l _ d _ _ g
tetnims	_ i _ t _ n _
ylchil	c _ i _ _ y
cie khcoye	i _ e _ o _ k _ _

The answers to both puzzles
can be found on Page 13



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

Crescent Valley Gets Book Donation



Photo courtesy of Nancy Savoie.
The Crescent Valley Resource Centre received a donation of books from Irving Oil. From right to left: Deanna Gonet, Addy Clark, Nancy Savoie (CVRC President), and Kerria Morris

Celebrate What's Right With The World

By Joan Wilkins

February

Celebrate what's Right with the World

Our theme for February is "Take Yourself to the Edge".

School District 8 encourages each of us to venture to our own edges, allow ourselves to be our best; to take risks and give everything we've got to the tasks before us.

Thought for the Month:

"You'll always miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

~Wayne Gretzky~



March

Celebrate what's Right with the World

Our theme for March is "Look for Possibilities".

School District 8 challenges us all to take advantage of the possibilities before us.

Thought for the Month:

"You've done it before and you can do it now. See the positive possibilities. Redirect the substantial energy of your frustration and turn it into positive, effective, unstoppable determination." ~Ralph Marston~

For more information on the Celebrate what's RIGHT with the World initiative, contact Joan Wilkins, Coordinator, School District 8 at 643-6884. Web site: www.celebratewhatsright.ca

Big Brothers Big Sisters Say Thank You

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for making this Holiday Season special for our children, youth and families!

- Neighbourhood Police Council for tickets to the Police All Stars vs. Maritime All Stars hockey game
- Scotiabank for tickets to the "Scotia Zone" for the Saint John Sea Dogs game on December 8th
- Rogers for tickets to the Rogers Slam Dunk Night, December 9th at Harbour Station for the Saint John Mill Rats
- Fusion Saint John and Operation Red Nose for contributing proceeds from this year's campaign to BBBS
- Tim Horton's and the Imperial Theatre for tickets to the Dufflebag Theatre's productions of "Cinderella" and "Peter Pan"
- MC Ventilation and the Saint John Alehouse for their sponsorship of some of our families in need of support at Christmas time
- Brunswick Square/Fortis Properties for donating the proceeds from their Christmas Gift Wrapping Campaign throughout the month of December
- Various sponsors of our annual Christmas party on December 12th (United Commercial Travelers, Scholastic Books, Tim Horton's, McDonald's, Starbucks, and our partners The Boys and Girls Club of Saint John)

Without the support of many community partners, Big Brothers Big Sisters would be unable to continue to make a positive difference in the lives of children in our communities. Thank you so much to all of our partners! For information about our mentoring programs, please contact us at 635-1145.

School Makes Donation to Food Bank



Photo Courtesy of Shaundell Curran

Beaconsfield Middle School students present a cheque for \$1150 to the president and treasurer of the westside food bank. Students and staff began a penny drive and food drive in November with all proceeds to go to the food bank. It is an annual event that staff and students look forward to every year.

Plant Marigolds And Evergreens

We are now organizing the sponsors for our 14th annual Marigold Campaign. The children, schools and teachers start growing the Marigolds in March. They are planted at the end of May or the first of June. Last year we went over the two million mark and we have won awards in Japan, Germany, the United States, Great Britain and Canada. The tourists love the Marigolds especially the cruise ship visitors. We planted at 51 sites last year in the Greater Saint John Region and are open to new ones but the Marigold Gardens have to be maintained until the end of October. We also encourage schools to plant bushes and trees on their properties or on nearby properties. We are very interested in having year round green so the planting of evergreen trees is very much encouraged. The evergreen trees are really noticed this time of year. The Natural environment, [green spaces, moving away from concrete and asphalt] is better for a child's learning environment just as lots of exercise improves learning. Please think of and act on more places Marigolds and evergreen trees could be planted and cared for, perhaps even encourage other groups to do so. We can make our community a much better place by the planting of evergreen trees and marigolds and it's something everyone can do.

Eye Spy - Celebrating Our Youth!

By Joan Wilkins, Celebrate Coordinator, School District 8

In the summer we shared with you some of the comments we had received during our "EYE SPY YOUTH CHANGING THE WORLD" week held during the week of April 19th.

We would like to share some additional comments with you...with over 1700 responses received from students and school staff of School District 8 we have much to Celebrate!. Enjoy reading how our youth are making a difference!

- (Rayne) You help with organizing the Campbell papers. You help with ambassadors, you help with a lot of things, you're the best!
- (Submitted by Grade 4 student, Centennial School)
- (Katie) She includes everyone in the games she plays and takes turns.
- (Kylie) Dedication to so many activities both in and out of school - she's a wonderful example of today's youth. (Submitted by staff member, Harbour View High School)
- My school planted trees and the students took home trees so they can plant at home too. (Submitted by Grade 5 student, Hazen White St. Francis School)
- (Our class) Bringing in spare change so every book we read we can put 10 cents in a jar for Uganda. (Submitted by Grade 4 student, Princess Elizabeth School)
- (Maggie) She has organized a 30 Hour Famine fundraiser that will see dozens of students participate. (Submitted by staff member , Saint John High School)





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Youth Paper Raises Money For Kids

The Y After School program has created their own newspaper. This is their update for *Around The Block*:

Our newspaper is doing very well. We had set a goal of \$100 but we have raised \$242 so far, so we have made a new goal of \$300. We made a thermometer so we can keep track of our goal. When Jane Barry did her article for the *Telegraph-Journal* she showed us how to do this. We had a good Christmas and we had fun sliding with the YMCA-YWCA! We are having a party in February to celebrate all the money we helped get for our Strong Kids Campaign. We might be able to send someone who needs help to camp.



*Photo Courtesy of Janet Towers
Mark, Evan, Byron,
Samantha and Paige.*

CV Teen Vibe Youth Rock!

By Vicki McGuire, Carlie Basque and Kendra Eatman Doucette

The CV Teen Vibe Youth Council has selected Brendon Doucette as the youth of the month. Brendon has been selected because of his many special and unique attributes. Brendon is always glad to be at Teen Vibe and he is always able to put a smile on other people's faces. Brendon is not only dedicated to Teen Vibe, but he is also dedicated to his community. For the past number of months, Brendon has been an active volunteer with Teen Vibe and volunteering at Copper Penny, going to UNBSJ, and Quantum Opportunities Program,. Most importantly, Brendon is a wonderful friend and a great brother to his younger siblings. Teen Vibe would like to thank Brendon for being such a great role model in the community.



*Photo Courtesy of Shaundell Curran.
Brendon Doucette was selected youth of the Month*

ONE LIFE Gives Youth A New Start

ONE LIFE (Living Independently for Education) provides housing, counselling, mentoring, support services and life skills to homeless at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 24. A Case Manager helps the youth find suitable housing, encourages them to enrol in school and complete their secondary education and provides them with guidance in all aspects of life. This enables the youth to complete high school and to make a successful transition to work or to post-secondary education. ONE LIFE is an innovative program and is the only one of its kind in Canada, attempting to meet the housing needs and basic requirements of youths. The program is necessary as there are large gaps in government services for this age group and a lack of safe, affordable housing options for youth. Here is what one of our participants has to say about the program:

"Before I was accepted into the ONE LIFE Program I was jumping from place to place. I had no stable home. At one point I was paying \$150 a month just to share a bed with two people. I was not eating right and I did not attend school. I had a horrible outlook on life. I was in an awful mood all the time. At this point in my life, I did not have any hope for the future and I was completely lost. One day I had a breakdown at school and decided I could not take this instability any longer. I spoke to my vice principal and she referred me to a program called ONE LIFE. After that day, my life has changed for the better. Even though I was initially on the waiting list, the fact that I was given some hope to possibly live in a stable environment changed my outlook. I started to go to school, my grades drastically improved and I had more confidence in myself. I started asking the teachers for help and trying to do well in school. I am so grateful for the chance ONE LIFE has given me; the chance to change my life." - Melissa, Grade 12

For more information contact Tara Parlee: 632-5765.
E-mail: taraparlee@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy of Boys and Girls Club

Boys And Girls Club Gets Arts Grant

The Boys and Girls Club of Saint John, Inc, received a Sears After School grant to incorporate an innovative Art and Music program into our daily after school schedule. We have pursued two local professionals: an artist, Sue Hooper, and a musician, Jonathan Kipping, to educate our youth about their expertise.

The Art and Music classes began January 11, 2011. This was a huge success! The children and youth were curious and attentive to their instructors and excited to explore their creative and musical talents. From this program we have already discovered a few gifted musicians that now receive private lessons at the Club's very own Sears Music Studio. We are so pleased with the huge impact that these programs have had on our children and can only predict positive results as they continue their journey of self-expression and exploration.

Art Mamma Classes

Children from K - grade 4/5 meet each week in three community centres to learn the fundamentals of art, and in the process learn life skills while meeting new friends and of course have fun. Kim Cookson, the art teacher the children have fondly nicknamed The Art Mamma, begins each class with the day's art lesson. Then the students learn about a famous artist who defines the lesson and the children go right into the creative part of the class. A snack is served and the children discuss each other's work and enjoy the art experience just like being inside an art school. All are welcome. The art classes are held at the following locations:

Carleton Community Centre (CCC) - Mondays 6-8 pm
North End Community Centre (NECC) - Tuesday and Thursday 5-7 pm
Somerset Community Centre (SCC) - Wednesdays from 6-8 pm



Art Mamma follow ups:

- Alex Burgess from the North End Community Centre won the category of 5-8 year olds for the Mayor's Christmas Card.
- Children participating in the Art Program are now all coming together for a once a month Saturday Art Club Program. Call Kim if rides are required.
- Art Mamma will be teaching through March Break and running a summer art school called the ABBOZZO ('to draw' in Italian) Art School being held at the North End Community Centre. Times to be announced.
- Five students will be entering in the New Brunswick Day "Pride in your Environment Contest," as well as submitting drawings for the "Robert Bateman Calendar Contest."
- New seniors have joined the art class at the Market Place Wellness Centre and there is room for more! No charge, just arrive with a great attitude and willingness to learn.



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Winners Of Our Colouring Contest!



Photo courtesy of Vibrant Communities.

Here are the winners of our Halloween Colouring Contest. They won \$10 each for the winning entries. Top: Samantha Walton, 13. Above left: Emily Esson, 10. Above right: Alyssa Jarvis, 4.

Good And Bad News In Poverty Report

By Kathryn Asher

In November, the Human Development Council released its annual provincial report card on child poverty. The report showed that in 2008, approximately 1 in 8 children (12%) lived below the poverty line. This was a very encouraging improvement since the last report (down 5%), especially compared to the other Canadian provinces and territories! But even with this great progress, low wages and weak social supports still kept 17,000 New Brunswick children living in poverty.

Because many of the report's statistics were from 2008, they may not have captured the difficulties we are now facing in the economy. We do know that 2010 Social Assistance caseloads were up, along with food bank use. And while the child poverty rate decreased, the percent of children in working poor families was on the rise. Despite all this, we know that we have some great organizations and individuals committed to reducing poverty, and some terrific successes to celebrate at the local level in our priority neighbourhoods. This gives us reason to believe that encouraging changes are in store for our child poverty rate!

The answers
to both puzzles
from Page 10

mittens sliding
freeze chilly
snowbank ice hockey

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



Photo Courtesy of Mel Barrett.

TRC Coffee House

By Mel Barrett

What are you doing the last Friday of every month? The Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) hosts "Tuned" High School Coffee House! Nearly every month, the TRC Drop In Zone is transformed into the ultimate Coffee House hang out. We ask local teen bands from all over the city to perform and are never disappointed! With our chill atmosphere, Starbucks coffee and about 100 teens, it's always a good time. The TRC is located at 28 Richmond Street and it's free, fun and a great way to see some local talent! Come check us out on February 25th from 7 to 11pm

Teen Vibe Receives TV

By Shaundell Curran

Teen Vibe is all about setting goals. Since June, Teen Vibe has been raising money in hopes of purchasing a new television. For the past several months Teen Vibe has participated in many community projects in order to acquire monies. These projects included: delivery of Around the Block, canteen during Fun Days, bottle drives, participating in Taking Poverty to the Next Level, Teen Vibe Haunted House and selling Christmas cards. Through these projects, Teen Vibe youth have gained the valuable lesson of hard work and determination. On December 18th, 2010, Teen Vibe received an early Christmas gift – a 46`Sony television and blu ray player from Brunswick Pipeline. On behalf of Teen Vibe, staff and the Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) we would like to say a BIG thank you to Brunswick Pipeline for believing in Teen Vibe and helping them meet their goal.



*Photo courtesy of Shaundell Curran.
Kendra Eatman and Carlie Basque pose
with the new television for Teen Vibe.*



Theatre Activities For March Break

By Belinda Kumar

InterAction Children's Theatre has tons of Performing Arts activities planned for kids aged 5-12 over the March Break! Join us for an exciting week of music, acting, film making, dance, and more! Form a band! Make a movie! Write, direct, and star in a play! Celebrating 10 years of opportunities for children in southern New Brunswick! Hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with early drop off from 8:15 a.m. and late pick up until 5 p.m. \$150.00 full week; \$35.00 single day option/\$20.00 half day option.



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The Saint John Free School

By Sarah MacIntyre

The mission of the Saint John Free School is to facilitate the sharing of skills and knowledge while strengthening community and networks within Saint John. We hope to encourage discussion and action surrounding important issues and empower community members to make positive changes. We strive to be open and non-hierarchical in structure and accessible to everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, financial resources, academic background, etc. We will be holding our next Free School on April 2. Check out our web site at www.sjfree-school.ca for more details on times, location, schedule and registration information. Come join us on April for a fun day of free workshops, food, and childcare!

Crescent Valley Revitalization

By Juanita Black

Between January 2008 and April 2009, 88 housing units along Churchill Blvd. owned by NB Housing saw their residents relocated and the buildings removed. Avide Development, who was commissioned to develop a long term plan for Crescent Valley Revitalization, stated some long time residents were proud of their homes and in some cases did not want to move. However, engineering studies determined that the buildings which were built in the early 1950's were getting too old to repair.

Plans were unveiled for the revitalization of Crescent Valley, a 20-30 year project that would see the Churchill Blvd. site and Crescent Valley community surrounding MaLaren Blvd. and Taylor Ave. also rebuilt. Like any well-planned rebuilding, it is dependent upon the economic growth of greater Saint John and the market demand. As the city continues to grow, so does the need for new housing developments.

The area for redevelopment is the Churchill Blvd. site. The Province of New Brunswick asked for and received expressions of interest for the building project. A streetscape design is now being worked on so the residents can see what the future buildings could look like. Hopefully construction will begin in the spring/summer of 2011.

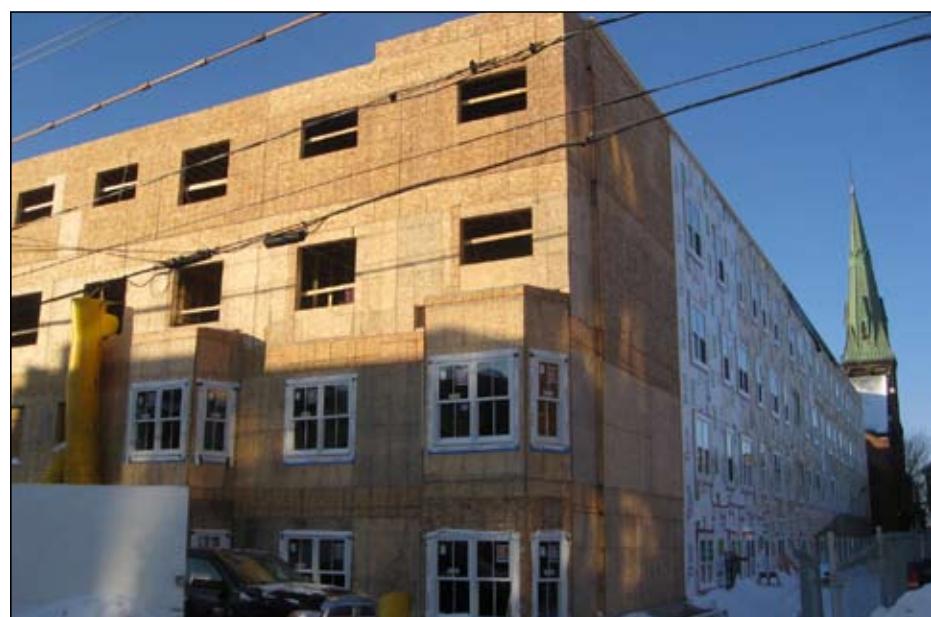


Photo by Mark Leger

Abbey St. Andrew Under Construction

By Bill Thomas

The landscape at the corner of Duke and Charlotte Streets in the South End of Saint John is changing. The parking lot behind The Church of St Andrew and St David has become a building site, as a 96 unit housing complex is being constructed. With an anticipated opening date this fall, Abbey St Andrew is already causing much excitement among people living in the South End, as well as people looking to move Uptown. 'The Abbey' is a mixed income, mixed family size housing complex offering 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments as well as a selection of townhouse style units at street level on Duke and Charlotte. Thanks to support from NB Housing, 55 apartments will be available to people and families on a rent geared to income basis. It is our hope that with a diversity of people living in 'The Abbey' there will be a strong sense of community and residents won't just find housing, they will find a home.



Photo Courtesy of Gerri Gautreau.

Back row: Debbie McLeod (Social Development), Ted Bawron (Romero House). Front row: Maria Hart, Valerie Graves and Eleanor Johnson (part of the knitting group).

Knitting Group Makes Donations

By Gerri Gautreau

The busy fingers of Stephenson Tower and Charlton Place ladies, who get together on Wednesday afternoons to knit and socialize with a cup of tea and a cookie, made a lot of people happy over the holidays.

Many knitted items such as hats, mittens, scarves, slippers, and sweaters were made and donated to First Steps and The Joshua Group for all the little ones. Afghans, blankets, hats, mittens, and scarves were knitted and donated to Ted Bawron, the driver of the Romero House mobile bus. These items were to be given out to anyone who needed them as they came out of the cold for coffee and some warmth.

It warmed our hearts to be able to help all these people out at this time of year. The knitting group continues to meet and knit every Wednesday afternoon at Stephenson Tower, preparing for next Christmas! We are always looking for donations of yarn!!

Key To Well Being

A testimonial from a past participant

My overall experience in the last six weeks, attending "The Key to Well Being" program, was very emotional and challenging - a challenge I believe I needed. I have managed to silence my inner critic and hide it away for good. Sue was an awesome facilitator who brought me out of my shell, which I previously believed could never happen. This experience helped me learn a lot about myself and life in general, such as: life is what you make it. Looking back now, I have come to realize this to be true. I have come a long way in the past six weeks. I am more open and comfortable speaking my opinions, and knowing that it's okay, and no one will judge me. I now truly believe I am okay as a person and I intend to continue believing that. Moving on will be challenging and tough at times, but using the tools I learned from this course will make the journey easier. I will always remember and cherish what I have learned from this course and will use what I have learned when dealing with the challenges life brings my way. In conclusion, I want to say thanks to Sue for her excellent facilitating, along with all those who make this course possible. I will take this experience with me and make it worth the effort.

Tackling Problem Buildings

By Bill Hanley, Lead Investigator, SCAN Unit

Are there houses in your neighbourhood where you suspect illegal activity is taking place? Is it affecting your ability to enjoy your home and property? If so, you can file a confidential complaint with the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit. The SCAN unit tackles problem residences by holding property owners/occupants accountable for illegal activities that may be taking place. The SCAN unit investigates complaints of habitual criminal activity, from illegal drugs to unlawful gaming activities. They can warn residents to stop illegal activity, remove unlawful fortifications on a building, or even shut down a property. You can help to take back your neighbourhood. Call SCAN at 1-877-826-2122, or email SCAN@gnb.ca



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Giving Hope Today

By Joshua Smith

In 2007 the Salvation Army Booth Centre was faced with far too many men who were chronically homeless in our community. The need for community reintegration of these men was identified as a priority. Faced with the challenge of finding safe, affordable housing options, the Salvation Army Booth Centre partnered with Saint John Non-Profit Housing and Housing Alternatives to make this a reality. To date 15 men have had an opportunity at a new beginning as a result of these wonderful partnerships. The success of the program has allowed it to grow from one unit in 2007 to eight units with 11 clients today. With basic supports these men now have an opportunity for a new beginning and hope for tomorrow.

Joshua Smith is Community Housing Program Coordinator at Booth Residential Services. E-mail: Joshua_Smith@can.salvationarmy.org

Enfin le cas étrange devenu ordinaire

Par André Tedika

Enfin le cas étrange est devenu un cas ordinaire. J'ai publié dans le journal du mois d'octobre 2010 pourquoi je ne pouvais pas travailler ni fréquenter les cours d'anglais, parce que j'étais touriste et que je n'avais pas le numéro d'assurance sociale.

Enfin j'ai trouvé du travail grâce au Centre d'accueil multiculturel et des nouveaux arrivants de saint John Inc.(SJMNR). Je suis actuellement agent d'accueil francophone chargé d'aider les nouveaux arrivants à Saint John.

Voici quelques services offerts par notre centre d'accueil :

- Accueil au point d'arrivée
- Aide à la recherche de logement
- Inscription à l'école et / ou aux cours de francisation
- Orientation vers les ressources d'emploi
- Intégration en milieu scolaire
- Jumelage

Encore merci pour tous ceux qui ont contribué pour mon intégration et mon bien être à Saint John. Le centre recherche des bénévoles pour aider à l'accompagnement et à l'établissement des familles récemment arrivées à Saint John.

*Pour tout renseignement, contacter André Tedika, Agent d'accueil francophone et d'intégration des Nouveaux arrivants de Saint John.
Tel.: (506) 642-1134. Email: andre.tedika@sjmnrc.ca*

Habitat For Humanity

By Dave Delaney

Habitat for Humanity Saint John Region was incorporated in April of 1998. To date it has built 14 homes in the Greater Saint John Area. Habitat for Humanity in Saint John opened and operates the ReStore located at 388 Rothesay Ave. The ReStore sells donations of new and recycled household and building materials at low prices to help raise funds to build homes and hope. The ReStore has diverted approximately 747.96 tons of materials from our community landfill.

Habitat for Humanity achieves its mission through its Homeownership Program, which helps families in financially vulnerable situations build and buy quality affordable homes by reducing barriers to homeownership. Barriers to homeownership are reduced by selling Habitat for Humanity homes with no-interest mortgages, and payments set at 30% of gross income or less (including principal, property tax and insurance).

This program gives families access to affordable housing while helping them build equity for the future and contribute back to the community. In order to qualify for this program homebuyers must be able to demonstrate their need, be able to carry a mortgage, and contribute "sweat equity" into building their own home. Habitat for Humanity reduces the cost of new homes by using modest designs, donated materials, volunteer labour, minimal marketing expenses and by reinvesting all mortgage payments received by homeowners back into the program, thus helping more families. Phone: 635-5977. E-mail: restore@nb.aibn.com



Ginny's Dream Job

By Ginny (Virginia) Perrin and Cathy Wright

Ginny has her dream job - three different positions at the Delta Hotel – front desk, switchboard and bell person, all of which give her 30 – 40 hours a week, and this is the quiet time! Her willingness to be flexible made the difference to being with a good company, and receiving benefits and a pension. Ginny was active in her children's schools but she credits her success to getting involved with the Y computer classes, the Key to Well-Being, and TIES 2 Work. Actually, Ginny's success is because of her own openness and determination. A very challenging personal relationship together with health issues, dead-end jobs and needing to rely on social assistance pushed her to take her case manager's advice and get started!



Photo by Chris Squire

These programs supported her to change. The Y program was a beginning, the Key to Well Being was amazingly invigorating, and TIES 2 Work matched her interests and skills to an employer. She wasn't sure of these programs, but she stepped out of her comfort zone and now reaps the benefits. Congratulations Ginny!!

'Lock-it and Pocket'

By Sgt. David Hartley-Brown, Community Services Unit

The Saint John Police Force, in its continuing efforts to reduce and prevent the thefts from and of vehicles, is reminding residents to take a few seconds when leaving your vehicle to secure both the car and its contents. During any season we all like to window shop as we go from store to store. Criminals also like to window shop from vehicle to vehicle, looking for any valuables left in plain sight. They too enjoy having a GPS, cell phones, laptops, IPOD's, money, etc. It's important to think about the "three C's" when leaving your car parked at home, work, or out shopping. COVER the property, CONCEAL the property in the glove box, trunk, or under the seat, or CARRY the property. Never leave your regular or a spare key in the vehicle. Working with us by remembering to "Lock- it and Pocket" the keys will go a long way to help reduce and prevent you from becoming a victim of theft.

Please remember to report any suspicious activity you see to the police at 648-3333 or 911 should a theft be taking place at that time. If you wish to pass on any other information you may contact the community officer in your area or e-mail us at policetips@saintjohn.ca

Winter Fire Safety Tips

By Capt. Mike Crowley, Saint John Fire Department

When it comes to Fire Safety, winter is a season that we have to be very careful. A few suggestions to follow will help you and your family to be safe this winter:

1. Always have a working smoke alarm - check and test it regularly to make sure it works.
2. Have a Fire Escape Plan for your family and practice it.
3. Keep all exits clear of garbage, debris, ice and snow, so if needed you can use them quickly and safely.
4. Be careful when using portable heating equipment; maintain a minimum of 3' or 1 meter clearance from combustible material, furniture, curtains and blankets, etc.
5. Always be careful not to overload extension cords or power bars; use only CSA or ULS approved cords.
6. Never leave cooking unattended on the stove.
7. In case of an emergency it is very important that all doors and stairways are kept free and clear of ice and snow, so rescue personnel can get in to assist, and also in the event of a fire, that you can exit safely. By following the suggestions above, you will greatly increase you and your family's safety. For further information call the Saint John Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division at 506-658-2962.



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Stay up-to-date with what's happening in the field of Affordable Housing. Receive a monthly e-notice that highlights information on tools, web forums, financial assistance, and success stories.

In addition, the CMHC website features Success Stories and Project Profiles about people and projects who are making a difference in communities. Now, you can access over 100 profiles with our enhanced search capabilities.

cmhc.ca/affordablehousing

Contact:
Francine DiMambro
CMHC Corporate Representative
Saint John and Area, New Brunswick
Tel: 506-850-3747 Fax: 506-851-6188
Email: fdimambr@cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Abonnez-vous aux Avis électroniques de la SCHL dès maintenant!

Soyez au fait de l'actualité dans le domaine du logement abordable. Recevez chaque mois un avis mettant en vedette des outils, des forums Web, de l'aide financière et des exemples de réussite.

De plus, découvrez les gens et les projets qui ont contribué à faire une différence dans les collectivités en cliquant sur les liens Témoignages vidéo et Profils d'ensemble dans notre site Web. Vous avez maintenant accès à plus de cent profils grâce à notre fonctionnalité de recherche améliorée.

schl.ca/logementabordable

Personne-ressource :
Francine DiMambro
Représentante de la SCHL
Saint-Jean et région, Nouveau-Brunswick
Tél. : 506-850-3747 Téléc. : 506-851-6188
Courriel : fdimambr@cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Office Of The Rentalsman

By Stephen Brittain

Many people believe the Office of the Rentalsman only deals with security deposits, but it does so much more. While it does hold security deposits for tenants, it performs a much greater job. It administers and enforces the rules of The Residential Tenancies Act of New Brunswick.

This piece of provincial legislation applies to all residential tenancies in New Brunswick, whether the property being rented is an apartment unit in an apartment building, a condominium, a single-family dwelling, a mobile home or mobile home site, or a room in a rooming or boarding house. It sets out the legal rights and obligations of both landlords and tenants and also establishes the methods by which landlords and tenants may enforce those rights and obligations. Complying with The Residential Tenancies Act is NOT optional, and it does not matter whether or not the premises rented are in the countryside or downtown.

The law applies to everyone equally. If there is non-compliance by a landlord or tenant with the law, the Rentalsman may help the affected party. Seeking the advice of the Rentalsman is FREE, and you can contact him by stopping by in person during normal business hours, Monday through Friday.

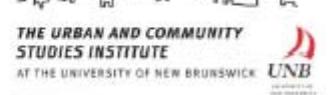
The office is located at 15 King's Square North on the second floor of the Service New Brunswick Service Centre. E-mail at saintjohn.rentalsman-mediateur@snb.ca. Phone: 658-2512. Fax: 658-3096. Web site: www.snb.ca/rent

This is the first in a four-part series from the Office of the Rentalsman.

Art Eggleton Visits Saint John

Join Senator Art Eggleton for a conversation on Poverty Reduction, February 17, 4:30-6:30 at the Grand Hall, University of New Brunswick, Saint John (corner of Charlotte St. and King's Square).

Hear recommendations for the Federal Government's role with poverty, housing and homelessness, as well as provincial and local priorities and actions. Call 648-0202 to register.



Building Inspections & Your Safety

By Leah Fitzgerald

As a tenant, have you ever wondered if your apartment is meeting the minimum standards of occupancy? Are you concerned with your safety, or your kids' safety, in the building you live in?

The City of Saint John has two building inspectors assigned to inspecting rental units in the city. These inspectors visit many housing units daily and communicate with property owners to tell them of the violations that are present in the buildings. The inspectors are looking for many things that relate to life-safety issues, including: safe exiting, operational smoke alarms, well maintained electrical systems, stairs and landings in good condition and free of garbage, ice and snow, and, where needed, second exits. Inspectors check the exterior and interior conditions of units and look for such things as drafty windows, fire-rated doors and functioning door closers, bedroom windows that open, and torn flooring, among many other items.

Property owners have an obligation to keep their buildings in good condition, and tenants have an obligation to keep their units clean and sanitary and not to block exits with garbage or furniture. One common violation the inspectors see every day is smoke alarms that have had their batteries removed. Smoke alarms save lives and it is important not to tamper with them!

Inspectors might visit a property after having received a complaint or it may be regular follow up for an existing case. Complaints might come from a tenant, but they are also received from the Fire and Police Departments, social workers and even family members of tenants. An inspector may also put a building on the inspection list without a specific request.

The property owner is given time to deal with the results of the inspection, from 30 days onward. Some of the deficiencies on an inspection report may require a building permit.

Everyone has the right to a safe and clean place to live. If you have concerns about your apartment, contact Buildings and Inspection Services at 658-2911.

Around The Block Team (Issue 15)

Old North End: June Rennick.

Lower South End: Mary LeSage.

Waterloo-Village: Linda Scott.

Crescent Valley: Anne Driscoll, Elaine Orser.

Lower West Side: Mary Lou Price.

Proof readers: Anna O'Hara, Belinda Kumar, Cindy Bishop, Kathryn Asher, Linda Boyle, Mary Collier Fleet, and Rona Howald.

Layout and Design: Mark Leger.

Ad design: Belinda Kumar.

Community members: Kit Hickey, Lyn King, Kelly Kelly.

Vibrant Communities: Wendy MacDermott, Cathy Wright, Colin McDonald.

Human Development Council: Kathryn Asher, Randy Hatfield and Chris Hopkins.