



Around *The* Block

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Community members gather at the Glen Carpenter Centre for the announcement of the new Y building. (Photo courtesy of the Y)

The New Saint John Y

By Cindy Floyd

It's official! The new Saint John Y will be built on Churchill Blvd. The parcel of land was donated to the Y by the Province, made possible with the support of Social Development Minister Sue Stultz and Saint John Portland MLA Trevor Holder, who is also the Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport/Tourism and Parks.



The new facility will include a wellness centre, gymnasium, community rooms, walking track, child care centre and a pool. A wide variety of programs will be offered for children, youth, adults, seniors, families and newcomers to Canada.

Everyone, regardless of age, income or background, will have the opportunity to grow, learn and play at the new Y which is scheduled to open in 2014. Together we are building healthy communities!



Inset: Students from Lorne Middle School work on the float for the Santa Claus Parade.

Above: a partial view of the float when it was completed. (Photo courtesy of Lorne Middle School)

Christmas Around The World

Here in Saint John most people celebrate Christmas on December 25.

Did you know that in many other countries around the world, people celebrate Christmas with different customs and different festivals instead of Christmas?

In China, there is a big celebration near Christmas time called the Chinese New Year. During this festival, one gets rid of evil influences of the previous year, and starts the year off by turning over a new leaf.

In Australia, Australians decorate their home with "the Christmas tree from Australia," a native plant with cream-coloured flowers that becomes a deep sparkling red at Christmas.

In Morocco, the feast Eid al Mawlid ennabawi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, similar to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Relatives gather together for a family feast after a day of prayer.

From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season!

Marie-Paule Godin in collaboration with Gabrielle Steeves Saint John Multicultural & Newcomers Resource Centre (SJMNR). Phone: 642-4242. Web site: www.sjmnrc.ca



(Photo courtesy of the SJMNRC)

Noël dans le monde

Ici à Saint-John la plupart des gens célèbre Noël le 25 décembre. Saviez-vous que dans plusieurs autre pays dans le monde, les gens célèbrent Noël avec de différentes coutumes ainsi que de différentes fêtes au lieu de Noël?

En Chine, il y a une grande célébration proche du temps de Noël nommé le Nouvel an chinois. Lors de cette fête, on se débarrasse de mauvaises influences de l'année précédente, et on commence d'un nouveau pied.

En Australie, les Australiens ornent leur maison de « l'arbre de Noël d'Australie », une plante indigène aux fleurs de couleur crème qui deviennent d'un rouge foncé éclatant à Noël.

Au Maroc, la fête Eid al mawlid ennabawi célèbre la naissance du prophète Muhammad, semblable comme Noël et la naissance de Jésus. Les proches sont généralement regroupés pour un festin familial après une journée de prières.

De notre famille à la vôtre, nous vous souhaitons un joyeux temps des fêtes!

Coordinator's Comments: Holiday Traditions

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

Welcome to issue 20 with a theme of "Holiday Traditions." As we approach the holiday season, and our children are off school for their two week break, let's take time to reflect on the greatness of our communities and all the diversity it brings to our city.

At *Around The Block* we celebrate everything that is positive, and in so doing, we also celebrate the cultures of the many citizens that make this city so unique. Many of them have shared their stories with us. In this issues, we have stories from Korea, Ukraine, Vietnam and China, as well as Canadian traditions. As we gather in our communities with families and friends let's take a moment to reflect on everything we have.

From the staff and the many, many volunteers who contribute to *Around The Block*, I wish you happy holidays and remember, take a cab, use city transit, or call Operation Red Nose. Be safe and be happy.



Old North End • Old North End

ONE Change Tree Lighting



The ONE Change Tree Lighting. (Photos above and in top banner by Gerry Leavitt)

Updates From Lorne Middle School

By Denise Long

* Congratulations to Lorne Middle School soccer team for having a great season! Thank you to Mr. Harquail and Ms. Damery for coaching.

* Phoenix Fundraiser: Congratulations to Karrie Rogers for winning the 50/50 draw!

* Congratulations to Hillary Boudreau for selling 16 booklets of tickets and winning the Flat Screen TV! Congratulations to the following students who sold over 5 books and will enjoy an afternoon off school to watch a movie: Destiny Legere, Mercedes Ryan, Hillary Boudreau, Ian Cameron, Marcus Gibson, Tia Law and Robyn Arsenault.

* Congratulations to the following students! They have been chosen to be on Lorne's Leadership Team, led by Mrs. Long: Tia Law, Tristan McLaughlin, Kyle Forsythe, Brittany McGowan, Alaina Allen, Matthew Stagg, Trinity Savoy, Alex Bright, Chelsea Albert. Lorne's Leadership Team students will be participating in a program called, Kids Now, every Wednesday at lunch for 12 weeks. Topics that will be covered are stress management, self-esteem, goal setting, communication, and conflict resolution. We are hoping to build better leaders for our school and community. As part of this team they will be doing a lot of volunteering in and out of the school.

* GOLDEN BUCKET AWARD: The cleanest classroom award! Points will be given to the class who keeps their room the cleanest. Every Friday morning the winning classroom will be announced. Winners to date: Mr. Harquail (1), Ms. Damery (2), Ms. Delano (1) and Mr. Belyea (2)

North Neighbourhood Contact

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North End Food Drive

By Tammy Calvin

Never underestimate the power of what women can do. That is the message that Tammy Calvin and Andrea Richards want to convey to people.

After sitting around a bonfire discussing how to help people who are struggling, Tammy and Andrea came up with the idea to assist the North End Food Bank. The idea excited them enough to make it happen. The Food Bank was contacted and permission was given to host a food drive. Try Al's Trucking provided a 53 foot long trailer for the cause.



(Photo by Tammy Calvin)

To raise awareness to the needs of those living in poverty, these crazy ladies also decided to fast until the entire trailer was full. Everyone said that it would take weeks to fill a 53 foot trailer. It didn't take quite that long. In fact it only took three days to fill the trailer.

They braved sleeping at the Lansdowne Plaza inside the trailer for 2 nights. It rained, yet they stayed, through pure determination to fill the trailer. Thanks to the generosity of people and businesses, the mission was accomplished in three days. Now the North End Food Bank has a stockpile of non-perishable food items to help them throughout the winter.

Best Wishes

By Wendy Barron-Belmore

The folks who call the Old North End home have opened their hearts, hopes and dreams to me. Their brave voices are the ones that will mould the future of the Old North End by giving us insight into their daily lives: the single mom who is battling the odds so that she can get back to school, the parent who walks everyday with their children to school regardless of the extreme weather, the dad who just wants to work to put food on the table for his children, the guy who is homeless and has many troubles but stops in here blessing me with his smile, the parents with little babies who are in need of a little extra to make ends meet.

I can't express how excited I am about the future for the residents and ONE Change. We are going forward to a new level. You have truly made me a better person. Happy Holidays to all!

Spirit Of Giving At Centennial School

By Caitlin Corkum

Christmas at Centennial School is always about giving back. We are a long and proud supporter of the Harbour Lights Campaign. Each year we have Pennies for Harbour Lights which challenges our students to raise money for the Harbour Lights Campaign and this year is no different! This year our students have been challenged to raise \$750 and if they win the challenge their efforts will benefit another worthy cause. If the students reach their goal one of the staff at the school will be cutting and donating their hair to Locks for Love! Our students love giving back and always enjoy a challenge!

This page sponsored by

Councillor Patty Higgins
Ward 2

Saint John you are beautiful!





Our Christmas Elf

By Carla Miller

Last year a new tradition started in our household for Christmas; a little Elf named Giga “FrostByte” appeared mysteriously at our door on December 1st. His arrival seemed innocent as he brought Advent calendars for the kids, but his true colours quickly came to light each morning – that’s when we discovered what mischief he had been up to the night before.



(Photo by Carla Miller)

One morning he was found strapped to the toilet with a set of Christmas lights, trying to decorate the bathroom. Another morning we found him in the freezer eating ice cream! He even set up our Christmas tree one night and another morning we found him zip-lining from the tree! He also had a little “potty” humour; one morning the boys’ underwear drawers were completely emptied and we found him sitting on a mountain of their underwear reading none other than “Captain Underpants”! Occasionally FrostByte would also leave little treats and

on Christmas Eve morning he left Christmas pyjamas for the whole family. It was a lot of fun and with three boys and a teenage girl who don’t like to get up in the morning. The “Adventures of Frost Byte” became a great motivator to get everyone up and out of bed to see what shenanigans our elf had been up to the night before!

I Believe

By Michelle Hooton

I was 10 years old when I started to question whether or not Santa Claus was real. I remember the sick feeling I had in my stomach as I struggled to make sense of the whispers I was hearing at school. By the time school finished for the holidays, I had been convinced. However, I could not bring myself to let my parents know that ‘the jig was up’! I went about my days fulfilling all of the Christmas tasks that Mom set out for me – helping with the decorating, baking and gift wrapping. It felt very empty.



One of our family’s traditions was to spend Christmas Eve delivering gifts to my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We did not spend a great deal of time but as we left each home, someone would say, ‘I hope Santa finds you!’ I watched as my brother Paul grinned with excitement. He believed ... my heart was aching.

Christmas Eve that year was one of those perfect winter nights – the air was still, the snow was crisp and the sky was filled with a kazillion stars. As we were walking back to our car, my mom suddenly screamed. I had been looking up at the stars so I thought she had fallen. She grabbed Dad’s arm and pointed at the sky. It’s really important to understand that my mom is not a story-teller. She has never told a fib in her life! ‘George look – he’s right there. We have to get home quick!’ There was a huge cluster of stars directly above our heads. I looked up and out of the corner of my eye, I saw the flash... brilliant, fleeting, but I saw it. As we made our way home, I could feel my heart filling with absolute certainty that Santa Claus was real. Since that night, my faith has never wavered. Thank you, Mom.

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

By Mary LeSage

We had another successful Safe Halloween Event with a BBQ this year; over 100 trick-or-treaters came to fill their bags and bellies! To help defray costs of treats, Safe Halloween posters were sold to the neighbourhood residents.



Children line up for treats at the P.U.L.S.E. Halloween Party. (Photo above and ones in the top banner by Dawn LeBlanc)

We had a successful ‘flu clinic that saw 29 residents vaccinated. Our Wellness Clinic’s partnership with the VON has been quite successful. We have one more clinic scheduled for this year on December 13th from 1-4 pm and then we will be back in operation for 2012 on the third Tuesday of the month starting January 17.

We are excited about partnering with the Community Police Unit and learning more about protection from being a victim of fraud. More details to follow in the New Year!

Saint John the Baptist King - Edward School is looking for skates for the Skate Swap/Giveaway again this year. Drop off is at the P.U.L.S.E. building. Helmets will be gladly accepted as well!

Pin Your Hopes On Christmas

By David Blaney

Mom’s family had precious little to live on near the end of the First World War in Irvine, Scotland. One Christmas Eve she was told that, at the most, she might get a whole orange for her present. To think otherwise would just be selfish.



Christmas morning had finally crept in, and Mom remembers slowly reaching inside her stocking. There, fashioned with love, and perhaps a little sadness, was a most wonderful doll. Never, in her many following years, would she be happier with any other gift. It was all hers and it needed love. In return, that simple, hand-painted clothespin doll, nestled in her arms, delivered a lifetime of hope and thankfulness.

My Special Holiday

By Mihyang Lee

In Korea, we have a good holiday on the first day of every year. It’s named “Sulnal.” We have to get lots of food and some presents ready. We cook rice soup, meats, fish, vegetables and noodles. All my family has breakfast together. Then we bow to the older people. We wear the beautiful traditional dress, “Hanbok.” The older people give some new money to the grandchildren. My kids and my nephew look very happy. I’m thinking about last year’s “Sulnal.” There were a lot of relatives at my parents’ home. We played traditional games and watched movies. We had a great time.



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Constituency Office:
Mon 9:30 – 4:30, Tues/Wed 10:00 – 3:00,
Thursday 4:00 – 8:00 PM
Carleton Community Center:
Thursday 11:00 – 3:00 PM

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Crescent Valley • Crescent Valley

Teen Vibe Christmas

By Shaundell Curran

Christmas traditions for the youth at Teen Vibe are precious and memorable. For some it's all about decorating the Christmas tree as a family, while for others it's about baking homemade goodies with their moms. Several Teen Vibers have talked about opening that one anticipated gift on Christmas Eve, while others look forward to watching that favourite Christmas movie as a family.



Teen Vibe has many Christmas activities, including at tree lighting night and a dinner. (Photo by Shaundell Curran)

Teen Vibe even has its own Christmas traditions such as our annual Tree decorating night. Also, we will be attending the annual Christmas Dinner at the TRC, as well as taking part in carolling in the community. Regardless of what activity we are participating in or what event we are attending, there is always a sense of community - the bond of family. Merry Christmas, Teen Vibers, have a safe and happy holiday!



(Photo by Anne Driscoll)

Christmas Traditions In CV

By Janet McLaughlin and Anne Driscoll

The Christmas Season has always been special for residents of Crescent Valley. Over the years many different traditions have come and gone but two that are still very popular are the annual Christmas parties hosted by the Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) and by the Crescent Valley Community Tenants' Association (CVCTA). The CVCTA holds two Christmas parties for its members: one for adults and one for children. At the parties gifts are received and there is usually a surprise visit from Santa.

The CVRC hosts a community party for all ages at the Hazen White-St. Francis school. Music, treats, games, door prizes and a visit from Santa are all part of the fun. This party is made possible through the generous donations from individuals, businesses and volunteers.

Janet McLaughlin is President, CVCTA . Anne Driscoll is Executive Director, CVRC.

Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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Winter Book Wagon

By Cheryl Brown and Wendell Dryden

Did you know that the Crescent Valley Bookwagon runs all winter long?

We lend books to babies, kids, teens and adults in all kinds of weather (as long as it's not too cold!). We also lend books to children and adults who are improving their reading, find specific books on request, and help answer questions about reading. Look for us on Tuesdays, around suppertime, between 5 and 7, or give us a call at 333-2601 if you would like us to stop regularly and knock. You can also contact us at sjfamilit@nbnet.nb.ca



(Photo by Wendell Dryden)

Introducing Tara Parlee



By Tara Parlee

I am the new Program Facilitator at the Crescent Valley Resource Center. I have been working in the non-profit sector for four years. My job experience involves working with young Moms, youth at risk, and, as well, with the previous North End Community Coordinator.

I am excited about this opportunity to work in the Crescent Valley Community. I am looking forward to meeting with you so please stop by to say hello. The CVRC is located at 130 MacLaren Blvd, the "Blue Building." Phone: 693-8513.

(Photo by Anne Driscoll)

School Receives \$500

The Crescent Valley Community Tenants Association (CVCTA) has donated \$500 to Hazen White St Francis School for help in their Christmas party and the school library. Left:

Jennifer Carhart, principal. Right: Janet McLaughlin President, CVCTA. (Photo by Juanita Black)



Crescent Valley Tree Lighting

By Richard Northorp

Our residents and community partners are invited to our, "First Annual Community In Unity Tree Decorating And Lighting Event". This will take place on Dec 15 at 4:30 pm, meeting at the splash pad location in Flemming Crt. Teen Vibe will be stringing the lights and residents and children are asked to bring a homemade ornament or one from home to decorate our tree. We will then proceed to the Tenants Association office singing carols along the way, to have some hot chocolate and cookies in time to meet Santa Claus. Residents are asked to have their window lights on by 6:30 pm for the annual window Lighting contest that will be judged at 6:30 pm.

Hon. Trevor A. Holder
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Lower West • Lower West

Community Helper Awards

By Mary Lou Price

On Nov. 28, the Westside P.A.C.T. hosted the Red Carpet Community Helper Award Ceremony. Our community helper's project was facilitated by Social Work students Norah Reick, Tonya Shaw, and Haley McIntosh from St. Thomas University, in conjunction with St. Patrick's School, Beaconsfield School, and the Carleton Community Centre.



These pictures were done by youth for the Red Carpet ceremony. (Photo by Mary Lou Price)

The youth in the community showcased their ideas for community improvement through artwork. Prizes were awarded for best poster, best attendance, best "community helper", and "best friend". Winners were: best poster - Madison, best attendance - Cara, best "community helper" - Dartanion, and best friend - Jennifer.

Prizes were MP-3 players and a dwarf sound system. Due to the wonderful support of the community, EVERY youth who participated in this project received a board game. A great big special THANK YOU to the Carleton Curling Club, who donated their space as well as the delicious turkey supper and dessert.



(Photo courtesy of Carleton Kirk)

Happy 66th Wedding Anniversary

It was a special day Nov. 22 at the Carleton Kirk apartments, with the residents hosting a special event in the Kiwanis room at the Kirk. Two of our residents, George and Helen Adams, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. George and Helen were married in Edinburgh, Scotland. Happy Anniversary George and Helen and may you celebrate many more!

Holiday Traditions at Carleton Kirk

By Gerry Hudson

Thanks to some of the residents at the Carleton Kirk apartments, a lot of folks will be warmer this winter. These residents knitted and distributed 530 items, including headbands, hats, mittens, scarves, socks, baby sets and baby blankets. These items went to the Seaman's Mission, St Patrick's, Havelock, and Seawood Elementary Schools, Carleton Kirk Nursing Home, the Empty Stocking Fund, Hestia House, Romero House, the Westside Food Bank, Bobby's Hope House, the IODE, and a special care home. Thanks for a job well done!

Our knitters are still knitting and if anyone out there has some yarn that they are not using, please drop it off at the Carleton Kirk Apartments.



(Photo courtesy of Gerry Hudson)

Free Seniors Art Classes

By Kim Cookson

FREE seniors' art classes, under the umbrella of the Westside PACT, have grown so big we have had to move from Market Place Wellness Centre to St. George's Church. If everyone shows up there are now 22 seniors. Men and women can join but for now we have all women. Classes are held every week on Thursday from 1-3 pm. The only request I ask for is? That people bring a small snack to share at our break, which is one of the most enjoyable parts. I supply coffee and tea, and the supplies! You can register by calling the Market Place Wellness Centre at 674-4335.



(Photo courtesy of Kim Cookson)

Westside Wellness Updates

- * **Specimen Collection:** Tue.-Wed., 7:30 am-2:30 pm. By appointment only, please call 648-6681.
- * **Food Bank:** Tue. and Fri, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- * **Foot Care Clinic:** every third Wed. By appointment: 657-2273.
- * Are you over 50 and want to be more ACTIVE? Join our free classes on Tue. 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Hope Centre and Fri 2:00 -3:00 pm at Carleton Community Center. Please call 674-4335.
- * **Food Purchase Club:** for more information call 674-4335 or the Community Health Center at 632-5537.
- * **West Side Community Kitchen Program** is free 674-4335.
- * Social Development worker on site to answer questions, Tue. 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

West Neighbourhood Contacts

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The Village • The Village

Jiwbulnori Of Deborum

By Woosang Han
When I think about Jiwbulnori of Deborum I feel my heart is warmer. Deborum means Great Full Moon that is a Korean holiday and the first full moon of the year, January 15th in the lunar Korean calendar. The holiday is accompanied by many traditional



(Photo courtesy of Woosang Han)

things such as cracked nuts, climb mountains to see the moon, eat Ogokbap, Jiwbulnori. I want to talk about Jiwbulnori. When I was young I really waited for the Deborum because of Jiwbulnori that is a Korean traditional game where people burned the dry grass on the side of rice fields for getting rid of harmful worms and children used cans.

When it came close to holiday I tried to find empty cans. I made lots of holes on the can with a nail and made a wire rope to the can. I put small dry pieces of wood in the can, set it on fire and swung it round quickly in a circular motion with my friends in the night. When people see the scene it is very enjoyable.

Finally after 10 to 20 minutes we threw it up into the air together and "let it go". Then many little tiny fires would be scattered to the ground. It was amazing.

Christmas At Coverdale

By Crystal Scott

This year Coverdale is having a Christmas Party on Dec 6 for clients, previous clients and their children. This year we have been fortunate to have volunteers coming from Kingswood College, formally Bethany Bible College in Sussex. The students will be bringing their musical instruments to sing and play Christmas music. There will be a craft time, cookie decorating and hopefully a visit from Santa! The children and their Moms will all receive some nice treats to take home. For our clients staying at the Emergency Shelter and our Halfway House, we will have gifts such as toiletries, treats, mittens and hats which will be waiting for them on Christmas Morning. We already have our Christmas tree up and the house is decorated. Staff will prepare a turkey dinner on Christmas Day. All of this is made possible by various churches, companies and anonymous donors who help to provide all of our items. Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone at Coverdale Center for Women Inc.

Vietnamese Christmas Traditions

By Van Thiet Vu

Christmas Day is a holiday all over the world. In my family, my two brothers and three sisters live in different cities in the north or south far from my parents' house. When I lived in Viet Nam, all my family went to my parents' house a few days earlier for a celebration. We met my cousins, talked and looked after our parents and gave them some gifts. When we visited them they were so happy. At Christmas, we go to church at midnight and pray for world peace. Later we go home to have mom's chicken soup. It's a special time for family. Now I'm living far away in Canada so I can't help them but I wish them well.



(Photo courtesy of Lawrence Young)

Cleaning Up The Fall Leaves

By Lawrence Young, President, Courtenay Bay Tenants Association

This fall we had a large amount of leaves fall in our neighbourhood. We decided as a community to have a clean-up, and it took place on November 5. There was a nice turn out of volunteers from the neighbourhood. I would like to say thank you to everyone who participated. It went off very well with the barbequed hot dogs and hot chocolate being served afterwards. We collected over one hundred bags of leaves. I would like to give a special thank you to Ed LeBlanc for lending us his truck to take all the bags to the garden. Once again I would like to thank everybody who was involved in the fall clean-up in Courtenay Bay.

Boys And Girls Club Christmas

By Sandra Voutour

Every year at this time the anticipation of the holiday season is in full swing for the 100 or so youth who are involved in the lunch program at the Club. Even the staff gets very excited for the annual Christmas dinner, which is scheduled for Dec 21 this year. During this event, each child enjoys a healthy serving of Christmas fixin's including dessert. Afterwards, Santa manages to find his way to visit and deliver new clothes, a toy and some treats for each and every child. The most amazing part of this event is watching the children tear open their gifts, try on their new clothes and test out their new toy. The look of sheer joy is very touching as the many volunteers witness wrapping paper flying around, clothes being tried on, batteries being shared all around... Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors who make this time of year so special!

Village Updates

The Waterloo Village Association held a neighborhood planning session on Oct 12, at Prince Charles School. Residents living in the neighborhood and community partners attended the meeting. Highlights of the last year were provided and included the Adopt-a-planter project; Grace of God garden clean-up; survey; and neighborhood clean up in June '11. The survey showed that safety, cleaning and beautification, and communications are the biggest issues for residents. Participants worked on identifying issues, came up with possible solutions, and began to draft plans of action. Please note, the next meeting will be on Jan 11, 2012 at 6 pm located at Coverdale Center for Women on Waterloo St., all welcome. For more information please contact Linda Scott at ascott@nb.sympatico.ca or Penni Eisenhauer at 343-5382.

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Around the Block



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Village Neighbourhood Contact

Penni Eisenhauer 343-5382
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Canada Learning Bond Update

Thirty-two children enrolled in a Canada Learning Bond at the Blitz on Saturday, Nov 19. This could mean up to \$2,000 for a child towards their post-secondary education. Staff from 5 financial institutions - TD, Scotiabank, RBC, BMO and Bayview Credit Union were at the Rotary Boys and Girls Club to open accounts. Service Canada staff helped parents get their child's Social Insurance Number and Canada Revenue Agency answered questions about other benefits. The van from Main Street Baptist Church was ready to go and the Open House at the Boys and Girls Club meant a fun experience for kids, especially with the balloon artist!

The goal is to sign up 100 children. There is no cost and to qualify:

- 1) Your child is born on Jan 1, 2004 or later.
- 2) Family income is less than \$41,000 a year (gross income) last year.
- 3) Your child must have a Social Insurance Number; it is FREE. Visit Service Canada at 1 Agar Place and bring child's original birth certificate.
- 4) You (the parent) need to know your Social Insurance Number (SIN) too.
- 5) Go to your bank and ask to open a Canada Learning Bond (CLB)-no charge. Bring an additional piece of identification such as Medicare card, major credit card, debit card, or provincial ID, or driver's license (photo ID is best). For more information call Vibrant Communities at 693-0904.

Habitat For Humanity Seeks Applicants

By Hope Alderson

Since 1998, Habitat for Humanity Saint John Region has built 14 homes in the Saint John area. Home #15 is currently under construction in East Saint John at 3 Omega Drive. Habitat is currently accepting applications for their Homeownership Program. Partner families are selected based on their level of need, ability to pay and willingness to partner. Applications are available at the ReStore, 388 Rothesay Ave. and online at www.HabitatSaintJohn.ca. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Delaney 635-7867. Deadline for receiving applications: Jan. 15.

Fire Safety Information Session

Free information on fire safety will be offered at the Crescent Valley Resource Center (CVRC), 130 MacLaren Blvd., on Dec 12 at 1:15 p.m. Captain Roy Nolan, from the Saint John Fire Department, will present an information session on fire safety in the home as well as in the community. Please contact Tara or Anne at the CVRC at 693-8513. All welcome.

Support Group For Abuse Survivors

The Saint John Support Group for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, meets twice a week at the Community Health Center, 116 Coburg Street, next to Saint Joseph's Hospital. Meeting times are Sat 11:30 a.m. – 1-2:30 p.m. and Tue 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. This support group is open to all men and women survivors 18 years of age and over. We welcome all newcomers to share in our journey. Anonymity is respected. All meetings are closed meetings unless otherwise stated. For further information contact Elsie McGraw via e-mail: mcgrame@nb.sympatico.ca

Y Day Camps For Christmas Break

- * Prince Edward Square Mall
 - * Forest Glen Community Centre
 - * Millidgeville Community Centre
 - * Quispamsis Community Centre
 - * Church of the Good Shepherd
- Week One: Dec 28 – 30,
Week Two: Jan 3 – 6.
Times 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sophia Recovery Centre

Are you female and needing help to deal with your addiction? Sophia Recovery Centre is a non-residential facility for female youth and women recovering from addiction. Our centre is the only one of its kind in NB. It's a safe place for all women and offers a 12 step spirituality-based program of recovery, professional counselling and many other services. There are no waiting lists and all services are free of charge. Our mission at Sophia Recovery Centre is to help you overcome your difficulties and get your life back. We look forward to speaking with you; 633-8783 and/or you can attend our regular women's-only open AA meetings on Wednesdays at 7: pm and Alanon meetings Saturdays at 10:30 am - 83 Hazen Street, Saint John. Check out our website: www.sophiarecovery.com; email: info@sophiarecoverycentre.com and you can find/join us on Facebook.

Sexual Health Update

By Shelly Gautreau

It is no secret that Saint John has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in New Brunswick. The Provincial Public Health Department has therefore changed the mandate of the Sexual Health Program located at 28 Richmond Street, in the Teen Resource Center for Youth. Provincially, the Sexual Health Centre for clinical services has been changed to age 19 and under. We continue to focus education promoting healthy decision making, and changing behaviors to safer sex practices. We recognize the need to continue doing outreach presentations to community partners working with youth to provide a consistent message. We still offer counseling, birth control, emergency contraception, STI testing, pregnancy testing, and options counseling to all who request services. Our hours are Mon 8:30-4:30 and Tue-Fri 12:30-4:30 pm. You can book an appointment: 658-3998.

Bottom line: Quotes from Teens.

"When in doubt, don't have sex. Slow down, back up, and think it over. You decide."

"To have sex you have to discuss it first with your partner. If you can't talk about it you shouldn't be doing it."

Operation Red Nose

It is an original way of getting home safe in one's own vehicle without taking the wheel... and the service is free. The success of Operation Red Nose requires volunteers who care about their community and giving back during the holiday season. Please contact us immediately if you wish to register yourself or your group to volunteer. In order to maintain the safety of our volunteers and the program we require all volunteers register two weeks prior to the volunteer night in order to process application and appropriate driver's license & police checks. Contact us at saintjohn@operationrednose.com



United Way
Serving Saint John,
Kings and Charlotte

The Board and staff of the United Way welcome our new Executive Director, **Wendy MacDermott**. Wendy's background in community issues will be a valuable resource as we continue exploring the needs and opportunities for Saint John and surrounding areas. Her experience and enthusiasm is an exciting contribution to our United Way team, our partners and our communities.

www.unitedwaysaintjohn.com



Valued Sponsors of Around The Block



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Formerly Family Services of Saint John Inc.
Services for All!

Solutions to Improve Your Life...Now!

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

1461 Manawagonish Road
West Saint John
634-7425

111 Paradise Row, Saint John
634-7424

Questions about our services? Call anytime or visit us at www.BrenansFH.com

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

www.mainstreetbaptist.ca

Wishing you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

From: Board and Executive of the Neighbourhood Police Council.




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

Christ Among Us.



Attention Women

Do you feel that you are letting life slip by you?
- Do you procrastinate
- Underestimate your abilities
- Feel stuck and don't know where to start

Start by registering for **The Key to Well Being** And discover that life can be exciting and rewarding

Believe in yourself and make it happen

Call today and register for our upcoming course **672-7451**

Where
Saint Josephs Community Health Centre
116 Coburg Street

Childcare and transportation costs are covered by the Dept of Social Development



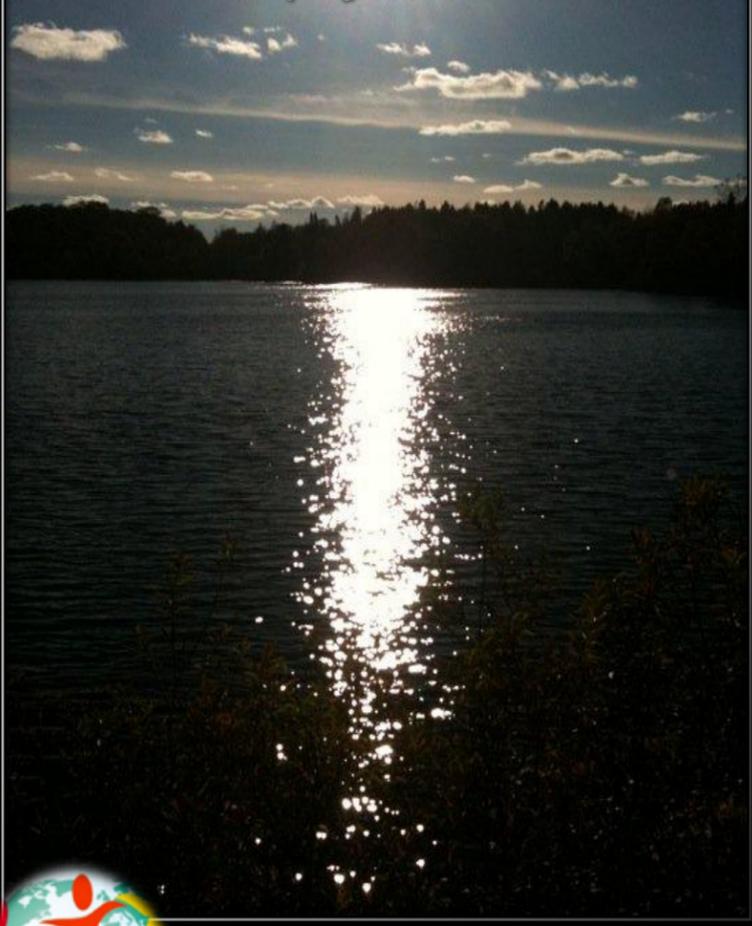
THE KEY



TO WELL-BEING

A PERSONAL GROWTH JOURNEY FOR WOMEN

May your days be merry and bright!
 Puissent vos jours être joyeux et lumineux!



Saint John Multicultural & Newcomers Resource Centre
 Centre d'accueil multiculturel et des nouveaux arrivants
 47 Charlotte Street, City Market, 3rd Floor
 (506) 642-4242 / www.sjmnrc.ca

photo: Lily Lake, Rockwood Park



SEASONS GREETINGS

Let us celebrate the joy, magic and goodwill that fill our community during this season. On behalf of Saint John Common Council, and the staff of the City of Saint John, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Please join us in celebrating 2012 at the Annual New Year's Levee, hosted by Mayor Ivan Court and Saint John Common Council:

Sunday, January 1st, 2012
 11am – 2pm
 HMCS Brunswick



SAINT JOHN



The City of Saint John

JOYEUSES FÊTES

Profitons de l'occasion pour célébrer la joie et la magie de Noël, le sens de bonne volonté et d'esprit communautaire qui règnent dans notre communauté pendant la saison des fêtes de fin d'année. Au nom du conseil communal et des employés de Saint John, une heureuse saison des fêtes en toute sécurité.

Nous comptons sur votre présence pour la célébration de la nouvelle année, le 1^{er} janvier lorsque Ivan Court, maire de saint John, et ses conseillers recevront les citoyens.

Dimanche 1^{er} janvier 2012,
 de 11 h à 14 h
 HMCS Brunswick

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



SAINT JOHN ENERGY IS PROUD TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TO THE RESIDENTS OF SAINT JOHN



Visit sjenergy.com for energy saving tips

Fall is coming and so is our busy time...

We are looking for qualified people to fill the following positions:

- Retail & Commercial tire technicians,
- Automotive Technicians (incl. Apprentices)
- Counter Sales Associates

To apply, please email your resume to jobs@coasttire.com



Please visit our website at www.coasttire.com for more information on our company and products.



Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~

Souhaiter vous et votre famille un Joyeux Noël et une bonne année!

Rodney Weston
 MP/député - Saint John



T 506 657-2500 email: westor1@parl.gc.ca
 90 King Street, Saint John, NB

Interested In Volunteering?



Saint John Volunteer Centre

Make a big difference by starting now.....

Tel: 658-1555
volunteer.sj@nb.aibn.com
www.volunteercentresj.com



Holiday Season Worship Services

'Around The Block' has compiled a list of worship centres and services for the holiday season.

Central/South End

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

91 Waterloo St.

Dec. 24 - 4 pm, Christmas Mass children's pageant

Dec. 24 - 7 pm, 12 am, Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 25 - 10 am, Christmas Day Mass

Cornerstone Baptist Church

42 Leinster St.

Dec. 18 - 11 am, Christmas Musical: "Never Too Old for Christmas"

Dec. 24 - 7 pm, Family Christmas Eve Service, all welcome.

Dec. 25 - 11 am, Christmas Morning Service

Church of St. Andrew and St. David

164 Germain St.

December 18 - 10:30 am, Chorale Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - 7 pm, Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion

December 25 - 10:30 am, Christmas Morning Pyjama Service.

Christmas morning means new pyjamas. Come in your Christmas morning finest.

Centenary-Queen Square United Church

215 Wentworth St.

Dec. 18 - 4 pm, is our Blue Christmas Service. This is a service for anyone who needs comforting during the Christmas season.

Dec. 24 - 5 pm, is our Christmas Eve Service.

Dec. 25 - 10:30 am, is our Christmas Day Service.

Jan. 1 - 10:30 am, is our New Years Day Service.

Saint John Vineyard Church

204 Carmarthen St.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus on Dec.

24, 6 - 7:00 pm, at Saint John Vineyard

Church. Experience the music of

two-time ECMA nominee and multi-

award winner, Stephanie Mainville,

and a message by Robin Ellingwood

entitled, "Forgetting Jesus." Stephanie

will be performing songs from her new

Christmas album, *Old Man Winter*, along

with a collection of other Christmas

carols. Refreshments and snacks will

follow.



Trinity Church

115 Charlotte St.

Dec. 24 - 4:30 pm, Christmas Eve family service

Dec. 24 - 11 pm, Midnight Service

Dec. 25 - 9 am, Holy Communion (said with carols)

Dec. 25 - 10:30 am, Holy Communion (sung)

Saint John Jewish Synagogue

91 Lenister St.

The menorah lighting ceremony to mark the first day of the

Hunukkah will be Tue, Dec. 20, 7:pm, at the Saint John

Jewish Historical Museum / Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

Regular Synagogue services are held on Fri evening at 6 pm and

Sat morning at 10 am.

North End

Crescent Valley Gospel Centre

500 Somerset St

Dec. 24 - 6 pm, Candlelight Eve Service

Portland United Church

50 Newport Cres. (across from Baxters Dairies)

Dec. 17 - 3 pm, Blue Christmas

Dec. 24 - 7 pm, Christmas Eve family service

Dec. 24 - 11 pm, communion

Dec. 25 - 11 am, Christmas morning service

St. Luke's Anglican Church

369 Main St. (corner of Main St. & Lansdowne Ave.)

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve 6:30 pm, Contemporary Family Service with Holy Communion.

Dec. 24 - 10 pm, - Traditional Book of Common Prayer Service.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day 10:30 am, Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with Holy Baptism & Holy Communion

St. Pius X Parish

316 Somerset St.

Dec. 24 - 4 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass

Dec. 24 - 7 pm Traditional Mass of Christmas

Dec. 24 - 10 pm Traditional Mass of Christmas

Dec. 25 - 10 am Christmas Day - Morning Mass of Christmas

Main Street Baptist Church

211 Main Street

Dec. 24 - 5 & 7 pm, Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 - 11:10 am, Christmas Day Service

East Side

Glen View United Church

8 Upland Rd. (corner of Upland and John T. McMillan)

Dec. 13 - Blue Christmas, 6 pm, a gathering of those who because of death, loss or change of circumstances are finding it difficult to embrace Christmas as they have in the past.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve 7 pm.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Morning 11am

West Side

St. George's Anglican Church

100 Watson St.

Dec. 24 - 7 pm, 11 pm, Christmas Eve service and communion

Dec. 25 - 10:30 am, Christmas Day service and communion

St. Jude's Anglican Church

319 Lancaster St.

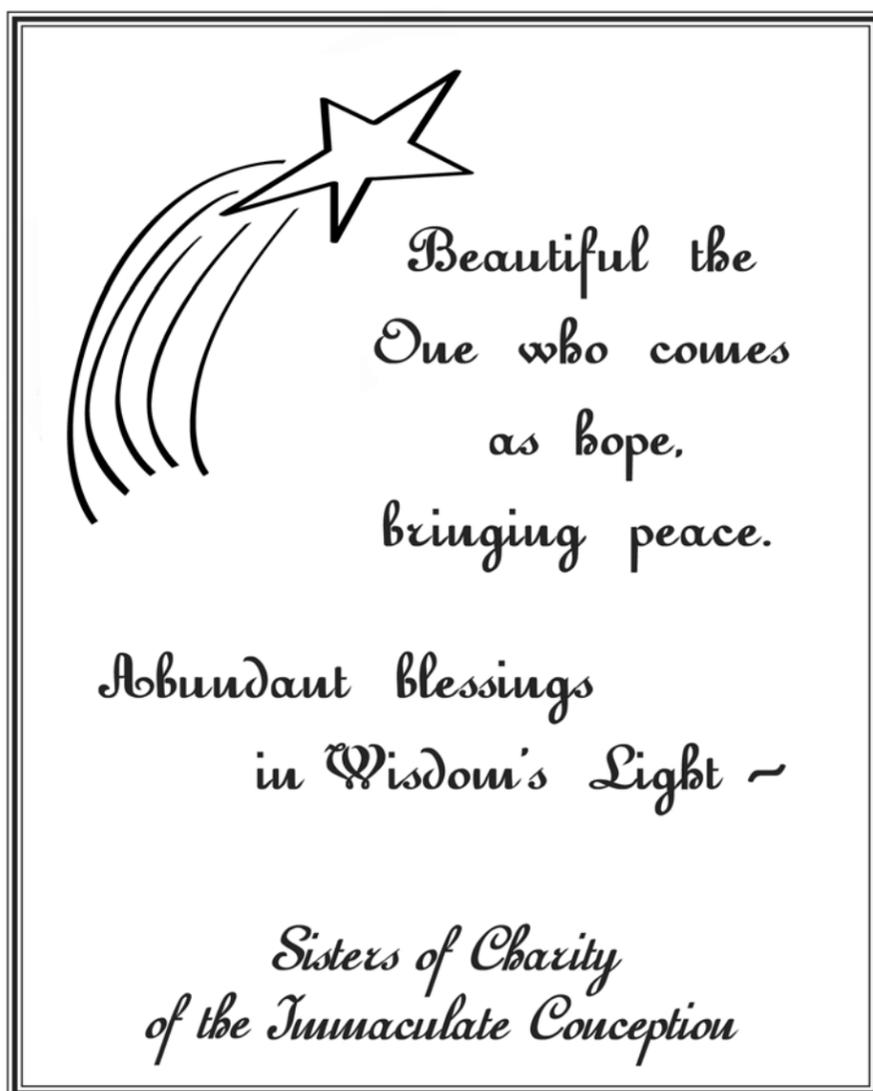
Dec. 24 - 7 pm, family Christmas Service

Our Lady of the Assumption

360 Dufferin Row

Dec. 24 - 4, 7, 10 pm, Christmas Even mass and communion

Dec. 25 - 11 am, Christmas Day Service and communion





Holiday Traditions From HWSF Students

These are edited comments from the Grade 5 class at Hazen White-St. Francis School (HWSF).

“Decorating our beautiful tree is so exciting because it means that Christmas is coming quicker than we thought.” *Anonymous*

“My family has a big feast with turkey, potatoes, squash, peas, carrots, meatballs, and chicken balls with sweet and sour sauce every year at my Nan’s house on Christmas Eve.” - *Riley Hannah*

“Sometimes if we are good we get to open one gift the night before Christmas Day. Usually I open my nanny’s gift. Last Christmas I got a black sweater, hair elastics, and four red and green head bands. I still wear them sometimes.” - *Alicia*

“On Christmas Day I wake up and run to my brother’s room to wake him up. We run to our mom’s and dad’s to wake them up. Then my brother and I run to my room, grab a sleeping bag and two pillows and race down the stairs on our sleeping bags as fast as rockets.” - *Matt Beck*

“I love watching my family open their presents and seeing the looks on their faces when they smile and their eyes are glowing with joy. I will go to bed and wait for Easter. I love holidays with presents involved!” - *James Basque*

“I plan to go sledding at my camp over the holidays. The hill is exactly 30 feet long. I slide down it every time I go to my camp in the winter. I have only broken my leg once from it!” - *Branden Ebbett-Raynes*

“Every year, my aunt, Skana, takes us on a road trip to different places, to visit people and see the beautiful decorations around the city. If we’re lucky we get to see Christmas carolers singing wonderful Christmas songs.” - *Jason*

“We go to the parking lot across the street and play our annual hockey game. My two brothers, my dad and I play against my two sisters and my mom. We’ve been doing this since my 27 year old brother was born. “Wow that is a long time!” - *Simon*

“Every Christmas, my family and I go to my Nan’s house and have a delightful supper. Mmmm. I cannot even explain how much I love playing in the white drifting snow in the winter. I wish it was Christmas everyday and every week!” - *Jaclyn Hannah*

Lorne School Shops For New Books

By Denise Long

Select students at Lorne Middle School were given the opportunity to go to Coles at McAllister Place to help shop for new books as part of the Indigo Adopt-a-School Program.

Lorne Middle School received an A+ rating for exceeding a 110 book goal. As a result of the program 118 books were given. The 118 new books will make a huge difference to students and teachers.

Did you know that most of our school budgets don’t allow for one book per child? The Indigo Adopt a School program puts more books in the hands of children by partnering with the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation.

Its power is in the grassroots outreach between Indigo stores and a school in their community they raise money for.

To date, they have raised over \$533,000 to put more than 46,000 books into the hands of children at 305 schools across Canada. <http://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/schools/121>



(Photo by Denise Long)



(Photo by Peter Turnbull)

Havelock, St. Patrick’s In Parade

By Krista Turnbull

Saturday, Nov 26 was the seventh annual Lancaster Santa Claus Parade. St. Patrick’s and Havelock Schools, both PALS schools, joined forces for an entry in the parade. In addition, Havelock School had a float entered in the parade. Students from both schools travelled in style on the PALS Kids on the Go bus. Everyone had fun, waving and shouting out “Merry Christmas” to all the children and adults watching along the parade route. Special thanks to Greg, our wonderful bus driver, who takes us everywhere we need to go ... always with a smile!!

Krista Turnbull is the Community Schools/PALS Coordinator St. Patrick’s School and Hazen-White/St. Francis School. Call 721-7314.

Epiphany

By Oksana Synogub

Epiphany is one of the most important holidays for Ukrainians that concludes the Christmas season. It is a traditional day for performing Baptisms. This great feast is celebrated on the night of January 18 according to the old Julian calendar that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church follows.

The Ukrainians believe that all water of Earth – in lakes, ponds, rivers - becomes miraculous at this time.

On the eve of the Epiphany, followers commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by dipping themselves in the water, despite the severe temperature of about -20 degrees. Believers want to wash away their sins by taking a plunge into icy waters on the feast, because water is blessed by a cleric on Epiphany, is considered holy and pure, and is believed to have special powers of protection and healing.

Youth Homelessness Conference

As part of a conference on homelessness Dec. 1, area high school students volunteered at area organizations.

These students helped out at the Saint John Community Chaplaincy. See more pictures and video on the Facebook page: Saint John Homelessness Education Party (H.E.L.P). (Photo by Mark Leger)





Celebrate what's Right with the World

EYE SPY Nuggets....Celebrations of our schools, students, staff and community. During the first few months of school, our schools and community have been quite active in local and global initiatives. They are indeed **'being the best for the world'**...a wonderful example for others to follow!

* **Harbour View High** students have been working hard to raise money for Invisible Children, a charity to support Ugandan street children. They have raised over \$3,000 and held a gala and screening of a short documentary at the NB Museum to raise awareness of the issue on Nov 17 at the New Brunswick Museum.

* **St. Patrick's School** wishes to celebrate **Scotiabank West** for their September fundraisers which support school breakfast programs and the Carleton Community Centre. On Sept 1 Scotiabank West held a barbeque in front of their branch at noon and proceeds were donated to the breakfast programs at St. Patrick's and St. Rose Schools.

* Students of **Havelock School, St. Patrick's School** and **Seawood** schools have been learning to use their **'WITS'** when they are dealing with situations. They were quite engaged at the opening assembly and showed that they were interested in making a difference.

* **Saint John High School's** annual haunted house was a huge success raising \$2400 for the Empty Stocking Fund. The students were continuing their efforts to raise money for the Empty Stocking Fund and hoped to have an impressive total by the time the annual event finishes.

* **Beaconsfield School** students are greatly benefiting from the **'Mission Possible'** initiative which teaches students character and respect while enhancing their life skills. The school hopes to complete six missions. To date students have participated in the mission of Acceptance and Inclusion and the Thanks and Gratitude.

* The **Hazen-White/St. Francis Husky Running Team** had trained for 8 weeks after school with the volunteer help of Brent Marr, Assistant Manager of Transportation with School District 8, Jennifer Carhart, Principal, Evan Hachey, teacher at Saint John High and Brenda Guitard a supply teacher in preparation for the Halloween Fun Run at Beaconsfield School. On Sat Oct 29, the runners embarked on their first race of the season. At the race, Hazen-White won the overall prize for the most middle school students in attendance for the entire district. Additionally the male runners placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and gained all the trophies; the female students placed 2nd and 3rd bringing home those trophies as well. Congratulations to Hazen White/St. Francis!

* **Princess Elizabeth School** students submitted over 200 ghost stories to the West Branch Public Library Ghost Story Writing Contest. Several of these students were also celebrated at the Student of the Month Assembly and shared their stories with the rest of the school.

*High School students from **Saint John High School, Harbour View High School** and **St. Malachy's Memorial High** school participated in the 4th Annual Tin Can Challenge. Students constructed unique structures from non-perishable goods they had collected during the month of November. Thanks to their efforts, approximated \$4000 worth of goods will be donated to local food banks.

YIP Highlights

By Gina Reid

During the month of November, the Youth Inclusion Program (YIP) participants have been participating in several programs and community engagement projects during their free time after school. When they are not sharpening their skills at ball hockey, they have been taking advantage of the YIP drop in room; playing Xbox, enjoying the computers, making crafts and chilling with friends & mentors. YIP staff would like to give a special thanks to all the youth who took part in YIP's weekly "love your neighbour" program. Several youth showed appreciation to their community in November by making and serving homemade stew and fudge to local residents and local fire fighters. They also have been busy planning the ONE Change Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony which is taking place on November 25th at Victoria Square! The ONE Change YIP program is operating out of Lorne Middle School and has daily programs for children, ages 11-15.



Chelsea Albert, Daniel Winnie and Drake Lynch



Community partners, residents and youth gather for the opening of the new playground. (Photo above and ones in the top banner by Erin Kelly)

Anglin Drive Opens New Playground

By Patricia Porter

Anglin Drive celebrated the grand opening of their new playground on Saturday, October 15, 2011. With Debbie McLeod as MC, special guest speakers included Honourable Trevor Holder MLA, Mayor Ivan Court and Irving representative Andy Carson.

Also speaking were Kelly Kelly, past president of the Anglin Drive Tenants Association and volunteer Patricia Porter, who worked with Barry Freeze of Leisure Services and the many partners, supporters, children and residents to complete their new playground. Saint John Energy generously installed a dusk to dawn light.

The event was followed up with a delicious barbeque and a fun street dance complete with live DJ. A perfect end to a perfect celebration!



High school students that took part in the Tin Can Challenge. (Photo by Mark Leger)

TRC Holiday Traditions

By Melissa Barrett

Another Holiday season has begun and with The Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) having so many traditions it was difficult to choose one to write about! In its fourth year, the Tin Can Challenge is a tradition we all look forward to. It combines the spirit of giving with a great community activity that gets everyone involved. High schools from around the district, Saint John High, Saint Malachy's High, Harbourview High, Rothesay High, and Rothesay Nietherwood Schools, competed for the Tin Can Cup by turning their donations into sculptures. These high schools raised over 3000 cans of food. Despite having to choose a first place winner (St. Mac's won for the second time!), the competition is all in good fun with a common goal, stocking our local food banks for the holiday season!



The winning sculpture by St. Malachy's High School. (Photo by Melissa Barrett)



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

Knights Of Columbus Donates Jackets

The Saint John North Knights of Columbus Local 6581 has donated 24 winter jackets to the Crescent Valley Community Tenants Association (CVCTA) for area youth. Left to right Paul Cothreau, Janet McLaughlin President CVCTA and Herb Tozer picture taken by. (Photo courtesy of Richard Northorp)



Celebrate what's Right with the World

December

Our theme for December is "Be the Best for the World"

School District 8 encourages youth (and everyone) to focus their talents and energy on striving to make the world a better place. By approaching our tasks with service and grace we can be the best for the world.

Thought for the Month:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

January

Our theme for January is "Ride the Changes".

School District 8 challenges us to look at change as possibility. Let's see it from a new perspective as an opportunity to grow and learn.

Thought for the Month:

"Become a student of change. It is the only thing that will remain constant." - Anthony J. D'Angelo

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: <http://www.celebratewhatsright.ca>

Sea Dogs Support Raising The Roof



The Saint John Sea Dogs don their winter caps for the Raising the Roof Toque Campaign, a national fundraiser to address homelessness. The Saint John funds will be going to Saint John Youth House, an emergency facility for homeless youth. Contact Colin McDonald for more information. Phone: 721-4781. E-mail: colin@sjhdc.ca (Photo by Mark Leger)

The Gift Of A Mentor

By Deanna Gamble

With the Holiday Season fast approaching many people busy themselves with shopping and planning dinners and parties. Why not do something a bit different this season? Why not give the gift of a mentor?

There are currently over 130 children on Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John's waiting list. These children can wait up to two long years before they are matched. Many people during the Holiday Season focus on donating their money, gifts and food, we are asking that you please consider donating your time. Become a Mentor today!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John offers various levels of commitment and one is sure to fit your schedule. Please call us for more information 635-1145.



Big Sister Tashia Boyce with Little Sister Alisha at Brunswick Square's Fashion Show this past September. (Photo courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters)

St. Patrick's Christmas Memories

Krista Turnbull, our Community Schools Coordinator, asked the students from the Lending Library at St. Patrick's School what are their favorite Christmas traditions.

* "We go to Grampie's house in Musquash for Christmas Day for turkey dinner. I am very excited for Santa to come this year." - Brooklyn, 5 years old

** "Having sticky buns and cake for Christmas. My whole family, two sisters and one brother and my family make sticky buns and eat them on Christmas Day. My step-mom makes a cake and she's good at doing food and she made it and put Santa Claus on it." - Bailey, 8 years old

** "We make Christmas cookies every year with Mommy and my sister Brooklyn. We make many different kinds. My favorite ones are the Santa ones 'cause if I didn't say Santa was my favorite he may put me on the naughty list." - Allen, 7 years old

** "My dog, Patches, has a birthday on Christmas Day. Me and my mom and dad go out and buy a stocking with a dog on it and it has his name on it. We put bones and treats in it." - Shawna, 9 years old

** "Fluffy is my teddy bear. When we lived in the country, my Nanny went to the store and she bought a teddy and I saw his tag and it said hello my name is Fluffy and we brought him home. Nine weeks later we moved to the city and at Christmas we made him a stocking and Santa came and put stuff in Fluffy's sock and even presents under the tree for him. He gets presents every year from Santa." - Dustin, 7 years old

* "A longtime family tradition is plum pudding on Christmas night. It's my 5 great grandmother's secret recipe, made by my mom. Also on Christmas Eve, my son and I host an Open House for our family and friends and our chosen family." - Rhoda, parent volunteer and PSSC Chair



Back row: Rhoda Welshman, Shawna Fillmore, Dustin Welshman, Front row: Allen King, Brooklyn Ferguson, Bailey Langille. (Photo by Krista Turnbull)



New Sophia Recovery Centre Director

By Paulette Furey

The Sophia Recovery Centre would like to announce their new Executive Director, Janet Bordage. Janet has been on the Sophia Recovery Centre's Board of Directors as Treasurer since 2008, which made for an easy transition to her new position. We feel she will make a positive contribution to the organization as she has superb leadership, communication, and analytical skills. She will oversee new and existing programs, streamline operations and fundraising initiatives, and will continue to foster an atmosphere that is safe and empowering for women in recovery.



Janet Bordage is the new executive director of the Sophia Recovery Centre. (Photo courtesy of Paulette Furey)

AIDS Saint John Christmas Drop-in

By Leigh Aube

For several years now, AIDS Saint John has been holding their annual Christmas Drop-in. Once a year, on a December afternoon, we break out our Santa hats and Christmas sweaters, and we open our doors to volunteers, clients, members, and partners to come in and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider.

Prior to the drop-in, we decorate the office and put up our Charlie Brown-style Christmas tree. For the staff at AIDS Saint John, it is an opportunity to thank those who do so much for the organization and to recognize the importance of our community. We play Christmas music and chat, and we take a moment to pause in the Christmas rush and think about the most important things in our life. If you are a member of our community, or are affiliated with AIDS Saint John, please feel free to stop by and visit our drop-in on Dec. 22 from 1-3 pm.

Lunar New Year's Day In Korea

By Youngil Kwon

A Lunar New Year's Day is the biggest festival in Korea. It is on Jan. 1 of the lunar calendar. All family members get together, sometimes it takes all day to go due to the traffic jams on the highways. Imagine 45 million living in a place almost the size of NB. In the morning, we have "ancestral rite ceremony" with traditional dishes and fruits.

Then, we all enjoy special food: Tteokguk (sliced rice soup). With one bowl of this, we get one year older. We also wear a special dress, HanBok (a colourful and beautiful traditional costume).

The peak activity is SaeBae (Bowling to the Elderly). The children bow to their parents wishing them health or longevity, then the parents bless them with cash inside a luck bag.

Wendy MacDermott Joins United Way

The Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Saint John have announced that Wendy MacDermott is the new Executive Director.

"Wendy's experience and enthusiasm will be critical as we roll out our new Vision 2020 strategic plan in the next year," said Bob Crowley, President of the United Way.

With the 2011 United Way campaign in full swing, MacDermott joined the team during the busiest time of the year. "I'm passionate about working in new and innovative ways to find solutions to complex issues such as poverty reduction and strengthening local communities," said MacDermott.

For more information: www.unitedwaysaintjohn.com
Phone: 658-1212. Twitter: @sjunitedway



(Photo by Juanita Black)

Join The Zoomers

By Katie and Emily, 4th year UNBSJ Nursing Students

We are two fourth-year nursing students from UNBSJ. We have had the opportunity to work with the "Zoomers, On the Go" program at the Carleton Community Centre as part of our clinical experience. "Zoomers" is a free fitness program that is open to anyone age 50 and up. The program is designed to improve strength, balance, and coordination to prevent falls. We feel privileged to have been able to work with such a fun, energetic group, and feel that this program is a great way to promote an active lifestyle and socialization.

The program is offered every Friday from 2-3 pm at Carleton Community Centre, and newcomers are always welcome. It is never too late to take a positive step toward a healthy lifestyle.

Back In The Day

By Patti Kelly

Christmas is just around the corner, I still remember growing up in the Old North End. We were a family of seven kids and two parents. Times were tough but we always had a good Christmas. We used to sneak up early (really early) in the a.m. Mom would yell at us to get us all back to bed. Back to bed again we would all stomp, a little time would pass and once again we (seven kids) were sneaking down the stairs. This went on a few times until she finally gave up and left us to our presents. I loved looking at the many coloured lights on the Christmas tree.

THINKING ABOUT NEXT STEPS – WINTER START DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

	Contact	Start Date
Information Sessions Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour	Visit One Agar Place Waterloo St	Daily at 9:00 am is a session on Training & Skills Development. Job Search Tips session every 2 nd Tuesday 10 – 12; Must be referred by employment counselor.
Computer Training YMCA - YWCA	Julie: 634-4932	3 days/ week for 3 weeks. Computer basic training and resume, cover letter and budget writing offered to clients of Social Development. Ongoing
The Key to Well Being Community Health Centre	Susan: 672-7451	January 9, 2012, This six week (5 Mornings/ per week) program assists women in enhancing self-esteem and developing the self-confidence to take the next step towards personal growth.
Taking the Next Steps PULSE (South)	Mary: 632-6807	January 24th, 9:00 – 10:30 am. Identifying your goals for the future and connecting to resources that can help
GED Preparation Course NB Community College	Cathy: 658-6703	12 weeks full-time (or p/t) starts March 19th. Screening by Feb. 23. Cost may be covered by Province

► Information on these and other programs can be found at <http://sjhdc.ca/pdf/MakingitWorkweb.pdf> . 12/05/11



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East Side Motivators

By Kim Williams with Penni Eisenhauer

East Side Motivators Celebration Team celebrated the holidays with a Neighborhood Tree Lighting event and a children's party on Dec 10 at 14 Reading Cres.

There were lots of fun activities and treats for all ages, and a colouring contest too. The Celebration Team would like to thank Glen Savoie (MLA) for donating the Christmas tree. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the planning of the event. If you are interested in knowing more about the East Side Motivators, check out our Facebook page.

If you are interested in becoming involved with neighborhood safety, health and family wellness, recreation, or celebrations and communications, please contact Penni Eisenhauer at 343-5392. The East Side Motivators would like to wish the families of the Reading Cres. and Roxbury Dr. neighborhood a safe and happy holiday!!



Affordable Housing Matters!

You can now learn more about affordable housing by watching our online video success stories.

These videos tell the story of the people and programs that help make affordable housing a reality in Canada. Most of these projects have used the financial assistance and expertise offered by the Affordable Housing Centre to make a difference in people's lives.

View the videos on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/CMHCca

For more information, contact your local CMHC Corporate Representative, Francine DiMambro, by phone at 506-850-3747, by fax at 506-851-6188 or by email at fdimambr@cmhc-schl.gc.ca.



L'abordabilité – c'est important!

Vous pouvez maintenant en apprendre davantage en ce qui a trait au logement abordable en regardant nos témoignages vidéos disponibles en ligne.

Ces vidéos racontent le cheminement des gens et des programmes qui ont contribué à faire du logement abordable une réalité au Canada. La plupart de ces ensembles d'habitation ont pu profiter d'une aide financière et bénéficier du savoir-faire de l'équipe du Centre du logement abordable afin d'améliorer la vie des gens.

Visionnez les vidéos de la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement (SCHL) sur sa chaîne officielle sur YouTube au www.youtube.com/SCHLca.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec la représentante de la SCHL à Saint John, Francine DiMambro. Vous pouvez communiquer avec elle par téléphone au 506-850-3747, par télécopieur au 506-851-6188, ou par courriel à l'adresse fdimambr@cmhc-schl.gc.ca.

POWER UP! Graduates



The Class 11 of POWER UP! (Promotion Of Women's Empowerment Resilient Urban Project). For more information about the project, contact Brenda Murphy at 642-9033.

Y Forest Glen Community Centre

By Kim Williams with Penni Eisenhauer

The YMCA, in partnership with the City of Saint John, is now offering free programming to youth at the Forest Glen Community Centre. Youth are invited to join us for programs each night which include soccer, ball hockey, games, cheerleading, youth leadership, crafts and more!

A task force has been established to create new and needed programs for the community. As we move into 2012, area residents are encouraged to drop by the centre to see what is being offered and fill out a survey to let us know what ideas you have for the centre. Other programs currently being offered are licensed morning and after school programs as well as adult zumba with child care provided. In December, youth are invited to join us for two Friday night dances: Dec 19 and our Christmas Semi-Formal on Dec 23.

For more information please contact Heather Oldfield at 658-2816 or e-mail her at forestglen@saintjohnny.com

Slinky

By Brenda Hope

"What walks down stairs, alone or in pair and makes a slinkity sound? A spring, a spring, a marvelous thing Everyone knows it's Slinky. It's Slinky; it's Slinky, for fun it's a wonderful toy. It's Slinky; it's Slinky. It's fun for a girl and a boy."



This was one of the Christmas commercials that played over and over when I was young. The commercial and my brothers and sisters nearly drove my parents crazy but there were a few Slinkys under the tree that year. One of this year's repeat commercials is about getting a free Samsung tablet when you sign a contract with Rogers for two smartphones. I can actually picture kids making a pitch for a smart phone. Today's technology is amazing; it seems as soon as you adjust to what you have, something new and more innovative comes along.

This year a new and exciting gift has been given to the ONE Change Adult E-Learning Centre. It has been transformed into the ONE Change Digital Literacy Centre and will soon be moving into the CE Nicolle Community Centre. The new lab will include 12 computers and our focus will move progressively towards digital literacy.

This is an opportunity for those who grew up on Slinkys, if they are interested, to find out about the new technologies out there and get a foothold on this increasingly digital world. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!




Spotlight

Going With Your Passion

By Susan Dryden
and Cathy Wright

Going with your passion is very important to Susan Dryden. Her artistic interests led her to enrol in some Interior Decorating night courses at the New Brunswick Community College. Then her personal life changed, her position at work was eliminated and the night course at NBCC stopped – all of which forced her to recognize, “a blessing in disguise!”



(Photo courtesy of Susan Dryden)

She knew that if you stay home doing nothing, nothing happens. She enrolled in a distance learning program, for a diploma in Interior Design, completing the course in six months instead of three years and was honoured by a Merit Award. Susan then signed up for Enterprising Women with the Community Loan Fund to learn how to start a business and discover the resources that can help. Her business redesigns homes or helps people ready their home for sale. She launched her business a month ago and invites you to check it out at www.diamondstaginganddesign.com

Saluting Our Volunteers: Dawn LeBlanc

By Juanita Black

At *Around The Block (ATB)*, there are volunteers you can call on in a with minute notice to get help with a story, or if you need extra pictures.

That is person is very giving and goes out of their way to always help out. For *ATB* that volunteer in the Lower South End is Dawn LeBlanc, Dawn is also Vice President of P.U.L.S.E. She has contributed six photos for this issue and has the distinction of having a poem she wrote republished by request of the Province of New Brunswick, for our “Learning NB 2026” issue.



(Photo by Mary LeSage)

Dawn’s health has not always been the best, but this has not slowed her down one bit. She continues to be active with *ATB* and in her community. *Around The Block* salutes Dawn and says THANK YOU!

Susan Pitman Wins Sea Dogs Tickets

In the last issue of the paper, we had a contest for Saint John Sea Dogs tickets. We asked readers to tell us in 50 words or less what the paper has meant to you and your community. The contest was in honour of our third anniversary. Here is the winning entry:

“*Around The Block* has been an important source for me, by providing information that I can pass along to my students. It instills a sense of pride in them to see the accomplishments of others locally, and it gives them a place to find out about community events.” - Susan Pitman, English Department Harbour View High School

Susan wins a pair of Sea Dogs tickets for her winning entry. Congratulations Susan and many thanks to the Sea Dogs for donating the tickets.



(Photo courtesy of SJMNRC)

Party De Patinage Au Harbour Station

Party de patinage au Harbour Station, jeudi le 22 décembre de 17h30-20h30. Tous les clients, les bénévoles, les partenaires communautaires, le personnel du SJMNRC ainsi que leur familles et amis sont les invités pour SOIRÉE GRATUITE de patinage, une visite avec le Père Noel, du manger, et des activités familiales.

Émission de radio Musique du Monde « Noel dans le monde » sur les ondes de CHQC 105,7 FM le 16 et 23 décembre entre 12h00-13h00, et en rediffusion le 24, 25, 26, 27 décembre.

Le SJMNRC sera fermé du 23 décembre 2011 jusqu’au 3 janvier 2012. De notre famille a la vôtre, nous vous souhaitons un joyeux temps des fêtes.

Marie-Paule Godin en collaboration avec Gabrielle Steeves Centre d'accueil multiculturel et des nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean (SJMNRC). www.sjmnrc.ca/sjmnrc-fr/home.jsp

Celebrating Diversity And Enterprise

By Seth Asimakos

The Human Development Council and the Saint John Community Loan Fund staff, volunteers, partners and program participants have been celebrating the winter holiday season at Taco Pica restaurant for several years. Taco Pica was formed more than 15 years ago when a group of immigrants and refugees from Central America came together to define for themselves a business they would collectively own. This cooperative restaurant is still owned by three of the original seven who opened its doors. It is a great place to celebrate community, enterprise and the holiday spirit.



Around The Block Team (Issue 20)

- Old North End: Wendy Barron-Belmore.
- South End: Mary LeSage and Dawn LeBlanc.
- Waterloo-Village: Penni Eisenhauer and Linda Scott.
- Crescent Valley: Anne Driscoll.
- Lower West Side: Patti Kelly.
- Proof-readers: Randy Hatfield, Mark Driscoll, Mary Collier Fleet, Linda Boyle, Anna O’Hara, Kathryn Asher, and Rona Howald
- Layout and Design: Mark Leger and Juanita Black.
- Ad design: Chris Hopkins.
- Community members: Debbie McLeod, Carl Tricky, Lyn King, and Amanda and Alyssa Maxwell
- Vibrant Communities: Cathy Wright