



Around *the* Block



Issue 77 June/ July 2021 sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

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Brilliant Labs' summer STEAM Camps come back to Saint John!



A blur of fun activity at a 2018 Steam Camp (Photos: Brilliant Labs)

By Brilliant Labs

Join in-person and virtual STEAM Camps (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and natural maker space camps from July 5th to August 20th, in partnership with the City of Saint John and community partners. These are free camps for children to have fun learning how to be artists, designers, engineers, inventors, scientists, creators and innovators thanks to the City of Saint John and the Community Grants Program. Thank you for your support!

For information about the camps, go to:
en.brilliantlabs.ca/summercamps.



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SAINT JOHN



Saint John Energy

May 25th - Day 434 "out the window" at Romero House

Aspire not to have more, but to be more.

— Oscar Romero —

By Romero House

And just like that we broke our Thanksgiving all-time record of 471 meals served with a staggering 486 meals served on May 25th.

In total we are now well over 140,000 meals served "out the window." We are hanging in there...making more food than most people could imagine but somehow never running out. We are blessed to have so much help from so many different avenues in providing these meals. It is a privilege to be able to pass that same support and caring on to those who are seeking help. Together we can and do make a difference every day. Thank you!

(Image: supplied by Romero House)

From the Editor's desk

Lorna Brown
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The stories sent in from our communities for this issue exude a sense of joy. It could be the coming of summer, or the fact that we are collectively beating back COVID with our Drive for 75 - the push to get 75% of eligible New Brunswickers vaccinated with at least one dose so we can reach Green level by New Brunswick Day. If you haven't rolled up your sleeve for the first dose, please do so as soon as you can! Your neighbours will thank you. It will set us all free.

But joy is our theme, in clean-ups and gardens, in Pride and Prevention (of homelessness), in entrepreneurship and life-affirming poetry. The two young poets on page 5 will knock your socks off with their keen observations and emotional honesty. Lilly Gates and Ella Bird, by the way, are in Grade *Four*. Awesome work, girls.

Some other awesome females are due our thanks, as does everyone who steps up to serve the public in elected office. The three biggest cities in our province now have women at the helm - a wonderful example for young women of the possibilities of civic engagement. Her Worship Mayor Donna Reardon spoke with the paper for this issue's interview (page 14).

The municipal elections brought us some fresh faces and some well-known colleagues. In Saint John we hope to strengthen to connections between residents in the priority neighbourhoods and our elected officials through a new feature called Councillors' Corner. See the back page for a sampling of some themes they take to heart; fuller interviews will follow in the next issue.

I want to take a moment to thank someone very special, a loyal friend to *Around the Block* from Issue 2 to Issue 76: Rona Howald. Rona has been our eagle-eyed proofreader almost since the inception of the paper, always ready to take a call at home about a last-minute proofing task, and keen to debate points of grammar in a way that gave me joy. Rona is hanging up her "red pen" after a dozen years of loyal service, and we will miss her. Thank you, Rona!

Peace and joy to all for the summer ahead. Remember - you get them by giving them.

Spring Clean-up!



The volunteer cleanup crew outside the ONE Change after a job well done
(Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Jonathan Driscoll, ONE Change

Thank you to our community who made such a wonderful impact with their family bubbles and really became community heroes. We had over 40 people come out Saturday, May 15th, 2021.

Thank you to the River Cross Mission, for hosting a BBQ and St Luke’s for helping.

We came across community members just doing their own part around their homes, who just wanted to help make our streets beautiful.

The Saint John Fire Department even made a surprise visit to say hello! Thank you to The City of Saint John for all the prizes.

One of our community members said, “It is so beautiful to see how bright our grass and clean our sidewalks are; it makes you want to stay outside and walk!”

Thank you to all volunteers who helped.

“It is so beautiful to see how bright our grass and clean our sidewalks are; it makes you want to stay outside and walk!”

Grow your own salad



Picking up a grow kit at the Nick Nicolle Community Centre
(Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Jonathan Driscoll, ONE Change

Summer is here! We thought, what better way to show our love for the sun and nature than by putting together our first ever Grow Your Own Salad Kits! These kits will show community members how we can all grow our own organic foods right at home or in our own backyards. These kits included soil, gloves, garden containers, seed starting kits, a journal, and packs of vegetable seeds. A big thanks goes out to Dillon Consulting for donating the supplies to help put these together. We are so happy with the feedback we got from members of our community on how fast everything is sprouting and how excited they are. Follow us on our Facebook page at The ONE Change INC, to see weekly progress of how these kits are growing around our community. Thank you again to everyone involved in this project and we cannot wait to hear how delicious everyone’s salads are!

Chess



(Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

A huge thank you to John Torre for helping our youth learn chess. Every other Thursday, John comes to the Centre and challenges our young chess players. By far, it is one of the most well-attended and popular programs we have. John sets up tournaments and has trophies and certificates for all who play. He is really dedicated to the game. In previous years he has had adult classes as well. John is also a volunteer with the 50 and Over Friendship Games to oversee the chess. We cannot thank you enough, John, for teaching our chess players great techniques and challenges in chess!!

North Neighbourhood Contact

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Nick Nicolle Community Centre
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658-2980



SAVING ENERGY SAVES MONEY

Opening windows allows you to create a cross-wise breeze, helping you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners.

This is perfect in spring when temperatures are mild.

A close-up of a hand pulling a white window handle to open a window. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor scene.The logo for Saint John Energy, featuring the words 'Saint John' in a small font above the word 'Energy' in a larger, bold font, with a stylized flame or leaf graphic.

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

By Mary LeSage, PULSE

PULSE is now open five days a week 9 a.m.-2 p.m. You will be greeted by Mary or one of the many volunteers to help you out. Please wear a mask and follow COVID-19 protocols.

Don't forget we can apply online for the Low-Income Seniors Benefit. Deadline to apply December 31st, 2021. As always, we ask you to call ahead for an appointment to lessen your wait time in the building.

Tax season is here! Drop off your taxes and pick up in two to three business days! Reminder: we are open year-round.

Please remember our monthly Food Purchase Club money is due July 16th and August 13th and the order comes back to you the following Friday. We have \$15 and \$25 orders available! We even have a Pay it Forward option where you can provide a single person, a couple, or a family with fresh fruits and vegetables! How awesome is that!

Pantry days are a little different over this summer. They will be as follows: July 8th and 29th and August 12th and 26th. Please note it will be THURSDAYS for the summertime!

As always our nurse is available upon request! Cst Duane Squires can be reached at 977-1733 or duane.squires@saintjohn.ca. Mary LeSage can be reached at 632-6807 or operationsmanager.pulse@gmail.com



Health outcomes project - participate!

By PULSE

Are you interested in participating in an honorarium-based pilot project on health outcomes related to food security, transportation, housing, employment, and other?

The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association and PULSE INC Social Determinants of Health Project is aimed towards supporting local residents and identifying barriers and creating incentivized goals for you to work towards achieving. We will assist you in making connections and follow up at three, six and 12 months. In order to participate you will be assessed with our initial screening tool and required to fill out a consent form. Our role is to be supportive and helpful throughout your time participating in the program.

For more information please contact Penni: commorg.penni@gmail.com 506-647-8047 and Mary: operationsmanager.pulse@gmail.com 632-6807. This project is supported by Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association, PULSE INC and Horizon Health.

The Honorable Arlene Dunn MLA Saint John Harbour

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Roots & Wings - South End Edition!



Lisa Morris with, left to right, Barb Perry, Roy Nairn and Kathryn Ferris (Photo: Lisa Morris)

By Lisa Morris

Roots & Wings Garden Project, organized by local resident Lisa Morris and supported by PULSE and the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association, is providing a group of residents bi-weekly meetings to learn about growing vegetables, garden mapping, composting, seed saving, garden scrap hacks, and hands-on learning. The gardening group will be planting and maintaining five plots at the South End Community Garden. The harvest of the plots will be used to make Million-dollar relish, Lady Ashburnham pickles and pickled beets as well as providing fresh veggies to share with their families. In late May the gardeners prepared the beds for planting. For more information on this program email lisamorris.cdc@gmail.com (See also p. 6.)

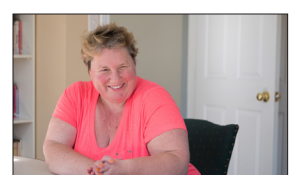


Roots & Wings Garden Project

Planting the ingredients for growth, hope and a stronger community.

South Neighbourhood Contact

Mary LeSage
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251 Wentworth Street
632-6807



Summer in Crescent Valley!



Summer Squad Campers (Photo: CVRC)

By Justin Shepard BA, BEd, Community Engagement Coordinator, Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)

CVRC is getting ready to kick off another wonderful summer with lots of fun programs and activities planned! Every week there will be garden games and crafts held in “The Growing Place” for small groups of children. Cool pop-ups giving out healthy food and treats throughout the summer will help you beat the heat. The Saint John Bike Share program will be providing tune-up help on Tuesdays and Thursdays and giving out bikes on a weekly basis. The Splash Pad will open June 28th and offers family fun to cool down on those hot days. We’ll be raising Monarch butterflies again this summer, and we are “hatching” a surprise activity (stay tuned). Last but certainly not least, the much-loved Summer Squad day camp will be up and running again providing neighbourhood kids the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun and educational activities. Watch our Facebook page for details, @cvrcsj. Bring on the summer!

Meet Laila at CVRC

Story and photo by CVRC

Palestinian, born and raised in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where I earned a Bachelor’s in IT, I moved to Malaysia in 2014 before immigrating to Ottawa in June 2019 as a refugee then relocating quickly to Saint John, NB in July 2019. I worked as an interpreter for various departments for GNB before joining the staff of Crescent Valley Resource Centre as a Community Engagement Coordinator. I look forward to meeting everyone. Feel free to reach me at 693-8513 or email at: cvrc.elbaghdadi@gmail.com (Right: Laila ElBaghdadi, CVRC Community Engagement Coordinator)



The Growing Place Update



The greenhouse (above) in June and (below) in April (Photos: Olivia Clancy)

By Olivia Clancy, Food Security Coordinator, CVRC

Despite its only being June, The Growing Place Community Garden has been growing vegetables for over two months already! Gardeners in the greenhouse have been harvesting lettuces, radishes, and herbs regularly, and soon there will be tomatoes, beans, and other hot weather vegetables. So much green! There will be several free garden workshops offered in the summer months. If you are interested in learning more or want to sign up, check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thegrowingplacecvrc)! More will be posted as the season progresses.

June 19th - Edible “Weed” Identification

Tanya James will explore the properties and uses of plants that typically grow in and around gardens and lawns.

July 10th - Container Gardening

Brian Pike will demonstrate how to design a garden to fit in any space.

We want to mention the fantastic support we recently received from the NB Environmental Trust Fund (\$40,000) and the Community Foundation (\$25,000) to help us “grow” the Growing Place Community Garden and Greenhouse. Thank you so much for your investment which will yield countless positive results for our community.



Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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693-8513



The Honourable Trevor Holder MLA Portland - Simonds

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Office Hours: Monday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friday: Closed



First Westside Clean Up Day



Carleton Kidz clean up! (Photo: Dustin Leclerc, Executive Director, CCC)
By Kate Worden, Marketing and Program Coordinator,
Carleton Community Centre (CCC)

A special thank you to our community residents and volunteers that came out in support of our first Westside Clean Up Day. While Clean Up Day event planning was in the works, we seized the opportunity of beautiful weather and made a last-minute call to run the event May 20th. We are very appreciative of the volunteers who stepped up to help us provide a delicious BBQ, and to the many residents who took part in the neighbourhood clean up – including our Carleton Kidz youth program. It is true - great things do happen when community comes together!

Join the Carleton All Stars!

By Kate Worden, Marketing and Program Coordinator,
Carleton Community Centre (CCC)

Looking for a fun activity that keeps your kids active and has them making new friends? Carleton All Stars is a program that offers opportunities to all ages and abilities. From our Learn to Cheer program, to our full year teams, with opportunity to travel, and to our CheerAbilities ‘Warriors’ – we truly offer a team for everyone! No experience? That’s OK! Our staff will coach your child to be confident in every aspect of our sport.

At Carleton, it’s about more than just cheerleading. Your kids are our kids. Our staff is invested in your child’s whole experience – from building them as athletes (teaching the values and life skills that come with it) to all the little extras, creating incredible memories along the way. Whether it’s a team time, a family event, holiday gatherings, special moments during travel or at competition, or they just need a little extra “superpower” to get through practice – we try to make their time with us their best experience. CA is truly THE place to be!

If you haven’t registered yet, now’s the time! Join us for Season 13!

Want more information? Let’s chat! Call Kate (506) 658-2920 or contact us by email carletonallstarcheerleading@gmail.com



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Poems from Seaside Park Elementary



Poets Lilly Gates and Ella Bird (Photo: Sara McEvoy)

I AM POEM

By Lilly Gates,
Grade 4 McEvoy

I AM ME
I wonder if the stars really shine
I hear the river flowing
I see the clouds in the bright
blue sky
I want joy to spread the world
I pretend to fly
I feel loved
I touch the window
I worry about getting sick
I cry when my cousin and friend
are sad
I understand my friends
I say “let’s play!”
I dream to be a designer
I try to be the best friend that
my friend deserves
I hope my best likes me
because I don’t want to lose a
friend,
especially a best friend
I AM ME

I am poem

By Ella Bird,
Grade 4 McEvoy

I am a girl
I wonder when COVID-19
will end
I hear my friend talking
I see the blue sky
I want my dad to come
home
I am feeling calm
I pretend it is only me and
my friend
I feel the wind blowing in
my face
I touch the swings ropes
I worry about if we will go to
red zone
I cry when I am really hurt
or sad
I am sad when I feel left out
I understand why my dad
had to go away
I say I am happy when I am
sad
I dream my dad never
expected the job
I try to forget about it
I hope time will fly by
I am a girl



West Side
Neighbourhood Contact
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506 658-2920



The Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) has moved!

By PCAP

You can now find us at our new office: 105 Prince Edward Street, the main level of the amazing Wheelhouse of Waterloo Village!

We are still actively taking referrals for new clients. Please call (506) 214-1186 during our office hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). For a full overview of our program visit: <https://www.nbsocialpediatrics.com/pcap>

Above, left to right: Holly Seale, Team Lead/Advocate; Kelly Carline, Advocate; Hallie Merry, Advocate; Joanna Beckett, Office Administrator (Photo: Katie Bonner)

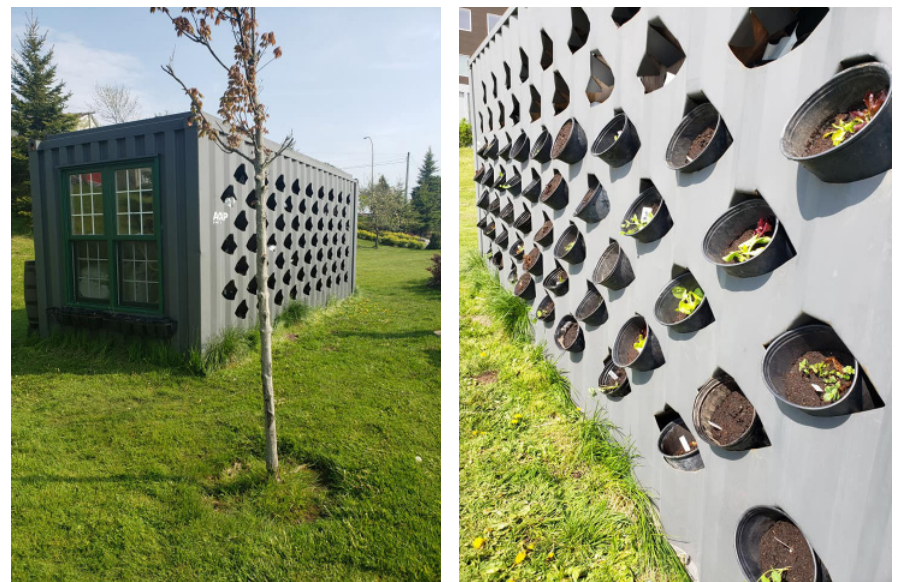
Coverdale Shelter Goal

By Channele Morgan, Program Facilitator, Coverdale Centre for Women Inc.

Renovations are underway for the new Coverdale Emergency Shelter, making progress toward a goal date for our move! We are hoping to have everything wrapped up and ready for a move by Canada Day. The new location will have many upgrades from what we have had in the past. We will have better accessibility for clients with physical disabilities, including a bedroom on the first floor when clients are unable to manage stairs. The bedrooms upstairs are also much larger than our previous shelter rooms, meaning the women will be able to have more space than ever before. The shelter will be furnished with brand new furniture, appliances and accessories to complement a newly renovated space. We will also be adding a wonderful garden so that we can all enjoy an outdoor space during the summer months. We look forward to providing a beautiful space for women experiencing homelessness.



Roots & Wings - Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Edition



The Sustainer Container, before (left) and after (Photos: Lisa Morris)

By Lisa Morris

Roots & Wings Garden project has partnered with Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) in planting and maintaining the Sustainer Container located in Chown Field. The Sustainer Container is a living building that was created by Jean and Jack Hudson of Rexton, New Brunswick, from a standard shipping container and donated to ACAP to provide healthy food to the community. On May 26th with the help of the Roots & Wings's garden group and the WESlink Learners from the Learning Exchange, over 80 containers were planted with lettuce, beans, spinach, kale and a variety of herbs for the community and will be maintained by the group over the growing season for the community to enjoy. For more information on this program email lisamorris.cdc@gmail.com (See also p. 3.)

Weekly Children's Event

By Major Tracy Goyak, Church & Community Pastor, The Salvation Army

We are pleased to inform our community in Saint John about a weekly children's event we will be hosting at Chown Field Park on Tuesday afternoons throughout the summer (July and August). We will have a snack, craft, water games and a bible lesson during this time. For more details you can contact the Salvation Army Children's outreach Worker Elizabeth England at 634-1633. Hope to see you there!



Giving Hope Today

**Waterloo-Village
Neighbourhood Contact**

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647-8047



“With a Little Help From Our Friends”



Just a small assortment of items donated to SJBKE in 2020-21
(Photo: Ben Gillcrist)

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

It goes without saying that the pandemic threw a “wrench in the works” at all Community Schools. How fortunate we are to have the most resilient of partners, large and small, who rose to the occasion with alacrity and grace.

We would like to use this article to collectively thank all the kind people who donated to SJBKE in some way or other this extraordinary school year, be it with money, or clothing, or groceries, Christmas sponsorship, with shoes or boots or gift cards and a million things in between.

We remember all the volunteers who stepped up for us off site this year, especially at the HUB Kitchen.

If these tough moments have proven anything, it is the depth of kindness among our wealth of friends, without whom we cannot imagine our work. From us to all of you - thank you, and happy summer!

Six years of enjoying the harvest



Left to right: Zara Aldaher, Bayan Aldaher, and Sandra Watt, English as an Additional Language (EAL) Mentor at PES, (Photo: Steve Huxter)

By Jennifer Carhart, Principal, Princess Elizabeth School (PES)

Welcome to the Princess Elizabeth Community Garden! We are so fortunate to have this garden strong and growing for the past six years. Every spring the excitement fills the school with all the seeds that are growing and the anticipation of the fall harvest. The best part of the Community Garden is the fact that we have been able to make this an initiative that engages community volunteers to share their expertise while our students benefit from the passion they have for gardening. Paul continues to volunteer his time to teach our students about gardening and share in the excitement of the process. Our families benefit from the harvest both in the fall and during the summer as the produce is ready. The best part? Enjoying the harvest at school as a school family, making soups, roasting vegetables, and trying new things!

Farm-to-table learning at Hazen White-St. Francis (HWSF)

By Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, HWSF

The students and staff have been taking part in garden/growing initiatives to provide students with the opportunity to learn about sustainable food sources. As part of these programs, here we have one of our first-grade classes showing off the vegetables they were able to harvest from the in-class garden they had. Students then enjoyed tacos filled with the harvested food as part of the farm-to-table learning.



Students showing the wonderful harvest of veggies from the in-class garden they have been tending to (Photo: Kaberi Sen)



Partnering from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Beyond

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

We ALL have something to offer!

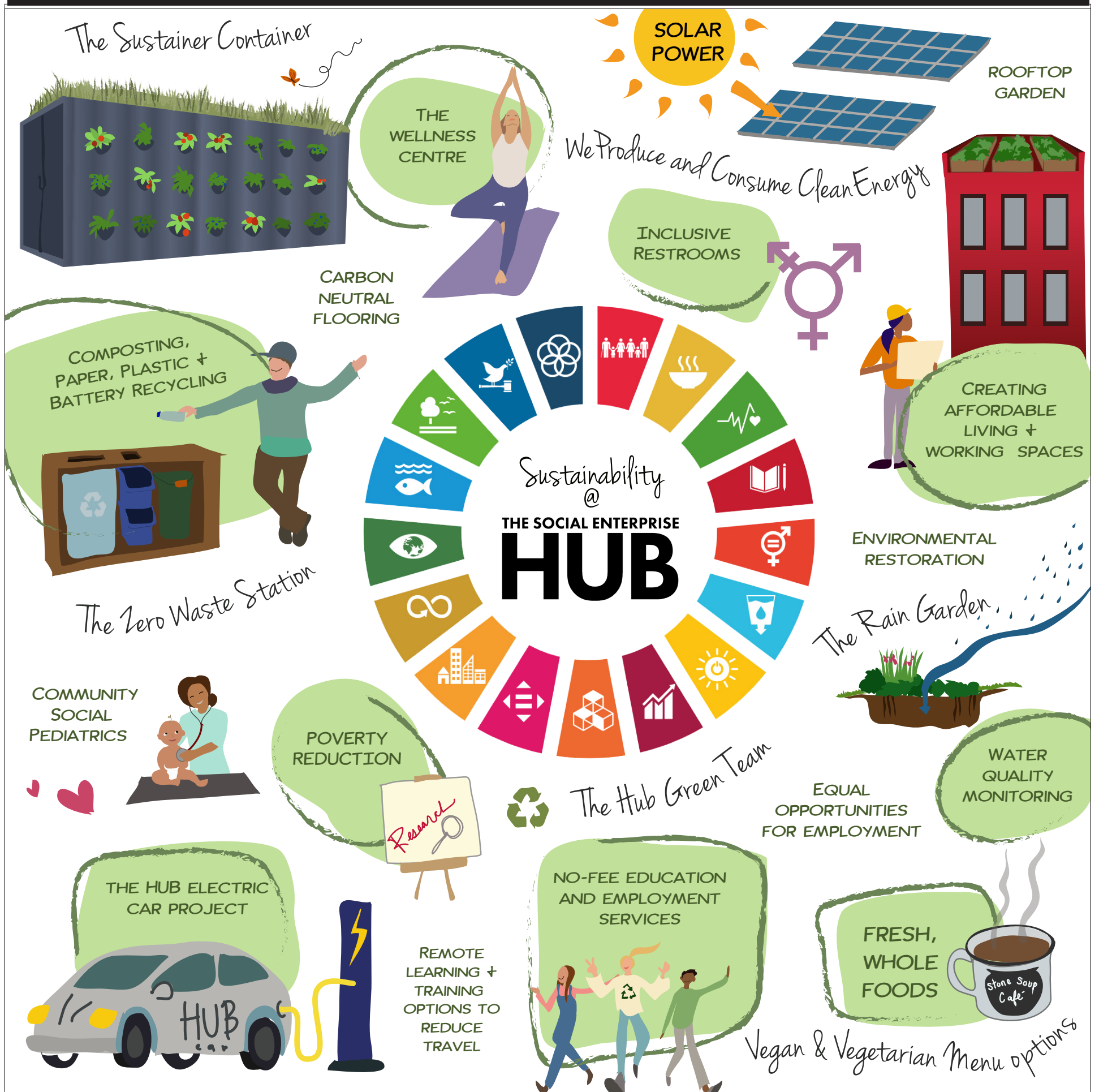


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HUB Green Team: Leading community change through innovation, collaboration and social entrepreneurship

The Social Enterprise HUB is a leader in sustainable workplaces. From rain barrels to renewable energy, from affordable housing to habitat restorations, the Sustainable Development Goals guide our community work.

The HUB Green Team created this sustainability map which shows some of the ways that the organizations and individuals at the Hub are working together to have a positive impact on the community and the environment. We are continuously working to inspire a culture of sustainability. The unique co-working space is an entrepreneurial eco-system of non-profits and micro-enterprises that are continuously working to serve the community. We celebrated Sustainability Week by cleaning up the community, hosting a water quality Lunch & Learn and solar information session, and launching our zero waste station initiative.

Want to get involved? Find the Social Enterprise HUB on Facebook or drop in to 139 Prince Edward Street, uptown, to experience change in action.

(Story and illustration by Abigail Reinhart, HUB Green Team/Saint John Community Loan Fund)



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Youth Entrepreneurship



Mackenzie Terjesen (Photos: Abigail Reinhart)

By Abigail Reinhart, Saint John Community Loan Fund

Saint John social entrepreneur Mackenzie Terjesen is passionate about bringing more sustainable, healthy, year-round agriculture to New Brunswick. His vision is to help grow a vibrant community that is passionate about local agriculture and food sovereignty. His most recent project is a shining example of youth making positive waves of change. What was once an unused classroom at the Dorchester Consolidated School is now the home of Mackenzie's custom-designed aquaponics lab. He spent long hours working both independently and with the help of students and teachers to complete the project. He has developed an aquaponics curriculum to help students with experiential learning in the lab. Along with funding from the Community Food Action grant, the Saint John Community Loan Fund and the Co-op Enterprise Council of New Brunswick helped to make this project happen.

With this season's harvest, the plan is to give much of it back to the community and to local food banks. This is a high-impact project that will benefit the community for years to come!



STANDING FOR YOU!

Wayne Long, MP
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Supper in a Bag



WESLinks learners portion and prepare the first Supper in a Bag meal
(Photo: The Learning Exchange)

By The Learning Exchange

We launched Supper in a Bag in December 2020, in partnership with Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association to supplement our Food Pantry Project and as an additional resource to address learners' food security needs. WESLinks (Workplace Essential Skills) participants developed the program, beginning with a needs assessment through learner surveys. Each month, they research and brainstorm as a group to find accessible recipes that will make use of some of the pantry items we already have on hand.

The learners have determined through learner feedback that around the 20th of the month makes the most sense, as many people find there is a gap in finances and access to resources at that time. WES participants really enjoy measuring out all the ingredients and putting them together along with the recipes in the bags for learners to take home.

One learner's experience: Ryan Goguen

I've been attending WES since January of this year. During my attendance I got the opportunity to help organize and put together the bags for Supper in a Bag. It's a great learning opportunity for expanding a person's cooking repertoire; and there's no pressure, if someone wants they can just use the ingredients for something else. Personally, though, my favorite part is being able to try out new recipes and experiment with them to produce different types of meals.
(Ryan is top row, centre, in the photo above)



\$2

WEEKLY
CONTINUOUS
50/50 DRAW

OVER
\$88,000 WON in 2020

 **634-2011**
www.sjbgclub.com


Boys & Girls Club
of Saint John



Community Partners • Community Partners • Community Partners • Community Partners • Community Partners

Saint John’s Prevention Program



(Image: HDC)

By Cathy Boyce, Affordable Housing Specialist, Human Development Council

As we reduce chronic homelessness in Saint John, one key aspect is the Prevention Program operated out of Fresh Start Services.

Fresh Start is an institution in the Saint John homeless-serving sector. Since 2009, the powerhouse agency has worked to reduce barriers for women experiencing homelessness. Advocating for people at risk of eviction, going to bat for people navigating the social security network and assisting folks in accessing emergency food options are a few of the activities Fresh Start does best. You are in good hands when the women at Fresh Start have your back.

While they continue to provide ongoing support to people in need, the new Prevention Program acts as an integral component to Saint John’s homeless-serving system by reducing homeless inflow onto the By-Names List. The program’s purpose is to maintain or improve people’s current living situations to keep them where they are instead of attempting to re-house them in an over-priced rental market.

There are three main ways to address homelessness:

- Prevention – Stopping people from becoming homeless in the first place.
- Emergency Response – Providing emergency supports like shelter, food, and day programs while someone is homeless.
- Housing, Accommodation, and Supports – The provision of housing and ongoing supports as a means of moving people out of homelessness.

While Saint John’s Coordinated Access System addresses homelessness by assisting people off the By-Names List (BNL) through housing, accommodation and support, Prevention targets homelessness by stopping people from being added to the BNL in the first place. If we can strategically target homelessness from both ends of the spectrum, we are well on our way to ending chronic homelessness in our community.

For more on Saint John’s Prevention Program and Fresh Start Services, visit their website: <http://www.sjfreshstart.org/>.

See list at top right to find out who is eligible.

Prevention Program: who is eligible

- Individuals 19+ years, as they must be able to access social development services such as social assistance.
- Individuals at risk of homelessness or in their first month of homelessness.
- Can include but not limited to: individuals facing rent arrears, conflict resolution and advocacy with landlord, issues related to maintenance, pending evictions, and more individual cases.

Behind the Boxes

By Claudia Cullinan and Kathleen MacMillan, Dalhousie Medicine, Service Learning Program / Human Development Council

Those with a sharp eye may have noticed grey and yellow boxes popping up around Saint John over the last few years, but have you ever wondered where they came from, why they are there, and how they are impacting our community? To start off, these boxes are locations for safe needle disposal. Community Sharps boxes allow for proper disposal of used syringes to help keep our streets, paths, and parks safe. The boxes are strategically located throughout our city so they can be easily accessed. Diane Kerns, the Harm Reduction Program Coordinator at Avenue B, said the community response to needle disposal bins has been very positive and that “the public views harm reduction as a good thing.” Needle exchange bins are also being incorporated into urban design. The public views needle disposal boxes as equally important as benches and landscaping. As the concept of Harm Reduction becomes more accepted and more needles are distributed, it is more important than ever we have safe places to dispose of used needles. These boxes seem to blend into their surroundings but they are leaving a noticeable impact on our community! The boxes let our community know we care about them and about harm reduction.

As Diane stated, “When people know someone cares, that’s the most important thing in life.”

To ensure the safety of our fellow New Brunswickers

The Saint John Exhibition Association
Directors and Committee Members

Are disappointed to announce the 2021 Saint John Ex
will be postponed until 2022

Plans are presently underway to celebrate next year,
can’t wait to see you then!

We are working on our 2022 handbook and
will have our online edition available soon at:
www.exhibitionparksj.com

Employability Skills for Newcomers

By The Saint John Newcomers Centre (SJNC)

When new immigrants arrive in a new country or region, they often face many obstacles such as language and cultural differences. It delays their integration into the community. When searching for employment, newcomers, especially those with a refugee background, face barriers created by a lack of academic qualifications or work experience. To understand the impact represented, we have developed a program that will help them overcome these obstacles. Partnering with WorkingNB, SJNC has developed an assessment tool and strategy to profile the employability of newcomers' skill sets.

In the first year of this project, we have now begun interviews, hoping to attract as many as 150 newcomers who have refugee backgrounds to SJNC for a one-hour interview. Its purpose is to identify their essential skills in the workplace. After the interview, we will refer participants to the WorkingNB's employment counselling service or other suitable training programs according to their ability.

Throughout the program, we will continue to collect information and feedback while assessing a newcomer's skill level. It will give us a clearer understanding of the obstacles and expectations they have, to gain employment. At the same time, we will continue to develop ideas that will help newcomers access gainful employment in Greater Saint John. For more information, please contact Tavia Han at (506) 288-5558 or by email: yue.han@sjnewcomers.ca



Compétences en matière d'employabilité pour les nouveaux arrivants

Par Le Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean

Lorsque les nouveaux immigrants arrivent dans un nouveau pays ou une nouvelle région, ils sont souvent confrontés à de nombreux obstacles tels que la langue et les différences culturelles. Cela retarde leur intégration dans la communauté. Lorsqu'ils cherchent un emploi, les nouveaux arrivants, en particulier ceux qui sont issus du milieu des réfugiés, se heurtent à des obstacles créés par le manque de

qualifications universitaires ou d'expérience professionnelle. Pour comprendre l'impact représenté, nous avons élaboré un programme qui les aidera à surmonter ces obstacles.

En partenariat avec TravailNB, le Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean a mis au point un outil et une stratégie d'évaluation pour établir le profil d'employabilité des compétences des nouveaux arrivants.

Au cours de la première année de ce projet, nous voulons inviter 150 nouveaux arrivants ayant des antécédents de réfugiés au Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean pour une entrevue d'une heure afin d'identifier leurs compétences essentielles en milieu de travail. Après l'entretien, nous orienterons les participants vers le service d'orientation professionnelle de TravailNB ou vers d'autres programmes de formation appropriés en fonction de leurs capacités.

Tout au long du programme, nous continuerons à recueillir des informations et des commentaires tout en évaluant le niveau de compétences des nouveaux arrivants. Cela nous permettra de mieux comprendre les obstacles et les attentes qu'ils ont pour obtenir un emploi. En même temps, nous continuerons à développer des idées qui aideront les nouveaux arrivants à accéder à un emploi rémunéré dans le Grand Saint-Jean.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Tavia Han au 506-288-5558 ou par courriel à : yue.han@sjnewcomers.ca

Newcomer services from PRUDE Inc. (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education)

 The Canadian Way Cindy Kilpatrick	 Our Coordinators Call Us: 506-634-3088 We can welcome you in English, French, Mandarin, Arabic. Email Us: c.kilpatrick@prudeinc.org a.beckwith@prudeinc.org o.morad@prudeinc.org l.zhang@prudeinc.org	 Women's Leadership Program Amanda Beckwith
 Dive Into YSJ Omar Morad		 Community Engagement Lin Zhang

Our coordinators (Photo: PRUDE)

By PRUDE

We provide various services that help newcomers learn about Canada, and existing communities. Our purpose is empowering newcomers with soft skills so that they would say yes to Saint John and stay in Saint John.

- Women's Leadership
A four-week program to help Permanent Resident women develop their skills and create community connections
- How to be a Canadian/The Canadian Way
Our FREE activities are planned to educate and prepare Permanent Resident newcomers for their new lives in Canadian society.
- English For Youth (16-29)
FREE 12-Week Online English Conversation Course--taught by experienced certified ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor David Elman--will help you perfect your English conversation skills.
- Stay and Grow
It is meant to help people--longtime Canadians and newcomers alike--develop and maintain a passion for Saint John. The program includes guest speakers, lunch and learns, speed meetings, pen pal and outdoor activities. Come and connect with us!

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

It's traditional...

There are many traditions surrounding funerals.

The oldest have been with us for centuries, the newest - they're being created everyday. It is 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 HOME & CREMATORIUM

Castle Fallsview
FUNERAL HOME

Kennebecasis
COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME

Une première randonnée interprétative réussie!



(Photo : Cathy Wojtala)

Par Cathy Wojtala, Animatrice en santé communautaire, mieux-être et de la maison des jeunes de l'ARCF de Saint-Jean

Dans le cadre de la semaine de la santé mentale du 3 au 9 mai 2021, l'ARCF a organisé une belle activité extérieure pour les francophones de la région. Le samedi 8 mai, une vingtaine de personnes ont participé à une randonnée interprétative, sur les oiseaux migrateurs, avec la guide Anne Bardou. Il faisait un froid de canard, mais on a quand même découvert plein de belles et nouvelles choses sur la faune et la flore au parc Rockwood!

Ne manquez pas les prochaines activités mieux-être organisées cet été par l'ARCF. Pour en savoir plus, veuillez me contacter au cathy.wojtala@arcf.ca.



INNER CITY YOUTH MINISTRY
-PULSE-

THE VILLAGE
Waterloo Neighbourhood Association

Pennies & Sparrows

THE SALVATION ARMY

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

Free Program for families with children entering kindergarten to Grade 5

Each Week During the Summer, registered families will receive a free kit with food items, recipes, a book and Activities.

For more information and to register please contact:
Inner City Youth Ministry
647-9813 or icysmj@gmail.com

Limited Spaces available

Progress Pride flag raising, May 17th, 2021



(Photo: Nada Ratmi, Chroma)

By Tanya James, Project Coordinator, Chroma NB

On May 17th Chroma NB and pflag Canada: Saint John Chapter hosted a Progress Pride flag raising in front of Saint John City Hall in honour of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. This day was established to commemorate the 1990 decision of the World Health Organization to remove homosexuality from its International Classification of Diseases.

We brought together a group as large as COVID rules allowed of community leaders who spoke and stood in solidarity with the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) community. Attending were students from local schools, representatives of community groups and nonprofits, our Mayor, MP, and many council members, and long-term contributors to 2SLGBTQ+ rights initiatives.

The Honourable Brenda Murphy, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick and the first openly LGBTQ person to hold any viceregal office in Canada, raised the flag.

To see a video of the flag raising, find upcoming events, or to get in touch, find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Have you **Scattered the Ashes** of Your Loved One; Or do you choose not to bury the Ashes?

We have
a place
for you to
**Visit and
Remember.**



Purchase a Niche in our Columbariums for \$1,200 (+HST, at ground level) and we will include a Complimentary **Door Lettering** (Value \$400).
You may like to place a keepsake inside the Niche – ask for details.

Cedar Hill-Greenwood Cemetery
1650 Manawagonish Rd, Saint John, NB
Phone: 672-4309 Office Hours Mon-Fri 9 – 4:30.

BBBS Big Book Sale, August 3rd-31st



By Rhoda Welshman, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John (BBBS)

It's that time of the year again, Big Brothers Big Sisters' Big Book Sale is back! Each year thousands of books are donated and sold, many times to familiar faces! Donate your books or purchase the ones you've been aching to read, priced from 50¢-\$4. Got books to give? We'll be collecting from now until Friday, August 16th. (Please note, we do not accept encyclopedias, magazines, or textbooks.)

Perhaps, you'd be interested in volunteering to sort and organize book donations this summer? It's a bookworm's dream come true with many unique and rare finds – volunteering gives you a front row seat to these discoveries! The Big Book Sale will be held August 3rd-31st, level one, Brunswick Square. To make donation arrangements or to volunteer, please call us at 635-1145.

Many thanks to you, as we embark on our 16th Annual Big Book Sale. Volunteer. Donate. Shop!

**The Big Book Sale: August 3rd-31st,
level one, Brunswick Square**

**To make donation arrangements or to volunteer:
635-1145**

The Land Bank: bringing new life to Saint John properties

*By Jody Kliffer,
Saint John Land Bank*

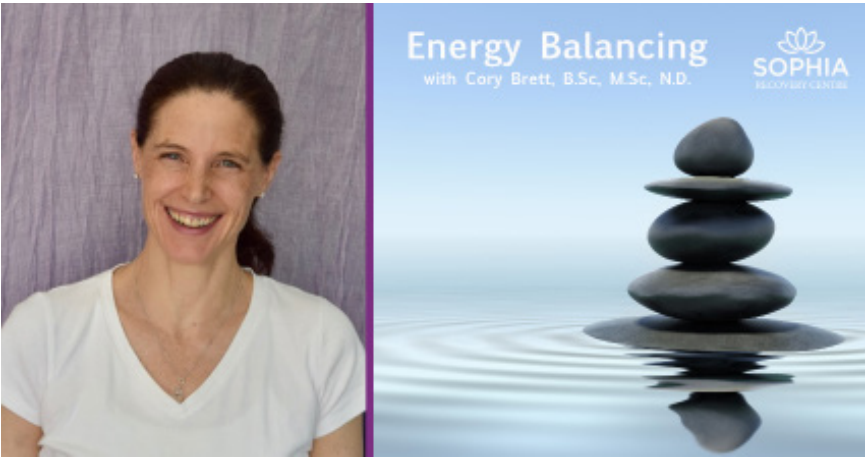
The Saint John Land Bank is a not-for-profit organization that is focused on returning abandoned and derelict properties to productive use. The need for affordable housing is increasing in our city, while there remains a steady presence of abandoned buildings and vacant lands concentrated in the City's urban neighbourhoods. Abandoned properties not only hurt the look of a neighbourhood, but they also become fire hazards and result in increased crime rates.



There are several reasons why the problem of abandonment occurs in any city, but a common theme is a slow tax sale process. In New Brunswick, it is not uncommon for a property to sit vacant for more than five years – often much longer – before it ends up at tax sale. Due to the length of time it takes, the building often ends up in a state of disrepair. The cost to renovate the building, in addition to paying any outstanding taxes and utility bills, makes it an infeasible investment for most people. The Saint John Land Bank targets these problem properties as opportunities to stabilize urban decline, provide affordable housing, or help bring new life to a property in a way that addresses the community's needs.

Above: The completed 14-unit project at 74 Victoria Street in the Old North End includes 12 subsidized units of affordable housing (Photo: Housing Alternatives)

Energy Balancing program at Sophia



Sophia guest program facilitator Cory Brett (Photo: supplied)

By Julie Atkinson, Executive Director, Sophia Recovery Centre

Sophia embraces a holistic approach to recovery and healing. This month, we are excited to add Energy Balancing to our range of programs. Cory Brett, an experienced and certified naturopathic doctor will facilitate the program. She is excited to share her knowledge and experience with women seeking recovery.

In many traditions, it is thought that we have an energy field around our bodies. Ancient practices such as acupuncture, tai-chi and the chakra system are based in learning how to affect this energy for vitality and well-being. Energy flows freely when a person is relaxed and happy. At Sophia, Cory will guide women in discovering and working with the energy field to clear constrictions created by physical, mental or emotional issues. The guided visualization is easy and fun and does not involve reliving past events.

The program will be offered every other Wednesday at 2 p.m. beginning on June 2nd. Women may join at any time. Please call the Centre to register as spaces are limited.

Your neighbours since 1854

The logo for the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. It features a circular emblem with a cross in the center. A plant with leaves and flowers is growing from the base of the cross. The words 'Laudes Dei' are written in a script font across the plant.

Sisters of Charity
of the Immaculate Conception
www.sistersofcharityic.com

The Around the Block Interview: Mayor Donna Reardon

On May 25th, 2021 the votes were counted at last and New Brunswick's three largest cities had female mayors! Around the Block sat down with Her Worship Donna Reardon, a nine-year councillor in Ward 3 (including South End, Waterloo Village, and Lower West) and now Mayor of Saint John, to talk about matters of interest to our priority neighbourhoods, and beyond.



In practical terms what can the city do about alleviating poverty in the neighbourhoods?

Supporting the land bank – there are opportunities to give land away. We've already done that for non-profit housing. And I think that the living wage should be looked at, as an employer. I'm on Transit so I always feel transit plays an integral role to make sure that the population that cannot afford a vehicle can still access services that they need and maintain employment. And we need to normalize some of these conversations. So it would be nice for us to have you [ATB], as you say, reaching out to all the councillors. It's a good idea, what you're doing. We need to ensure that all the councillors have opportunities to meet with and understand those communities.

What about social procurement? You have a \$157 million budget. How could that benefit local firms, social enterprises, by not just always taking the lowest price but factoring other things in?

Part of our policy is that we go with the lowest price. I would like to take a look at that. I understand why it's there; it's a mechanism to ensure that Council spending the taxpayer money is getting the best value for the dollar. But is it bigger than just the lowest price? How can that create a positive domino effect if we do make a change in those parameters? I think it's worth exploring.

What is your what is your message to the priority neighbourhoods on the housing crisis?

Right now we have no mechanism to expropriate and we're not really working with the province as far as dilapidated and vacant buildings. We [the City] can't even keep up with tearing them down, with what money we have. Two is expropriation, so when we tear that building down we can charge the cost back to the province and they'll tack that onto the tax bills so when it goes for a tax sale that'll be on it. We cannot charge for any of the prep for that. And then we can't expropriate the land! I want to be able to, so we can add that to the land bank and start giving it away - that's huge for me. As far as the affordable housing goes, we want to work with the province with that. It seems like housing at one time was something that people provided, you made *some* money off housing, but down in the priority neighborhoods housing has got so expensive all of a sudden. There's an ethical component to providing housing; it's not a mechanism to become rich, I don't think. And if we can lower our tax rate we're hoping to get growth. Attracting development for affordable housing is difficult with our tax rate so that's something that we need to continue to work on.

If you could move the needle on one thing during your first term in office what would it be?

We had to get \$10 million out of the budget so we did all that. I think now let's look at every dime we spend so we can say, is this the best return on the investment? What makes a city successful? When I look at what we spend on the service agreements for the five priority neighborhoods, when you try to calculate what it is in the budget you get a bunch of point zero zeroes! I just say, how do we shift that needle to keep the focus on people? We've been so focused on infrastructure - and there are things that we need, your sewer system, absolutely - but:

how can we take the focus off things and get it onto people?

A tribute to Linda Harvey and Brian Mills



Linda Harvey (Past Secretary) and Brian Mills (Past Treasurer) of the Brunswick Drive Tenants Association. Photo: BDTA

By Richard Northorp, President, Brunswick Drive Tenants Association (BDTA)

Out-going board members Linda Harvey (Secretary) and Brian Mills (Treasurer) served many years on the Brunswick Drive Tenants Association Board of Directors and we thank them very much for their commitment and dedication to the members and tenants of 656 Brunswick Drive.

Linda still lives at 656 Brunswick Drive and Brian is now in a nursing home. Best wishes for whatever your futures may hold.

New “Live from the Library!” program



By Daniel Teed, Head of Community Library Services, Saint John Free Public Library

Interested in new books or reading recommendations? What about an exclusive look at our Special Collections room or unique items from the archives?

This spring we will be launching a new virtual series on social media called “Live from the Library” where staff will answer questions, chat about books, programs, local history and so much more! Each session will have a different host and will highlight library services, programs, spaces or community partners.

Have a question or an idea of what you'd like to see? Email us at adult.sjfpl@gnb.ca with the details. “Live from the Library” – coming soon to a screen near you!

Bee Me Kidz Update



Leader Grads (Photo: Sheila Greig)

By the Bee Me Kidz Team

Another year of Bee Me Kidz has wrapped up and we had our Leaderz graduation on May 1st. While we didn't get to spend as much time with our families as we would've liked to, we made sure to make the most of the weeks we got to spend together. Our families have enjoyed lessons on identifying feelings and how to effectively process them. Together we had STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities such as our "Egg Drop Challenge" and our "Exploding Emotions" science experiment. Our Saturday program always ended with an amaZZZing take-home brunch for our families to enjoy.

We want to give a special "thank you" to the Bee Me Kidz team! Without them, we could not provide our program to our families.

Life at the "Hive" is never dull, and we are now working on our program for September 2021. We will be registering later this summer for the new year. Hoping to see everyone come back and very excited to meet new families. So, if you have a child in Grade One to Grade Five, sign up and "be the best me I can bee."



Around The Block Team (Issue 77)

Publisher: Human Development Council
Editor: Lorna Brown

Old North End: Christa Petts
Lower South End: Mary LeSage
Crescent Valley: Anne Driscoll
Waterloo Village: Penni Eisenhauer
Lower West Side: Dustin Leclerc
Proofreaders: Mark Driscoll, Cindy Bishop, Jane Hanlon, and Lorna Brown
Layout and design: Lorna Brown and Juanita Black

Food Purchase Contest

By Juanita Black, HDC and Mary LeSage, PULSE

For Issue 77 our Food Purchase Contest in partnership with Saint John Energy will offer two \$15 fresh fruit and vegetables packs, one each to two winners. Throughout *Around the Block* there are five Saint John Energy logos, including these three: one in this article, one in the ad on page 2 and one in the sponsor section of page 1. **You need to locate the other two!** Send your answer to juanita@sjhdc.ca or call 651-3044 to speak to Juanita Black or leave a message. You need to:

- identify the pages and locations of the two hidden logos (NOT those on pages 1, 2, or 15)
- tell us your name, address, and phone number.



Only one entry per household. Your name will go into a draw for one of the two orders. The contest will end Thursday, July 22nd, at noon and you will be called if you are a winner. We will also list the winners on the Human Development Council Facebook page. The Issue 76 winners were Richard Northorp and Mary Doiron.

Free professional health coaching



Live Well Bien Vivre

By Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick

Live Well | Bien Vivre (LW | BV) is accessible, bilingual, no charge, professional health coaching for all New Brunswick residents 19 and over. You and your Health Coach will connect in a way that's comfortable and convenient for you. You'll meet as often as needed for you to feel confident continuing on your health and wellness journey without their guidance.

Health Coaches are active partners with community health care providers and organizations. Through this work, people are referred to health coaches for guidance in reaching lifestyle goals. Health Coaches are located across the province, working to support and connect them with tools and resources within their community. Let's meet, self-refer by contacting LW|BV today!

Live Well | Bien Vivre serves clients in person and virtually throughout the province. Health Coaches are located in Edmundston, Acadian Peninsula, Campbellton, Bathurst, Saint John, Miramichi, Moncton, Fredericton, Woodstock, but can provide services virtually wherever you are. Contact a Health Coach today!

(T): 1-800-663-3600
(E): info@LWBV.ca
www.livewellbienvivre.ca

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Councillors' Corner!

Editor's note: The recent Mayoralty Forum prior to the municipal elections, with questions only from the priority neighbourhoods, received more than 4400 views on Facebook! *Around the Block* wants to continue that dialogue among our readers and elected officials, so we started with the councillors from Wards 2 and 3 (where the priority neighbourhoods lie), and the councillors-at-large (city-wide representatives), to hear their answers to the same questions we had asked those running for Mayor. Here are some highlights, with much more to come in the next issue! We will be asking councillors from other wards to participate as well. Councillors' Corner will be a regular feature from now on, so please send questions to sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com for potential use in *Around the Block*.

Brent Harris, Councillor at Large

On longer service agreements with communities:

The longer they can plan, the more funding they can leverage! We need to do the three-year, I think, as the minimum. Honestly I would rather see something closer to five years; I've seen that in other jurisdictions as more of a normal thing. The longer you can give them to plan, the more options can be leveraged because you know big foundations like the McConnell Foundation want to see projects have legs and look like they have staying power. You can't always say, "This is going to be a resounding success and here are the 85 reasons why." Without that the best you can do is to say "We have a track record, we've got long-term plans in place, we have stable funding, we can make this happen," and then create that reliability factor. And that I think is the missing link.

It's also a way for City Council to connect those dots so staff and committees have an option to sign on with some of these more ambitious opportunities for collective grant writing. Besides the service agreements, that is something that we can do that doesn't cost us any money and potentially leverages all kinds of money!



David Hickey, Ward 3

On investing in community:

When you look at the financial side of our communities centres and all these programs that those centres coordinate, you see that our per-dollar return on investment is consistently way higher than any other services that we support! Beyond the obvious critical support that they offer to the community I think that this return on investment is a huge benefit, a huge argument to continue to support these groups. That extends to me beyond just the community centre funding; that extends to transit service and transit funding as well as community policing and a lot of those really front-facing services that you're seeing supported by the city. It's profoundly critical to support efforts like community policing when you look at the actual return that you're seeing in reduction of crime that we're seeing from efforts like community policing. It comes down to the same as I said for those community services; the return is significantly higher than you see in any other element of the police force. The challenge is, it's not always a numeric-driven return, there are more existential benefits. Sometimes you're not able to offer set numbers - and it's always the first one to get cut when it comes to the police budget. I've been a consistent advocate for continuing those community police services.



John MacKenzie, Ward 2

On the housing crisis and development:

If you talk to a developer right now, they say "I need so many dollars per door to do a development and I can't do it for what you're saying we should be doing it for." It's not a new problem; it's only come to light now because we've got so many new buildings going up, they're going to be higher-rent and they're not going to be affordable for a lot of people. But there's been a shortage of housing for quite some time. Now is the time to start looking at the Land Bank - I belong to the board and they're doing wonderful work over there. There are more lots that are being accumulated so there will be more built.

I think that mixed income housing is certainly a key. Every development that we do going forward, we need to do it with affordable housing in mind. And so whether that means that we have a financing program in place where you get a free permit if you have so many units that are affordable... we need to work something out. If it's a give and take, the developer feels like, "Hey I can do this; with this little perk it's going to work."

And we have to lobby the other levels of government to see if we can get finances for that.



Gary Sullivan, Councillor at Large

On ensuring residents are heard:

I would expect the ward councillors to be very tuned into everything that's going on in the ward, including the work of neighbourhood. As a councillor at large I'm available anytime if there's an issue and the neighbourhood thinks we need a double set of ears to hear them. We've got the ward councillors but I'm a phone call away for that because of my experience with the neighbourhoods in the past. I'm very aware of a lot of the common issues that they face - with funding, with being heard, with communications, certainly the poverty and the crime, the mental health and addiction issues. Everything kind of comes together with being impoverished.

I couldn't say I have to be in every meeting, because I don't have four times the ward councillors' time. We've got to work as a team. But certainly if there's a significant issue, I'm available. And when those issues come before Council certainly they have a councillor in Gary Sullivan that has worked for 15 years now with adults and youth from priority neighbourhoods. I've been their champion. The Nick Nicolle Centre was something I chased in my first term on Council. I am there to support priority neighborhoods any way I can.



Gerry Lowe, Ward 3

On poverty:

Poverty is a question that has to be handled by the entire Council. For instance, I am fighting hard for a new school in the South End and I have been for the last five years. I am hopeful. A new school will change the whole set-up in the South End - and Waterloo Street, because those who go to Prince Charles now will go to the new one in the South End, like those at Saint John the Baptist/King Edward. That's an area that has an enormous amount of poverty which I think a school will help a lot. We have food that's not being done out of the school now because of the virus but we have our own kitchen at Saint John the Baptist/King Edward and hopefully that will be taken to the new school. I've always been somebody for tax reform - for the appraisal of what's going on. For instance I know the LNG has increased greatly over the last couple of years, but it hasn't been assessed again, and to me it should be, which would put more money into the city. And it pays absolutely no taxes to the provincial government and that I don't understand. It's owned by Repsol 75% and a quarter by Irving, but I mean it's things like that ... we're an industrial city and we should be paying the lowest taxes in the province of New Brunswick and we pay the highest! I don't understand that. To me it's very wrong and that's why we have poverty the way we do.



Barry Ogden, Ward 2

On poverty:

Legislation in the 1960s took money away from Saint John and it's still there, it's an injustice today - that provincial legislation where our money is shared throughout the whole province. Yet Fredericton and Moncton have grown and are wealthier cities and have higher incomes. That legislation is hurting Saint John. I believe it has led us to have deteriorated housing and it has raised our poverty level.

We have to work with our MLAs and Premier to change that. When he talks about tax reform or decentralization of power, that means that Saint John has to get back some of its power and get back the taxes because it's draining Saint John. If you lived in Halifax or St. John's, Newfoundland and you had industry, all that tax money stays in those cities. Not so in New Brunswick.

There are places with much newer schools because that money has come from Saint John. And when you look at the school system, Fredericton decides when we get a new school. To me that's wrong; we're generating the tax dollars, we should decide when we get a new school. We've got schools that need new windows, and we definitely we need new schools in the South End and Old North End.

