



Around *the* Block



Issue 78 August/September 2021 sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

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Second shots at Avenue B



A vaccination at the Avenue B clinic (Photo: Chris Reicker)

**By Diane Kerns, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator,
Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc.**

Avenue B was thrilled to host three days of vaccination clinics in partnership with Extramural NB, Fresh Start-YW and other community partners. We were able to follow up with people who had been here in April to receive their first vaccination. Although most were receiving their second dose of the vaccine, we were also able to provide a first dose for those who had not been able to attend back in the spring. A total of 123 people were vaccinated!

We still have many who require their second vaccine and some who are yet to have their first. We are happy to help people access an appointment with a pharmacy or at a clinic by dropping into our office at 62 Waterloo Street. We can help find the right place for you and answer any questions you may have. We can do this, Saint John!

**Access an appointment with a
pharmacy or at a clinic
by dropping into our office at
62 Waterloo Street.**

We can do this, Saint John!

Proud Sponsors of *Around The Block*



SAINT JOHN



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest

**By Juanita Black, HDC
and Mary LeSage, PULSE**

For Issue 78 our Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest in partnership with Saint John Energy will offer two free fresh fruit and vegetable packs (\$15 value), 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 15 and one in the sponsor section below left. **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;
- 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, August 19th 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 77 winners were Dawn Murphy and Valerie Spencer.

From the Editor's desk: Green

**Lorna Brown
647-4850, sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com**

As I write, we are just a few days away from going Green in New Brunswick - the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. More than 60% of us have had two vaccinations, and more than 80% have had one. It has been a long and exhausting journey for many of our neighbours. The best possible way we can support them is to get two vaccinations ourselves. Let's be respectful and kind to those who choose to continue wearing a mask, and with the Delta variant wreaking havoc elsewhere and our borders opening, let's not lose the good habits of social distancing and frequent handwashing. It will be wonderful to welcome more friends and family back into our lives, and to attend events together! But we are not out of the woods yet. Kudos to all who have helped with extra clinics, such as our good friends at Avenue B!

It is always lovely to see pictures of smiling children such as those at Brilliant Labs' camps and at the Boys and Girls Club (page 13) and at the community schools (pages 7-8). We have an op-ed from an engaged youth, Nihma Hussain, from the Loan Fund; check out her piece on concussion safety on page 10. Great news that UYES has been successful (page 11) - there's another intake soon! And someone who is still a Youth Rep is now President of the NB Aboriginal Peoples Council; read our enlightening interview with Christy Mellor-Gorham on page 18. Her determination in the past and in this present time of grief to regain, celebrate, and support her culture is inspiring.

It has been a privilege to chat again with some of our City Councillors. "Councillors Corner" (pages 19-20) needed two pages this time, and could have filled three times that! There is a lot happening in Saint John. Don't miss your chance to win a free ticket to see and hear Olympic medalist Mark Tewksbury on August 5th during Saint John Pride. Check out that and other great events on page 9.

Editing this paper is privilege. I am in awe of the work our residents and our community organizations do, every day, to make our lives better. Peace and joy to all. You get them by giving them.

ONE Future welcomes MP Wayne Long



Left to right, front row: MP Wayne Long, Avery Price, Jerry Burchill, Elicia Martin, Lorraine Brown. Second row: Coordinator Jill Richards-Cook, Hayley Byers, Ryan White, Will Douglas, Brent Pugsley. Third row: WES instructor Shawnee Sue Steeves, Carmen Clark, WES instructor Shelley Richard, Executive Director of ONE Change Tamara Kelly, Shane Winnie, Jake Stewart, and Coordinator/Instructor Sean Simpson.
(Photo: Lorraine Brown)

By Jill Richards-Cook, Coordinator, ONE Future

On June 14th, 2021, the ONE Future: Digital Media Marketing through Storytelling program welcomed the Honourable Wayne Long, Member of Parliament for Saint John–Rothesay, to our classroom here at The ONE Change Inc., Nick Nicolle Centre.

ONE Future is funded by the federal government's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program (YESS) in partnership with Working NB. The YESS program funds organizations like The ONE Change Inc., which allows us to deliver programs like ONE Future to youth. Our program teaches photography/videography, digital media marketing and workplace essential skills, and coaches/mentors youth in education and career decisions that help them to join the workforce successfully.

The group posed for a photo taken by current participant, Lorraine Brown. Lorraine wasted no time applying the skills she learned from instructor, Andrew Tidby, to photoshop herself into the photo. Very impressive, Lorraine! If you are interested in hiring a ONE Future participant, contact Jill @ 566-9303.

Grow your own salad!

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

We challenged our community to grow your own salad this summer. We have been amazed at all the mini gardens and how well they are doing. Twenty families have participated, and their gardens are doing great. All our after-school families took one home. Thank you to United Commercial Travelers (UCT) who supported our project. It has been a fun project to keep us busy all summer. Who does not love a fresh salad grown at home? The feedback and pictures have been awesome. Keep sending your pictures to us. We would love to see those salads!



A salad-to-be!
(Photo: Lorraine Brown)

Marigolds at home and in the park



Bright and cheerful marigold (Photo: John Driscoll)

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

One activity our kids love is getting their hands dirty and doing gardening. Our After School Program kids spent their spring planting marigolds for our park. We sent some flowers home with them because they were beautiful. Our kids wanted us to plant the remaining ones in the park. With the help of volunteers and community members we planted them for the kids to see. Latoya faithfully watered their plants every day until they were planted in the park. Thank you to all our kids in the After School Program for doing such a great job - they make our park beautiful.



Summer Program kids play in the park (Photo: Christa Petts)

Summer Program

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

Our Summer Program has been amazing. As a special surprise we made memorable T-shirts for all our children who attended the program. Brilliant Labs has been here every Thursday to show our children the latest technology. One of our very own talented summer staff, Elliott, has been playing the ukulele and singing for our kids.

Other fun we have had includes outings, park days, and picnics, to name just a few things we have been busy with all summer. We have had a great summer with our children. Welcome back!

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



North Neighbourhood Contact

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Nick Nicolle Community Centre
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658-2980



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

By Mary LeSage, PULSE

PULSE is now open five days a week from 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 UNLESS we move to GREEN!

Don't forget we can apply online for the Low-Income Seniors Benefit. Deadline to apply December 31, 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 August 13th and September 10th 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: August 12th (PLUS A BBQ 11 a.m.-1 p.m.!) and August 26th. BBQ September 3rd 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 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

PULSE Help yourself garden



The garden at PULSE (Photo: Mary LeSage)

By Lisa Morris

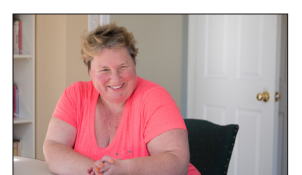
PULSE and volunteers from the Roots & Wings Garden Project, Linda Jarvis from Key Industries and Kiwanis, and Nagis K from the Kiwanis worked together to create a "help yourself" garden along the PULSE parking lot. Next time you are passing by PULSE stop into the parking lot and visit the vegetable garden; you are welcome to grab a watering can and enjoy some time watering and tending the garden. Soon enough the vegetables will be ready to harvest and you can help yourself to some fresh vegetables. The garden includes squash, rhubarb, tomatoes, peppers, swiss chard, lettuce, mint, cabbage, zucchini, nasturtium, and sage. Donations of soil are always welcome and appreciated.



Roots & Wings Garden Project
Planting the ingredients for growth, hope and a stronger community.

South Neighbourhood Contact

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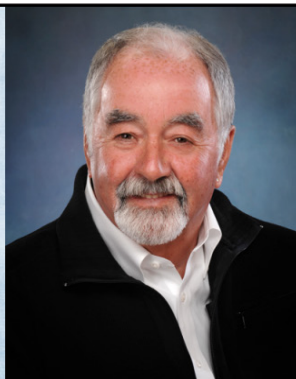




Roots & Wings Pop Up Cafe
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
When: Thursday, August 19, 2021
Where: 251 Wentworth Street
PULSE Parking Lot Garden
Join us for live music!
Refreshments will be available!
Registration Required
632-6807

Gerry Lowe
Ward 3 City Councillor

Email: Gerry.Lowe@saintjohn.ca
Phone: 639-0969



The Growing Place Update



The greenhouse (Photo: CVRC)

By Claire Dingee, Summer Student,
Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)

The Growing Place opened the long-awaited greenhouse to new gardeners for the first time in March of this year. Since then, things have really sprouted up! All 26 rentable indoor plots are growing fruitfully, and have begun to produce fantastic and nutritious vegetables including eggplants, tomatoes, peppers, and radishes.

The growing season won't be ending any time soon inside the greenhouse! During the winter the indoor space is heated, allowing for year-round gardening. The newly completed greenhouse space is also being used as a part of The Growing Place's long-running garden workshop series. These educational events feature local experts and botanical enthusiasts providing interactive gardening and plant care demonstrations. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page, The Growing Place, for info about upcoming workshops and events in the garden. Thank you to the Saint John Community Foundation and Environmental Trust Fund for their ongoing support of The Growing Place.

Meal Makers



Quick, delicious meal (Photo Olivia Clancy)

By Olivia Clancy, Food Security Coordinator, CVRC

From September 2020 to June 2021, the Crescent Valley Resource Centre ran a cooking program called Meal Makers. Each month, a Hello Fresh-style meal kit was given to registered participants. Each kit contained all the ingredients to make a particular recipe that was big enough to feed their family. We made many types of meals: chicken noodle casserole, frittata, turkey pot pie, homemade pizzas, ramen noodle stir fry, shepherd's pie, and more! There are so many quick, delicious meals to try and the Meal Makers participants got the chance to try their hand at making something new.

This program is on hold for the summer but come September it will be starting again. If you live in Crescent Valley and are interested in this or other programs, visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/CVRCJSJ)

Graduates



Graduate Leylan Ali (Photo: Submitted)

By Olivia Clancy, Food Security Coordinator, CVRC

Congratulations to all the 2021 graduates in Crescent Valley!

We are so proud of all that you have accomplished, and what you will continue to accomplish. This past year has been extra challenging, but there is no doubt that all graduates have made the best of it!

A special congrats to the winner of the CV grad contest, Leylan Ali. She won a \$100 Staples gift card to assist with her future endeavours. Congratulations, Leylan!

Thank you to the Crescent Valley Resource Centre and the Crescent Valley Tenants Association for supporting this contest.

This past year has been extra
challenging, but there is no doubt
that all graduates have made
the best of it!

Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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Camp Carleton



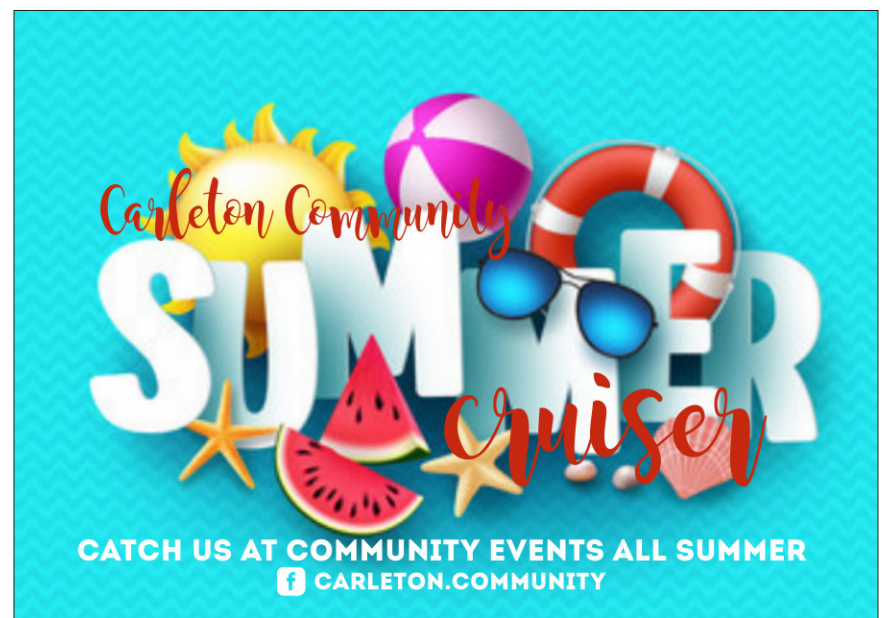
Camp Carleton kids - together at last!
(Photo: Madelynn Ryan, Youth Program Coordinator)

By Kate Worden, Marketing & Program Coordinator, Carleton Community Centre

Camp Carleton has kicked off the summer season with a bang! After a long year of restrictions and uncertainty, we are pleased to be at full capacity for this year's summer program. Our camp counsellors have tons of fun planned - water days, science projects, community partnerships, craft days, art, community garden participation, recreation and sports, field trips and more!

Keep an eye out for fall registration info coming soon! For more information, call Madelynn (506) 658-2920 or email madelynn@carletoncommunitycentre.ca. Follow us on Facebook @Carleton.Community

Family Day, August 27th



Expanding service to be there for everyone in Canada.

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HALF YEAR PRE COMPETITIVE

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
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Two performances!
Builds confidence!
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ONE PRACTICE A WEEK!

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The bike giveaway (Photo: Debbie McLeod)

Bikes for Brunswick Drive/Waterloo neighbourhood

By Craig Campbell

On Wednesday July 7th, bikes were presented to residents of the Brunswick Drive/Waterloo neighbourhood by the Saint John Bike Share Program. During COVID we haven't been able to do any larger bike presentations, but have continued to make bikes available.

The program, initiated in Crescent Valley in 2013, serves the whole Saint John area with a focus on priority neighbourhoods. Brunswick Drive is one of the current satellite locations. The other is at Carleton Community Centre. Bikes have also been distributed through other community partners including PULSE, St. Luke's Church, and the Nick Nicolle Community Centre. Several local schools, as well as the Saint John Police Force, have been involved.

The program has been made possible by various supporters in addition to CVRC including NB Department of Social Development, NB Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, NB Active Communities Program, SJ Cycling, and the Community Foundation. Recently funding by the NB Environmental Trust Fund has made it possible to have a full-time bike technician to supplement the efforts of volunteers and to repair more bikes for a total of more than 800 to date. The City of Saint John Community Grant will make it possible to build a Bike Skills Park primarily for younger riders and will provide some safer cycling than the busy streets. The PRO Kids Program has been a key to providing helmets for every cyclist who gets a bike. NB Trauma has also helped with this.

We also thank all the many community members, as well as the bike shops, who have helped by donating bikes and have made the program possible. We provide bikes for adults and can make use of almost any bike for parts, but usually our greatest needs are 20-inch and 24-inch bikes, and those that are gently used help us be more efficient in our repair work.

Everyone needs a bike! It provides a sense of freedom and is healthy exercise.

The Honourable Arlene Dunn MLA Saint John Harbour

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Employability skills for newcomers

By The Saint John Newcomers Centre

When new immigrants arrive in a new country or region, they often face language and cultural differences. It delays their integration into the community. When searching for employment, newcomers, especially refugees, face a lack of academic qualifications or work experience.

In the first year of this project, we have now begun interviews, hoping to attract as many as 150 newcomers who have refugee backgrounds, for a one-hour interview.

After the interview, we will refer participants to WorkingNB's employment counselling service or other suitable training programs according to their ability.

For more information, please contact Tavia Han at (506) 288-5558 or by email: yue.han@sjnewcomers.ca

Compétences d'employabilité pour les nouveaux arrivants

Par Le Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean

Lorsque de nouveaux immigrants arrivent dans un nouveau pays ou une nouvelle région, ils sont souvent confrontés à des différences linguistiques et culturelles. Cela retarde leur intégration dans la communauté. Lorsqu'ils recherchent un emploi, les nouveaux arrivants, en particulier les réfugiés, sont confrontés à un manque de qualifications académiques ou d'expérience professionnelle.

Au cours de la première année de ce projet, nous avons maintenant commencé des entretiens, dans l'espoir d'attirer jusqu'à 150 nouveaux arrivants qui ont des antécédents de réfugiés, pour un entretien d'une heure.

Après l'entrevue, nous dirigerons les participants vers le service d'orientation en emploi de TravailNB ou vers d'autres programmes de formation appropriés selon leurs capacités.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Tavia Han au (506) 288-5558 ou par courriel : yue.han@sjnewcomers.ca

Newcomer, looking for employment in Canada?

Come and participate in a short confidential survey to identify your skill level!



PROFILING NEWCOMERS' Employability Skills

Collaborating with **WorkingNB**, the **Saint John Newcomers Centre** has developed an assessment tool and strategy to identify the newcomers' skill set.

Why participate?

- Gain a better understanding of personal employability skills
- Referral to WorkingNB employment counselling services
- Eligible for other training and employment programs
- Helping us to provide better service for newcomers

Contact information:
Tavia, Pre-employment Advisor
yue.han@sjnewcomers.ca // +1-506-288-5558



The Saint John Newcomers Centre



Le Centre de nouveaux arrivants de Saint-Jean



WORKING NB
TRAVAIL NB



Newcomers of New Brunswick

165 Union St., Saint John | www.sjnewcomers.ca | Tel.: +1 (506) 642-4242

Waterloo-Village Neighbourhood Contact

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647-8047



Kids on the Go with PALS



The rolling heart of PALS (Photo: Ben Gillcrist)

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

Within (and I daresay, outside) the Community Schools umbrella, the Kids on the Go (KOTG) Bus is often referred to as “The Little Bus That Could,” a rolling juggernaut that is so much more than a set of wheels. There is no more fitting analogy for PALS as we celebrate 20 years of incredible service - it is an assembly of effort that has grown beyond all measure into what we have today, a fluid, dynamic outreach that is part and parcel of our communities, schools, and children.

What makes PALS special, indeed, the defining element, is “heart.” It is truly the intangibles that uplift this work - it is prosecuted with care, empathy, and, above all, love. Just as the bus continues to roll, so too does PALS, taking new roads onward and upward. It is our privilege to be so associated!

Happy 20th, dear friends! :)

PALS Partnerships – making memories and making a difference



Photo by Jennifer Flood-Waugh of her class ending the year with a Kids of the Go bus tour of the city

By Krista Turnbull, Community Schools Coordinator, Seaside Park Elementary

This year we have marked the monumental 20th anniversary of PALS! Our school, just like many others, is so fortunate to have the support of PALS Partners. Not a day goes by when the presence of our PALS is not felt inside and outside the walls of our school. For some of our PALS, being able to visit the school for activities on a regular basis is possible. Others work behind the scenes to support us and welcome us to their place of work for fun enrichment opportunities. Regardless of how our PALS support us, the dedication that each individual and organization has put into our partnerships over the years has made a difference in the lives of thousands of students. Many little moments of connecting with students over the years have led to huge difference in the lives of so very many. From everyone at Seaside Park Elementary, thank you! We think you are #OtterlyAwesomePALS!

Glen Falls School celebrates PALS

By Jill Nylen, Community School Coordinator, Glen Falls School

Glen Falls School is more than thrilled to celebrate 20 years of PALS! The PALS program has grown substantially over the past 20 years, from one school and one partner to over 30 schools and over 150 partners! Glen Falls School has benefited greatly from our continued partnerships with our PALS. The positive impact these partnerships have on our students is evident in all aspects of our students’ lives and the life of our school. These impacts include improved literacy, attendance, and behaviour as well as an overall rise in academic performance. The exposure to new activities, places, and adventures has expanded our students’ worlds. Thank you to our PALS and congratulations on 20 amazing years.



Volunteers from Irving Paper at Glen Falls School’s 2018 year-end BBQ (Photo: Jill Nylen)

Partnering from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Beyond

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

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We ALL have something to offer!

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PALS at Hazen White-St. Francis School (HWSF): paying it forward



(Photo: Kate MacDonald)

By Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, HWSF

We would like to say an enormous “Congratulations!” to PALS, celebrating 20 years of continued support to schools in Saint John area.

We are so very thankful for all that the PALS program does to make a difference in the life of so many students.

HWSF has had opportunities this year to give back to our community. An example of this is seen in the picture above. We have grade four/ five students spreading some cheer by planting marigolds to brighten the day for the residents of Chateau de Champlain.

Bee Me Kidz Saturday Program from September!



By Missy Bewick, President, Bee Me Kidz

Bee Me Kidz (BMK) is buzzing with excitement as we prepare for our Saturday Program to restart in September! The BMK Saturday Program is a fun and educational program designed for the whole family. The day starts with a free breakfast to enjoy together! After, kids in grades one to five will have fun during our lessons and activities where they will learn how to recognize, understand, and manage their emotions. This decreases disruptive behaviour and builds up their confidence.

While the kids are being busy bees, parents can attend our Parent Group, where they can build a supportive, non-judgmental community to share their experiences with and receive encouragement.

The Saturday Program runs in two locations – East at Glen Falls Elementary School and North at the Nick Nicolle Community Centre.

Please head over to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BeeMeKidz or download our Bee Me Kidz app to register! We look forward to seeing you in September!

20 Years of PALS - Centennial says “Thank you!”



Grade 3 Class at PALS in the Park (Photo: Centennial School staff)

By Caitlin Corkum, Community Schools Coordinator, Centennial School

Volunteers are the backbone of all the great programs and activities happening at Centennial School. Without the commitment of our PALS and Community Partners and the flexibility they give their employees to volunteer we would not be able to provide mentoring, breakfast and lunch programs, summer camps, PALS at the Port, PALS at the Park, Judo, Reading Buddies, Christmas Bazaar, much needed supplies, healthy snacks, and special events like the Annual Train Ride, Soap Box Derby, school trips, Sea Dogs games and much, much more! PALS has been supporting the Saint John community for 20 years, an amazing dedication to our students and community! We would like to say a huge “thank you” to all our volunteers, PALS and community partners. We greatly appreciate your support and commitment to making our students’ lives full; without you, life at Centennial would not be the same!



Saint John Pride Week, August 3rd-8th



By James Edwards, Saint John Pride (SJP)

Our mission is to plan and execute Pride celebrations in a manner which celebrates and reflects the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer plus (LGBTQ+) community while being fiscally responsible, supportive, encouraging and welcoming of members from the community and our allies.

This year we are offering a variety of events during Saint John Pride. SJP is proud to be presenting Olympian Gold and Silver Medalist Mark Tewksbury. He will be speaking at the Imperial Theatre on Thursday August 5th at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Imperial Box Office or on their website for a cost of \$10. We would encourage you to also visit Mark Tewksbury's website for more information. <https://www.marktewksbury.org/>

We are making 10 free tickets available to the you, the readership of *Around the Block*. Please reach out to: james.edwards@saintjohnpride.org

We will also be hosting an educational event which includes a panel discussion and exhibit on Queer History in New Brunswick with a focus on Saint John. Other events include: Queer Expression, a collection of queer art by local members of the LGBTQ+ community; a variety show showcasing members from our community; and a Pride bingo event.

Please check out our Facebook page for other dates and event times. [@saintjohnpride](https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnpride)

Glen Falls Cleanup, September 18th

- Hosted by Councillors Stewart and Radwan
- Sept. 18th 10 a.m.-12 noon.
- We will be having the Green Machine there. Location to be announced.
- Any COVID protocols need to be followed.
- Some snacks will be provided.
- Further details will be posted on Facebook at [paularadwan4councilsj](https://www.facebook.com/paularadwan4councilsj) as they become available.



Please come out and meet your councillors and help look after our great community in Glen Falls!



Research study: systemic black racism



Systemic Black Racism Within New Brunswick Racisme Systémique Contre les Noirs dans Nouveau-Brunswick

By Black Lives Matter New Brunswick

On behalf of Black Lives Matter New Brunswick (BLMNB) and New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), we are pleased to invite you to participate in a research study to identify and address systemic black racism within the Education, Social Development, Justice, or Health sector of New Brunswick. Participation is completely voluntary and we ask that you feel free to forward this invite to others to participate.

The details:

- BLMNB and NBCC will be hosting a series of virtual focus groups, allowing as many as possible to participate and inform the process.
- Focus Groups will last approximately 75 minutes and will be facilitated in either English or French.
- If you choose to participate, your input will be included in a summary of findings with no identifying information.
- You will be sent a Microsoft Teams meeting link to access the focus group session.
- **Should you choose to participate, please email SRNB@nbcc.ca**
- If you are unable to attend a virtual focus group but would still like to participate in the study, you may do so here: <https://forms.office.com/r/K2esyccEqT> by completing an online survey.

Please email the research team at SRNB@nbcc.ca with any questions and concerns.

Diversity Champion Awards



PRUDE Inc. (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education) is accepting nominations until September 19th for the fifth annual Diversity Champion Awards (DCAs). The awards honour businesses and individuals who show diversity, inclusion and equality in their lives. PRUDE is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

For further information on the DCAs, please go to: <https://www.prudeinc.org/cultural-diversity-awards>



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Concussions: bettering the system



Nihma Hussain (Photo: submitted)

By Nihma Hussain, Youth Entrepreneurship Success (YES) Program Coordinator, Saint John Community Loan Fund

As a student, I value my education and my school experience. They say high school years are supposed to be your “glory days” yet more than a year of my high school experience was taken away from me from something that could easily be prevented. The stigma and lack of awareness around concussions have negatively impacted too many students in our community. This motivated my mission to break the stigma around concussions and better the system.

My biggest obstacle during the first stages of my recovery was returning to school. I felt a sense of aimlessness as I was limited in almost every aspect of my life, my studies, physical capabilities, and mental strength.

There is an abundant amount of information on the internet regarding the steps to prevent a concussion or for a successful recovery from such an injury. The issue I believe is, these protocols and procedures put in place are a lot of the time merely suggestions or not monitored. For instance, a coach or a supervisor is required to have a first aid kit and the contact list at every game; however, this is not consistent on sports teams.

My journey to better the system has consisted mainly of building proposals for the district to consider, built from research and data collecting in the community. I was fortunate enough to pursue the IDEA Centre course which enabled me to dive into this passion of mine and help inspire and create awareness. This program allowed me to share my experience and learn how so many students were struggling with the same issues I had.

It is up to every one of us to take part in becoming familiar with the impacts of this injury and promoting safety in our community. Whether you are a parent, student, teacher, coach, or principal, it is vital for us to be educated on this topic, as these kinds of injuries are not detectable to the naked eye and are too common. Unlike a bruise or scar, a concussion hides underneath the skin.

Safety should always be the number one priority. Two in every ten high school athletes will suffer from a concussion annually. That is two too many. My utter passion for this project is not only rooted in my personal experience but also in the thought of potentially helping students after me, possibly even my younger sisters. Currently, I am working to build a contract for supervisors and coaches to sign in order to recognize their knowledge and training regarding concussions to minimize litigation possibilities. My mission is to provide students with the ultimate care and save lives. With your help, we can.

The hidden gems of stream assessments



(Photo: Shayelin Braydon)

By Shayelin Braydon, Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP)

This summer, ACAP Saint John has partnered with World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF-Canada) to conduct stream assessments of Saint John’s watersheds. By assessing the streams, we can locate any debris jams that prevent fish from migrating. These blockages will be remediated to ensure the safe passage of aquatic wildlife. The streams take the ACAP team through some remote areas of the Greater Saint John Area; and with that, we are able to uncover more of Saint John’s beauty while restoring its full potential. We encourage you to head outside, explore, and share the beauty you find with us! Remember to have fun and stay safe!



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



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Supper in a Bag



Sausage and egg casserole (Photo: Jaclyn)

By Jaclyn

I am a learner in the WESLinks (Workplace Essential Skills) class at the Learning Exchange. Once a month we have a signup sheet for Supper in a Bag. The WESLinks class, in partnership with the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association, prepares the ingredients for the recipe that is picked for the month. This month the recipe was Sausage and Egg Casserole. When I got home I explained to my daughter what we were going to have for supper. She has always thought that breakfast for supper was a big no-no! We put everything together and she kept asking, "When is supper going to be ready?" She was excited to try this recipe. Once it was cooked she was the first one to try it and she loved it! She said it was delicious. This was a big hit at our house.

Sausage and Egg Casserole

Ingredients for a family

1 pound sausage links
6 large eggs
2 cups milk
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground mustard
6 slices of bread
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

1. In a skillet, cut and brown sausage, drain and set aside. In a large bowl, beat eggs, add milk, salt and mustard. Stir in bread cubes, cheese and sausage.

2. Pour into a greased 11x7 inch baking dish. Cover and refrigerate for eight hours or overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake uncovered, at 350 for 40 minutes or until a knife inserted in centre comes out clean.

ENJOY!

UYES! Carpentry Program a success



(Photos: Callie Mackenzie)

By Callie Mackenzie, Human Development Council

The Urban Youth Employment/Education Service is a project run by the Human Development Council, Saint John Learning Exchange, Teen Resource Centre, and Outflow Ministry, offering support for youth aged 15-30 who seek to improve their lives through education and/or employment.

On March 8, 2021, the UYES! Carpentry Program launched with seven participants under the leadership of Outflow's David Shannon, a Red Seal journeyman. Students complete modules, hands-on learning, and work placements with wage subsidies through Working NB, facilitated by Outflow.

A variety of projects--from helping to design and lay flooring and a decorative fireplace surround to restoring an old farmhouse, building a deck, and a small cottage in Kars—allow for hard and soft skill building.

Jayme Hall, Executive Director of Outflow, says he is "impressed with the students' work ethic," and as UYES! Project Manager, I am proud of how far the group has come in terms of building teamwork skills, staying committed, and moving beyond their comfort zones. Alex Ganong, a participant, says, "It's a good mix of hands-on skills and creativity... This is an opportunity that should not be passed up." Participant Adam Whitney feels that "it helps build your confidence... Even if you have no skills, you'll do fine in this program. No one gets left behind. This is something I would love for my kids to have a chance to go through!"

The program will run again this fall with space for seven new participants.

For more information or to apply, email: Callie@sjhdc.ca.



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Community Worker Spotlight



SkillsLink class donating their fundraiser money of \$1000 to Bobby's Hospice (Photo: Misty Scholfield)

**By Cathy Boyce, Affordable Housing Specialist,
Human Development Council**

A Coordinated Access System is only as strong as the people doing the work on the frontlines to support people in our community. We are fortunate in Saint John to have a strong group of dedicated professionals who care deeply about the well-being of our community and the people in it.

Receiving a feel-good email from Misty Schofield is par for the course – she is as genuine as they come. The Skillslink Coordinator at the John Howard Society, she spends her days assisting people with barriers to employment to find meaningful work. She is also a fierce advocate. “My favourite thing about this work is helping people build their voice so they can stand up for themselves.”

Misty was happy to share how the “housing first” model came into play for a young woman she supported. “Jennifer [name changed for confidentiality] came with a backpack on her back and little else. She had lost her job, her children and her home due to addiction. Jennifer was newly sober after attending rehab. Her story of trauma interwoven with addiction was not unlike the stories we hear each day in the homeless-serving sector. Fortunately, she found Misty. Jennifer was added to the By-Names List and was prioritized for an apartment uptown. Once housed, the pieces quickly fell back into place for Jennifer. She began a program through the John Howard Society and obtained employment in the helping field with Misty’s oversight. Jennifer saved up for a car and worked tirelessly to reunite with her children. At the one-year mark for Jennifer’s sobriety, Misty brought over a giant cookie cake to celebrate. “For me, the coolest thing is how healthy she looks.” Misty described the joy on Jennifer’s face and the palpable sense of pride she exuded. Jennifer had her apartment looking pristine and thoughtfully decorated, including flowers on the table and pictures on the fridge, signifiers of a home.

“Every single person deserves to have someone to stand up for them.” Being without support and housing are experiences Misty knows intimately. Growing up in Provincial care in Ontario as a child, Misty became homeless at 15 and aged out of care the next year. Like many youth, she did not qualify for income assistance because she was not in school. Using her creativity and voice, Misty quickly became a strong self-advocate. When she had children, they became her driving factor. She wanted to build her life to be better for her kids. Her inspiration now? “A community where I can walk by and wave at my neighbours, where we pick each other up instead of living separately.”

Many of the folks that Misty works with share that they “want to give back and help other people.” Although one of the most challenging parts of working in homelessness is that not every story has a happy ending, Misty is motivated by the idea of serving people when and where she can. By meeting people where they are and helping them along the path to self-empowerment, Misty believes in a community where mutual aid is the reality.

Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup



(Photo: Shauna Sands)

**By Shauna Sands, Conservation Coordinator,
Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John**

Join us on Saturday, August 21st, at Long Wharf Beach for the annual Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup (GFCC)! Hosted by the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, the GFCC is a province-wide movement to eliminate marine debris on the shorelines of the Bay of Fundy, home to the highest tides in the world.

Feel free to pop by anytime between 3-5 p.m. We will provide gloves and garbage bags for all volunteers. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact us at: office@acapsj.org.

We hope to see you there!



Wayne Long, MP
Saint John-Rothesay
(506) 657-2500
Wayne.Long@parl.gc.ca

STANDING FOR YOU!

Summer STEAM Camps in Saint John!



By Brilliant Labs

Thanks to our community partners, Brilliant Labs' STEAM Camps started on July 5th (to August 20th) in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, Carleton Community Centre, Crescent Valley Resource Centre, Nick Nicolle Centre, Teen Resource Centre, YMCA Early Learning Centre, and with the City of Saint John's Sunshine Program at Dominion Park, Little River Reservoir, Rainbow Park, and Rockwood Park.

Brilliant Labs is able to provide the camps for free, thanks to funding from Canada Summer Jobs, Canaport LNG, City of Saint John's Community Grants program, Government of New Brunswick's SEED program, and the Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Thank you for your support!

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



*Happy and engaged kids at camp - with sunny results!
(Photos: Irene Lee)*

Summer Brain Gain Program

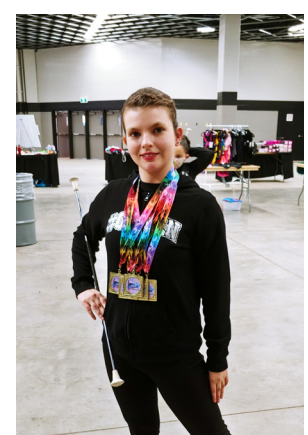


*BGC member making meaningful connections with Club staff while participating in our Summer Brain Gain Program
(Photo: Lydia Patterson, Summer Brain Gain Educator)*

By Benjamin O'Neill, Philanthropy & Community Giving Manager

Boys and Girls Club (BGC) Greater Saint John is excited to be able to offer our free Summer Brain Gain Program again this year! Through this program Club Community Members are able to participate in play-based learning to promote summer learning and increase academic standing for next school year. This program operates out of our new BGC Education Center located at 37 Hanover Street. Our Education Center will be home to various programs including BGC Summer Leadership, Summer Brain Gain, RBC Raise the Grade and more! Start your BGC Story today – register for our After School Program and look out for our free Youth Evening Program updates on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter at: @BGCGreaterSaintJohn

Local athletes shine in regional comp



Left to right: Harmony Doucet and Autumn Coulombe; Rebecca Crosby

The 2021 Virtual Star Quest Baton Twirling Regional competition took place in Moncton on Saturday April 24, 2021. Congratulations:

- Harmony Doucet earning Red Ribbon for Pre-Medley, Blue Ribbon for both Basic March and Forward Motion and 3rd Place 2021 Star Quest Twirler 8-11 Level 1.
- Autumn Coulombe earning Blue Ribbon for Basic March, White Ribbon for both Forward Motion and Basic March and 2nd Place 2021 Star Quest Twirler 4-7 Level 1.
- Rebecca Crosby 5 Gold Medallions for Medley, Solo, 2-Baton, Solo Dance, Open B Compulsories and 1st Place 2021 Soloist 18+ Level C. (Story and photos: Debbie Middleton)

St. Luke’s take-out lunch on Tuesdays



Above: Nathalie whipping up lunch at St. Luke’s; below, Kevin filling take-out lunch bags (Photos: Marlene Hull)

By The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin, Assistant Curate, St. Luke’s Anglican Church

We were on a bit of hiatus over the past months, but beginning in June we started to slowly relaunch our outreach program by beginning a take-out lunch each Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Folks trickled in the first couple of weeks, but now we are getting a good crowd each Tuesday.

We are looking forward to the fall when the majority of our volunteers and guests are fully vaccinated so we can begin resuming our sit-down service.



We’ve saved you a spot at Sophia’s table



By Julie Atkinson, Executive Director, Sophia Recovery Centre

At Sophia, our mission is to help women seeking freedom from addiction become empowered and connected to a supportive, safe community so that they are able to live healthy and purposeful lives. It’s a big goal but it generally breaks down into doing lots of little, but very powerful things. For example, all day, we make and share cups of tea and coffee - many, many cups of tea and coffee!

When you visit Sophia, you will find a comfortable set of rooms that will come to feel like your home away from home. Our living room and kitchen are welcoming spaces where you can relax and meet other women who will understand you. On Mondays, we host “Tea Time” at 1 p.m., a social time for women with light snacks, and tea and coffee, of course! Lex and Nicole, our peer support staff, are here and are ready to listen and chat. We are all eager to hear about your day and your week, whether it has been good, bad, ugly or some combination of all those things. In sharing our experiences around the kitchen table, we find strength and resilience in each other.

There are many women in our community who are seeking and finding recovery. You are not alone. Please call or message us, or just drop in!

The Centre is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays - Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Fridays. The tea bags are waiting for you and the coffee pot is always brewing.
We’ve saved you a spot at the table.

Call 633-8783 www.sophiarecoverycentre.com

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.



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Library's Grant Connect database helps non-profits find funding



Library assistant Sean Thompson using the Grant Connect database on a public library computer (Photo: Saint John Free Public Library)

By Sean Thompson, Library Assistant, Saint John Free Public Library

If your organization is searching for funding the Saint John Free Public Library can help! We are pleased to offer access to Grant Connect, a searchable directory of foundations and grants, for free to non-profits across the region.

This database has detailed information on thousands of grants, corporate donors, and funding opportunities available across Canada. Users can even see what types of organizations and projects received past funding.

Local groups can use Grant Connect in a couple of different ways. Those interested can visit the library in person to access the service directly, and also make an appointment with staff for an introductory tutorial.

They can also request more information through our website at www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries, phone us at (506) 643-7220, or email us at adult.sjtpl@gnb.ca.

This free service is offered by the New Brunswick Public Library Service at its five resource centres in Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, Edmundston, and Campbellton.

3076 heures d'activité physique en un mois aux CPE de l'ARCf!



Les jeunes du CPE La Vallée enchantée de Quispamsis ont participé à une session extérieure de Zumba. Crédit: Cathy Wojtala

Par Cathy Wojtala, Animatrice en santé communautaire et mieux-être, Association Régionale de la Communauté francophone (ARCf) de Saint-Jean

Les Centres de la Petite Enfance (CPE) Samuel-de-Champlain et La Vallée enchantée ont participé brillamment au Défi Ensemble, tout va mieux de ParticipACTION au cours du mois de juin. Depuis maintenant 50 ans, l'organisme ParticipACTION travaille à la promotion de l'activité physique auprès des communautés partout au Canada. L'objectif du défi était que chacun des 280 enfants fasse 30 minutes d'activité quotidienne durant les journées qu'ils passaient aux CPE, soit 168000 minutes. L'objectif a été atteint et même dépassé, puisque grâce à l'aide active des élèves de la 8e année du Centre scolaire Samuel-de-Champlain, nous avons réalisé 184597 minutes, soit plus de 3076 heures d'activités. Bravo à tous!

Reminder: 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.)

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**

SAVING ENERGY SAVES MONEY

Cool your home naturally by closing blinds and drapes on windows that are southern or western facing during the daytime to keep the heat out.



Teddy Bear Clinic



Left to right: Madeline Flower, Jessica London, Morsal Seddiq, Sydney Fitzgerald, Instructor Kim Wilbur, Lauren Conway, Alecia Trevors, Eric Coombs, and Tara Kaur (Photo: supplied)

By Haley Northrup, Bachelor of Nursing student, University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ)

Since the beginning of 2021, UNBSJ second-year Bachelor of Nursing students began to prepare for the Teddy Bear Clinic to be held at Seaside and Centennial Elementary schools. After months of preparation, the students assembled the clinic to be held on June 10th and 11th. Prior to the elementary students bringing their teddy bears to the clinic, they were placed in "Teddy Bear Quarantine." When the students arrived with their bears, they were first brought to the "Triage" station. Then, from there, they were directed to different stations where their bears could receive a cast or sling, have blood drawn or receive a vaccine, and look at their x-rays! This clinic was prepared as part of the students second-year paediatric rotation. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were involved.

Caring for kittens



By Nicole Parcon, Admin Support, Saint John SPCA Animal Rescue

Predators, illness, and disease are harmful to kittens, but so is a lack of food and immune support that comes from their mother if they are separated from her too soon. If you see a kitten, observe but do not touch or move them. Often, mother cats are simply out hunting for food or moving the babies to a safer place, which she does one at a time.

If after several hours there are no signs of mom, call Animal Control 633-1228 (press 0). Keep the kittens warm by wrapping them in warm dry towels or blankets and place in an open box or tote for transport.

The SPCA Animal Rescue will always accept orphaned kittens or a mom and kittens. Contact us for help. (Photo: submitted)

Music in the Park 2021



Left to right: Del Worden, Debbie Harrity, George Buchanan, Jeff Banks, and Mike Burley (Photo: Debbie McLeod)

Debbie McLeod, Community Involvement Coordinator, Social Development

There was a good crowd; many danced as Delbert and band belted out crowd favourites! The weather was beautiful, no sweaters were needed!

There were some special guests called up to sing with the band; Debbie Harrity and Danny Joyce were two but there were many others! Such talent in Saint John.

The event is sponsored by Waterloo Village Association, City of Saint John and Social Development. Thank you for your continued support of this event.

Food is being collected each week for the local food bank.

Next up will be:

Songwriters Circle on August 2nd.

Del and friends closing out the show on Aug 9th!

Hope to see you at the field!



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Al-Anon meetings in Saint John

The Al-Anon Family Groups (AFGs) are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope, in order to solve their common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.

Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination, political entity, organization, or institution, does not engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any cause. There are no dues for membership. Al-Anon is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions.

Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps, by welcoming and giving comfort to the families of alcoholics, and by giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic.

Meeting dates, times, and locations

- Monday, 7 p.m.
Silver Falls AFG, Silver Falls United Church Hall (outer building)
Corner of Loch Lomond and McAllister Drive, East Saint John
- Monday, 7 p.m.
ALATEEN Meetings
Download Al-Anon app to mobile devices, create your own personal account which will let you sign in to the meeting.
- Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Waterloo AFG, Stone Church (wheelchair access)
87 Carleton Street
- Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Woolastook AGF, St. Mark’s United Church (wheelchair access)
Dexter Drive
- Thursday, 7 p.m.
Portland AFG, Sophia Recovery Centre
83 Hazen Street (Ring buzzer # 1 for entrance)
Face-to-face and Zoom
- Sunday, 7 p.m.
District 15 Zoom meeting
To attend, please send your request by email to:
district15provinces@yahoo.com
Please leave your email address so you can be added to the Meeting List!

For further information and meetings in other communities, please visit www.alanonmaritimes.

Court Liaison training



(Photo: Elizabeth Clark)

By Elizabeth Clark, Court Liaison Coordinator, EFry New Brunswick (EFryNB)

EFryNB is preparing to host our third offering of the Volunteer Court Liaison training program. This four-week training features information about what a journey through the criminal justice system in New Brunswick entails. What is “bail” and why is it so important? What is a bail plan, and how can we create one? What are possible sentencing options available to a judge and what might this mean to women and gender-diverse people facing these sentences? What does an abusive relationship look like, and how can a person experiencing abuse be supported? What resources are available to people navigating the courts in New Brunswick?

Although we hope to gain some court liaison volunteers from this training, we also love sharing information with the public, and hope anyone interested in learning more about the criminal justice system will contact us for more information at efry@nb.aibn.com.

Walks ‘n Talks

By David Goss

- This is season 43 for this popular program. Like last year, it is subject to COVID restrictions, which means masks, social distancing, and pre-registration for all walks by contacting gosswalk@nbnet.nb.ca (or 672-8601) prior to the event to register. The walks are usually under two kilometers, and last about one-and-a half hours. Arrival should be 10 minutes before a walk to allow COVID checks prior the start time, which we follow strictly. In bad weather, please call 672-8601 one hour before the walk time to check. If a walk is cancelled, a recording will say so and give rescheduling information (usually the next day at the same time).
- August 3rd, 7:15 p.m. Exploration of the Shaarei Zedek Cemetery. Meet at the cemetery gate on Westmorland Road opposite Ellerdale Street.
 - August 17th, 7:15 p.m. Honouring first Black lawyer A. B. Walker at the Church of England; other significant monuments. Cemetery on Thorne Avenue. Meet on Egbert Street.
 - August 24th at 7:15 p.m. New Brunswickers who fought in the US Civil war. Meet at 200 Westmorland Road.
 - September 11th, 2 p.m. A walk along Lancaster Avenue as we explore the homes and the stories of the neighbours of Castle Fallsview Funeral Home. Meet at the Funeral home at # 309.
 - September 19, 2 p.m. “The Lighter Side of Cemeteries,” leaving from Fernhill Office, 200 Westmorland Road. Led by David Goss with a cameo appearance by comedian James Mullinger. For this walk, a ticket must be procured from Mr. Goss on any of the other walks. No day-of-walk show ups. **The 50 tickets are free** as this is sponsored by Fernhill Cemetery. No rain date.



STANDING FOR YOU!

Wayne Long, MP
Saint John-Rothesay
(506) 657-2500
Wayne.Long@parl.gc.ca

The Around the Block Interview: Christy Mellor-Gorham



Photo: Christy Mellor-Gorham

Christy Mellor-Gorham is the President, Saint John local of the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples' Council. She sat down with Around the Block to share with us her journey to that key role in the community, the opportunities and challenges facing those the NBAPC serves, and in this time of grief and reflection to share her thoughts on the recent findings at the residential school sites.

Thanks for making the time. Tell us a little bit about yourself.
My ancestry is, I'm Wolastoquey and - it takes me a minute to pronounce it because I'm learning it in the language - Peskotomuhkati - that is Passamaquoddy. My family has lived back and forth across the border over several generations, in Maine and New Brunswick, but the last couple of generations we've lived here in southern New Brunswick. And I'm a mama of four kids!

Your position is President of the recently elected board of the Saint John local.
Yes. I'm also currently still the provincial Youth Rep for the NBAPC; that position allows me to sit on the Board of Directors - our Chief, our Vice Chief, the youth representative, and then a representative from each of the seven zones around the province. I also sit on the National Youth Council for our umbrella organization, the Congress of Aboriginal People.

You are really involved!
I was dragged to events and meetings as a child and then eventually I became old enough for the youth position and got elected into that by other youth at a meeting, and then from there I became more involved with the community local. My grandfather, Robert Mellor, primarily encouraged me to take on more roles, when he was aging and I was the next generation. And he encouraged me to take on other positions as well and while he was alive mentored me through the beginning stages of that. Sheila Croteau was another who took on that mentorship role with me; she was the President of our local for quite a while as well and when she was looking to slow down we transitioned; she helped and supported me into that role.

Everyone that I know who knew Sheila spoke so highly of her and said what a great loss it was to the community when she passed.
Yes, she was so involved with everything - and so knowledgeable! So it was pretty great to be able to learn from her.

What's the area you serve and how many are in your community?
It's from Saint Stephen all the way to Sussex and everything in between but we're based in Saint John. There used to be other locals in that area but we're all in one now, the only one that's active. We represent that entire area and I was told there are around 5000 off-reserve Aboriginal people in the area. In the whole province I think the number is closer to 28,000 off-reserve.

What are some of your current objectives?
We've been talking about redeveloping the relationship between the City of Saint John and our local chapter. It was really strong when I was younger and I'm not sure what happened with the years, but it seems we're not as known anymore. We also hope to create relationships with the surrounding towns and villages - Quispamsis, Hampton, and so on.

I've interviewed many of the Saint John councillors and I hear a lot of progressive voices around the table. This might be a really good time to start trying to rebuild relationships!
When we started talking about it a few months ago as a community we decided to wait for the elections that were about to take place. So we're hoping to start that with the new Mayor and Council.

What are the main challenges and opportunities for your organization right now, and for the people you serve?
The biggest challenge is that we're very spread out across different urban and rural communities from Sussex to Saint Stephen. That's very large; it's a couple of hours' drive! So it is difficult to connect with one another in person. In the COVID-19 pandemic we tried to connect with Zoom, but it's definitely not the same as being able to see one another in person. As for opportunities we have some different things going on more under the provincial umbrella. We are based in Saint John but it's all available for the whole province.

What are the main programs and services available?
We have a fishing program for food, social, and ceremonial. There is education assistance for post-secondary, summer work terms for employer and employee opportunities, and then there's multiple different bursaries for all ages. For example there is a certificate of congratulations for children from kindergarten to grade six, assistance with purchasing things they need for school or summer camp. And we have a project called Looking Out For Each Other, assisting families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. They have a helpline that's available for indigenous families who've had someone go missing, to help them navigate through that. People think you have to wait 48 hours to report a missing person - that's false. There is no time that you have to actually wait to report a missing person; it's a misconception. So it breaks things down like that. And you may not be thinking logically so they are able to help you navigate through what you should do, who you should contact. You're not going to retain those things when you're in certain situations; it's great for that. Then there is Skigin Elnoo; they help with housing, anything from rentals to first-time home buyer programs to repairs on your home.

I want to ask one more question - if and only if you wish to talk about this. What is your reaction to the recent discoveries at the residential school sites?
This is probably the most difficult question for me to try and find words for. There's the obvious grief that comes along with it but also... it's not totally a surprise. Maybe the numbers were a bit of a shock but it's something that that has been talked about in our community before, where we felt that there were people that were not accounted for. I'm still navigating my own reflection on the discoveries. I want to share, I just haven't totally been able to find the words for it. I was even trying to talk to my dad about it this morning because I need to find words. Grief I guess covers a lot of it. We kind of expect more; I know they've been continuously finding, they've started searching other sites, so the number keeps growing. It's not 100% a surprise, which is sad. Personally, I am not a direct descendant of a residential school survivor because one of my grandmothers married a non-indigenous man, which in my thought process probably saved her potentially from having to experience that. But on the flip side, it also made it hard, made it so that our family lost our culture very quickly. Over the last couple of generations we've worked really hard to regain that!

Councillors’ Corner! Six councillors, two questions

Editor’s note: *Around the Block* continues the dialogue among our readers and elected officials. Here more responses to our communities’ questions, from the councillors from Wards 2 and 3 (where the priority neighbourhoods lie), and the councillors-at-large (city-wide representatives). On page 20 we also introduce three more councillors, from Wards 1 and 4. They all have a role to play is issues important to us. “Councillors’ Corner” is a regular feature, so please send questions to sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com for potential use in *Around the Block*.



Left to right: Brent Harris and Gary Sullivan (At Large); David Hickey and Gerry Lowe (Ward 3); and John MacKenzie and Barry Ogden (Ward 2)

What role do you feel the mayor and council can play in ending multi-generational poverty?

Brent: I believe first and foremost that you can’t solve something you don’t understand. People who are living on the front lines come with real concerns and they have ideas, and they’re just not given the same deference, they’re not invited the same way and that’s something that needs to change. The best we can do is a council is to continue to be a champion for them.

Gary: When we were facing our \$10 million structural deficit and going through, item by item, things the city should look at perhaps cutting the funding for, these service agreements didn’t even make it past the first round! We need to keep supporting priority neighbourhoods with base funding. The second thing we need to do is just be partners. If it’s a project going on for which the city has manpower or machinery, we can be a partner and support in-kind.

David: We need to ensure that we continue to support the funding programs for our community centres and associations. It is critical because that’s where you’re seeing the rubber hit the road on a lot of these communities. The next big role council can play is ensuring that those public-facing services are maintained and supported.

Gerry: It’s a question that has to be handled by the entire council, for instance fighting hard for a new school in the South End. I have been, for the last five years. All these new buildings are going up in the centre, in the South, and the people in the South End can’t afford to rent. So we have to get taxes down. The province has to eliminate double taxation so people can fix houses up without the rents going up so much. We’re an industrial city, 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.

John: I think it’s about getting involved. City councils always thought that it’s somebody else’s responsibility, provincial or federal. Now we

are starting to understand that this is our community: we need to stay connected to all the areas of it whether it’s our responsibility or not. The Neighbourhood Action Group and groups like that are something that the City Council needs to be more attached to.

Barry: One is the restoration of our neighbourhoods and that’s something I believe strongly in. I have been working on it with Marigolds and Murals. We need more affordable housing and I know that some of this is provincial and federal but we can be an advocate for it and we can also make sure that neighbourhoods have the amenities like playgrounds, and here in the North End we need a new elementary school. We can be an advocate for that.

The five community organizations used to have three-year service agreements; it’s down to two years recently. Do you think that growth and longevity in those service agreements should be incorporated into the City’s long-term financial plan?

Brent: Absolutely! The longer they can plan, the more funding they can leverage. And the other thing that we’re not even talking about is, how are we doing at collective impact grant writing? When I was in Hamilton, the University, the City, and the community centres often collaborated on big ambitious grants to make more accessibility, more livability, those items not in the city budget.

Gary: Longevity, yes, definitely so that they can plan. As far as growth of the agreements we have to look at that. I think it’s a model that works from a financial point of view, if the city invests \$25,000 into an organization that brings in another \$150,000-\$200,000 more every year - that’s a financial no-brainer.

David: Absolutely, ensuring that that funding grows and it’s guaranteed over the long term so that these community groups don’t have to be worried consistently about the spending arrangements. And when you look at all the programs that those centres coordinate, you see that our per-dollar investment has results way higher than any other services that we support!

Gerry: Yes, I do. I think the community centre on the West Side, PULSE in the South End, Waterloo Village - those are the three that I deal with - I don’t think they have to wait and wonder what’s coming, what income they have. I think that’s wrong. They are unbelievable, those organisations, for people that need them. You can see the problems that exist, and the City can do more, and the City should do more.

John: Absolutely! I was the one that fought hard to get the three-year financial commitment from the City and then they dropped it to two. But I believe that we need to go back to a three- or five-year commitment. We as a City are looking for long-term guarantees on revenue so that we can plan things, so we have to extend that to our neighbourhoods! It’s great for planning; it protects programming going forward.

Barry: I would say yes, that’s something we should certainly look at!



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Councillors’ Corner! Part two

Editor’s note: As promised last time, we caught up with some councillors from Wards 1 and 4 and asked them the same questions from the priority neighbourhoods that we used in the Mayoralty Forum and in Issue 77 for Wards 2 and 3 and At Large. Here is a sampling from our interviews with Councillors Joanna Killen, Greg Norton, and Paula Radwan, with more to come in Issue 79! We hope to talk with every councillor by the next issue. 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* interviews. Reach out and be heard!



Joanna Killen, Ward 1

On poverty reduction: supporting community centres

I think that’s completely our job, to make sure that we are staying in touch with these community leaders such as yourself and others. I’m keenly aware that just because Ward 1 isn’t necessarily considered a priority neighbourhood, there are lots of people that go to the Carleton, they go and use a lot of these places that are meant for those in that particular situation. So we need to be in the know basically around who these community leaders are and what it is that they need from us. The work on the part of the non-profits is really, really going well so it’s just a matter of growing our tax base enough so we can contribute back into levels that used to be, for instance for some of these places. Our job is to be the ones reaching out and making sure we’re consistent with our communication with these leaders.

I think that capacity building is something that I have seen the Social Enterprise HUB do, the Carleton Community Centre is really getting at some of that, and the Nick Nicolle... all these folks are so good at what they do in the situation we’ve been brought, in the last few years. And as we continue to grow as a city - we’re seeing immense action on that side of things - this has to be a key consideration, how we help grow these really important community centres.

I think we have a really important role to play in making sure that we are mindful of all those wonderful provincial and federal programs that speak to some of these issues and making sure that we’re working with people in these levels of government to actually implement these plans. As we know we’ve experienced so, so many generations of poverty in Saint John, and as it continues we need to be completely front and centre, helping them implement the things that they need to implement, and to help combat those types of things.

And, yes, we understand our limits as a municipal government in dealing with some of the more socially-based issues. I think it’s just that we have to make sure that everything that is being done is easy and successful - facilitated with us as councillors.



Greg Norton. Ward 1

On poverty reduction: priorities

One of the things that municipal politics does well, I believe, better than any other level of government, is that we’re connectors. We don’t just go it alone. In terms of ending generational poverty, we’re a connector, a collaborator, an influencer on things such as child poverty, low literacy - those things that are of social concern in many of our priority neighbourhoods. We are able to connect those individuals with the levels of government with those funding envelopes and those organisations that can help end it.

We can’t do it alone. The City of Saint John can’t end poverty; neither can the provincial government; neither can the federal government. Neither can any one particular organization – PALS, Living Saint John, ESIC. They just can’t do it. But together, I would say, a rising

tide lifts all boats and that is where the City can bring many people together in one course to help leave things better than we found them, at the end of a four-year mandate.

But first off it means that it has to be priority, and we can only have so many priorities. So the first thing we have to do is identify it [poverty reduction] as a priority; if it’s not, we’re going to have little impact. The second is, once it’s identified as a priority, how do we bring people together to make sure that generational poverty goes the way of the dinosaur?

I think it’s reflected in policies, it’s reflected in where the money’s spent. I’m a big believer in the fact that if you want to know what the priorities are of a particular level of government, you just have to follow where the money is. When you see a new parking lot, when you see new air handling and it’s done, that’s obviously a priority. if you see new roads and new playgrounds, that’s a priority. if you see you new community centres and new increase in funding and community grants, well then, that’s the priority. How did you know the voice [of communities] is being heard? Follow the money.

So in community policing, when it’s a priority, is the money being directed to find community policing?



Paula Radwan, Ward 4

On poverty reduction: community

Obviously access to food is really important - food scarcity. I think about supporting things like community gardens. We have a couple of neighbourhoods, like over in the North End, where they have these community gardens and they’re able to plant vegetables. Unfortunately that is seasonal, but it certainly helps in the summer and getting into fall, to be able to get fresh vegetables. And I’ve heard of things like this happening: for example, two different community members, one grows cucumbers and one is growing tomatoes. They can exchange goods with each other so that they have a variety of vegetables. It seems like such a foreign system for us now with the way that technology has changed the world.

I think the great thing about community gardens is that they really bring people together. When it comes to us communicating person to person I wonder if we’re maybe losing sight of that, so that’s another thing that a community garden can really help with, actually building relationships. You’re learning about the environment, how to grow produce or herbs.

Community gardens also give a sense of pride. To bring in that community pride, for example, Councillor Stewart and myself are getting ready to do a community cleanup in Glen Falls on September 18th. I had talked to some people before and they said we don’t usually get a very good turnout there, so I talked to Randy Hatfield [Human Development Council] about how to encourage that, and I asked Councillor Ogden if he would join, because he’s done such a phenomenal job in bringing communities together in the past. It’s something that he does on a daily basis.

I just really want the community to feel the sense of pride, be able to teach the kids look after the environment, help each other, look after each other. Those sort of things that can really help build the community - community gardens, a community project. We do have a few associations and there’s a couple of new ones that are being formed on the East Side too,so I want to be able to give them support, to see where any sort of issues are. Sometimes it could be a small issue, sometimes it’s a really big issue in the community. I think that just being out there and trying to meet the community lets them know that you’re there for them, so when there are issues that arise, you’re able to support them.