



Around *the* Block



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Ralph Thomas honoured with Order of New Brunswick



Ralph Thomas (Photo: Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education - PRUDE Inc.)

By ATB and PRUDE Inc.

The names of the 10 new recipients of the Order of New Brunswick were announced on September 9th in Fredericton – and they included a Saint Johner well-known to our residents: Ralph Thomas.

Since 1997, Mr. Thomas has been President of PRUDE Inc., an advocacy and service group for Black, ethnic and newcomer communities in Saint John. He has led PRUDE to expand their mandate by including visible multicultural minorities and newcomers, and to mitigate the barriers faced by women from these communities.

(Continued on page 14)

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SAINT JOHN



The Empty Stocking Fund: registration deadline November 15th

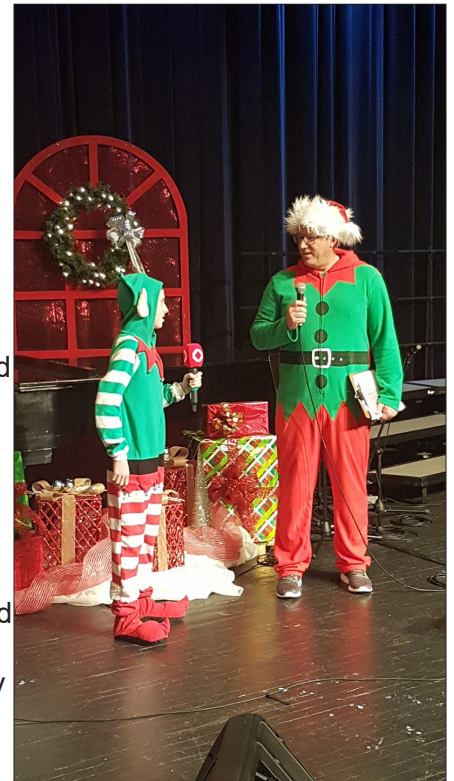
By Patti Blake, Coordinator, Empty Stocking Fund

The Empty Stocking Fund is a well-known charity that is now 109 years old. The mission is to raise funds to ensure that all children in the Greater Saint John area have a joyful holiday season.

Children must be between one and 12 years old. Registration is open October 1st - November 15th, 2021 FIRM. The parent or legal guardian must take government-issued ID that shows the ages of the children (ex. Medicare). Many social/case workers, churches, and other local agencies will register the children. Important: The Empty Stocking Fund does not accept applications directly. As hours of operation will vary, it is advised to call in advance of arrival.

Gift cards will be distributed where you register.

Be sure to register early. Additional applications are available at www.emptystockingfund.ca



SEE BACK PAGE FOR APPLICATION FORM

Above: Telethon host Scott Thomas performing with his son, Henry.
(Photo: The Empty Stocking Fund)

From the Editor's desk:

Choices have consequences

Lorna Brown, sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

As I write on September 26th, New Brunswick is back in a State of Emergency and we are in Yellow phase. The numbers tell a sad story: as of yesterday, there were 580 active cases of COVID-19 in New Brunswick; 32 people were in hospital with the illness, 13 badly enough to be in Intensive Care; and there had been 53 deaths. In a Facebook post, Horizon Health "is asking the public to consider their health care options before presenting to an Emergency Department" because of "experiencing critical staff shortages."

85% of yesterday's new cases of COVID-19 were in people who were not fully vaccinated. It is true that some people cannot receive the vaccine, for legitimate reasons. But most people over 12 CAN. Most of the suffering, the danger to others, and the strain on the health care system could so easily have been prevented. We have the tool now. We have the vaccines that 18 months ago we feared might not be found for years, if ever. So most of us have been vaccinated, twice, and most of us understand that we do this not so much for ourselves as to protect others. We do it for community.

If you are upset that you are denied entry to many places now if you are unvaccinated, know that this situation is not an infringement of your rights. No one is mandating that you sit in a chair and get the needle in your arm. It is your body. You are free not to - just as you are free to drink 20 beer, if you are over 19. You just can't drink 20 beer and then drive a vehicle, because you will be endangering others. You also can't drive without a license. That is not an infringement of your rights, either; you are not alone on the road. You live in a community. Please protect yourself and us: get the jabs!

Peace and joy to all for the lovely NB autumn. And send us your thoughts on *Around the Block* (page 18) - you could win a gift card! - and your questions for Councillors (page 19).

ONE Future Celebration of Achievement

By Jill Richards-Cook, Coordinator, ONE Future

Together with family and friends, 14 participants from ONE Future's: Digital Media Marketing through Storytelling program marked the completion of their 12-week training on August 20th, with a *Celebration of Achievement*.

Participants Jerry Birchill and Avery Price each spoke on the change that ONE Future had made for them. Then, Workplace Essential Skills Instructor Shawnee Sue Steeves addressed the class, talking about how the participants can bring value to an organization by being action-oriented employees.

Following the awarding of certificates, participants got a chance to delight the audience with their demo reels that featured photos, video clips, and graphics created throughout the program.

All of our ONE Future participants are now out on their work placements in various non-profits and small businesses in the area. ONE Future's Sean Simpson will be on multiple worksites to offer mentorship and support to assist participants in making an impact with their digital storytelling.

If you are interested in an upcoming ONE Future program, or if you are an employer interested in hosting a (funded) placement contact: jill.onefuture@gmail.com

(Poster: Jill Richards-Cook)



Back to school

By Julia Cool, Executive Assistant, ONE Change Inc.

Where did the summer go? Seems like yesterday the kids were just starting their summer vacation. We had a busy summer here in the Old North End with our summer camp, which kept many children busy. We wrapped up summer with a juicebox party in the park, BBQ, and our Annual Street Dance.

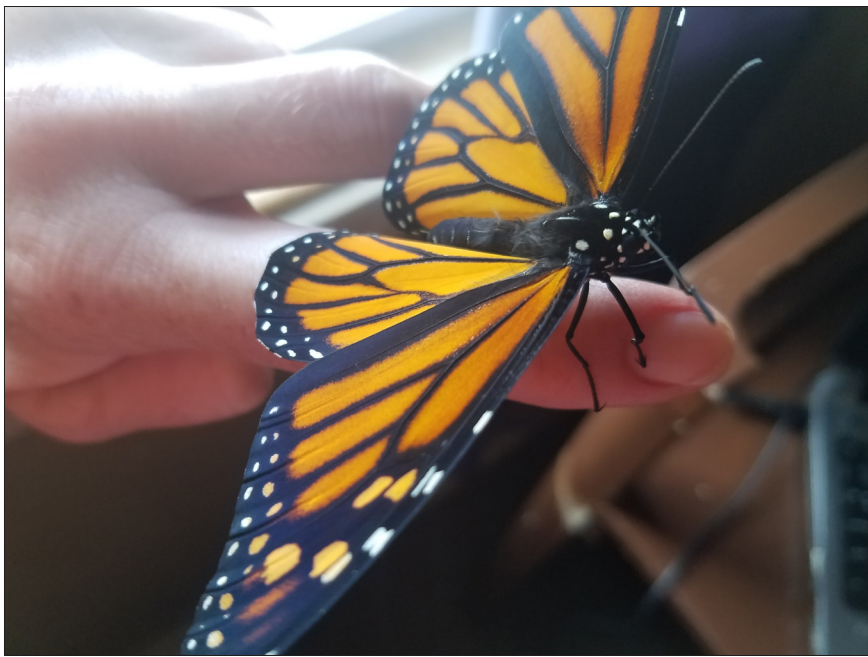
With a generous donation from United Commercial Travelers Jack Kidd Council 746 (see photo) we were able to help over 50 children from the community with school supplies, lunch bags, and back packs.

If you drive, slow down during school hours. Help keep our community safe.



(Photo: Christa Petts)

Chrissy and her Monarch butterflies



(Photo: Christine Honeywell)

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

Chrissy, one of our amazing residents, came to the centre to visit us and she brought a little friend with her. To our surprise she has been growing Monarch butterflies to set them free. We were so amazed at how beautiful they were. Her knowledge and background about her butterflies educated us all. We are looking forward to bringing her in to show our children in the after-school program. She really loves animals and loves her butterflies. Chrissy also volunteers in cleanups, and she participated in our Grow a Salad program. She donated plants back to give to other community members. I am so proud to hear our residents are helping to beautify our neighbourhood.

Ship mural



(Photo: Latoya Grant)

By John Driscoll, ONE Change

What amazing work done by Malaki, Seth, and Abigail who painted this wonderful mural on Adelaide Street in the Old North End showcasing great artwork they do. This helps brighten our community and lets everyone enjoy artwork done by community members. It is so nice to see young people getting involved in projects around their area and each day coming up with bigger and better things so that makes everyone in the Old North End call it home. Thank you to The Saint John Community Loan Fund and to our friends at Dykeman's Hardware for making this happen, and to everyone who had all kinds of wonderful things to say. We appreciate each and every one of you.

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 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. We are now into YELLOW; you will still see our staff and volunteers wearing masks. We will always have masks available for you at the door!

Don't forget we can apply online for the Low Income \$400 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! Remember we are open year-round.

Please remember our monthly Food Purchase Club money is due October 15th and November 12th 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 have been permanently moved to Thursdays! We will be open October 7th and 21st from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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



Peter Hollinger: Beloved Gardener at Rainbow Park Garden, 2018-2021

By PULSE and Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association

Usually found sitting on the bench, enjoying the sunshine and watching all the gardens grow, many in the community know Peter as the caretaker of the Rainbow Park Community Garden, offering advice and sharing his passion for growing. He took a special pride in his own plots, especially his prized tomato plants. Peter loved to hear about what you were growing; you could see his blue eyes light up as he listened to your garden stories. This place was his home away from home and he made sure his plots were reserved well in advance. Gardening made him happy and his recent passing has touched many of our gardeners' hearts.



Above right: Peter Hollinger (Photo Penni Eisenhauer)



The Honorable Arlene Dunn MLA Saint John Harbour

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Roots & Wings (R&W) Pop-Up Cafe

By Lisa Morris

The evening of August 19th you could hear music and good conversation coming from the PULSE Parking Lot. PULSE and R&W teamed up to kick off the end of summer by hosting a free pop-up café for residents including music from Jess Darrah, a drink menu that included Iced Coffees and Lavender Blueberry Lemonade and the R&W gardeners' most talked-about recipe: Cinnamon Pita Chips and Mango Salsa! It was wonderful seeing everyone and catching up; we look forward to next time.



The pop-up café
(Photo: Mary LeSage)

A special thank you to PULSE and the R&W's gardeners who put this together!

Cinnamon Chips Recipe

Approx. 10 flour tortillas (any size will do)

1/2 cup melted butter

1/3 cup sugar

2 tsp cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350°.

Mix sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl. Set aside.

Brush flour tortillas with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture. Cut each tortilla into eight wedges. (I use a pizza cutter)

Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 6-8 minutes or just until crisp. (Keep a close eye!)

Mango Salsa

3 ripe mangos, diced

1 medium red bell pepper, chopped

1/2 cup chopped red onion

1/4 cup packed fresh cilantro leaves, chopped

1 jalapeño, seeded and minced

1 large lime, juiced (about 1/4 cup lime juice)

1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon salt, to taste

Combine the prepared mango, bell pepper, onion, cilantro and jalapeño. Drizzle with the juice of one lime. Stir the ingredients together. Season to taste with salt, and stir again.

Best to let the salsa rest for 10 minutes or longer. You can store the salsa in the refrigerator, covered, for several days but is best when eaten fresh!

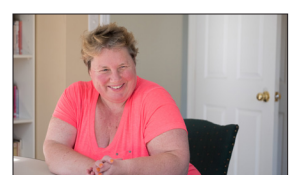


Roots & Wings Garden Project

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

South Neighbourhood Contact

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632-6807



Youth volunteers in Crescent Valley



Jayden (right) receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Olivia Clancy, Food Security Coordinator (Photo: Olivia Clancy)

By Anne Driscoll, Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)

This summer the Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) was fortunate to have two hard-working youth volunteers assist the Centre’s staff with the Growing Place Community Garden and the Saint John Bike Share Program. Jayden is a 14-year-old student from Crescent Valley. While he is no stranger to the CVRC, over the summer he began to spend multiple afternoons per week helping The Growing Place summer staff with caring for the community garden and running events. He spent 35+ hours volunteering in the garden! He says “I have been volunteering at the centre since I was in grade two. You guys are the best!”

Ronin Vesna is a high school student from Kennebecasis Valley. What began as a short, hands-on tutorial learning how to fix his own bike turned into a summer of assisting the Saint John Bike Share Program’s technician Wayne King repair, strip, and refurbish bikes for folks from all over the city. This summer, Ronin volunteered 60+ hours with the Program! “I enjoyed working here and learned a lot about bike repair,” said Ronin. “It was great to volunteer here.” The staff of the CVRC wishes Jayden and Ronin a successful year at high school and we look forward to having them continue to volunteer in Crescent Valley.



Wayne King, Bike Technician, presents Ronin Vesna with his Certificate of Appreciation (Photo: Olivia Clancy)

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



Celebrate Canadian Library Month at the Saint John Free Public Library



Sean Thompson getting ready for the next book club (Photo: SJFPL)

By Sean Thompson, Library Assistant

October is Canadian Library Month, and it coincides with the return of many of our most popular events and programs.

Our first in-person author reading this year takes place October 2nd at 1 p.m. as Leo Lafleur leads families in readings and songs from his lovely book series, *The Errand*. On October 21st at 6 p.m. join Julian Walker as he launches *Wires Crossed*, a memoir of his time in journalism and a call for a healthier free press in New Brunswick.

If you are in the neighbourhood, join Sean Thompson at one of our Outreach Book Clubs, once a month at Brunswick Drive, **Crescent Valley Tenants Association**, and (coming soon) Stephenson Tower!

Other regular programming continues through October, including Children’s Storytime, E-Clinics for tech help, and more! For more information, contact the library at 643-7220 or sjfpl@gnb.ca, or follow us on Facebook (@sjfpl), Twitter (@saintjohnfpl), and Instagram (@saintjohnfpl).



The Executive & Board Of The
Crescent Valley Community
Tenants Association
Would Like To Congratulate
"Around The Block"
On The Amazing
13th Anniversary
Of Their Community Newspaper.

Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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693-8513



New Neighbourhood Developer at Carleton Community Centre (CCC)



Tim and his family (Photo: provided by Tim Chaffey)

By **Dustin Leclerc, Executive Director, CCC**

Welcome Tim Chaffey!

Tim joined our team as the new Neighbourhood Developer for the Lower West of Saint John mid-September. With years of charitable experience working on the front lines of program delivery, Tim brings strong relationship-building skills to the role.

In his new role as Neighbourhood Developer, Tim will be supporting our neighbourhood residents and working with them to achieve their goals.

**Want to learn more about his position/project?
Contact Tim at 506-658-2920 or
tim@carletoncommunitycentre.ca.**

Make your mental health a priority!

Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick Saint John office is pleased to announce upcoming fall programs.

Life After Loss: Survivors of Suicide

October 7th - December 9th, 2021
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This 10-week program is for individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. A supportive environment that encourages listening and sharing stories with others who have experienced a loss through suicide, while enhancing your understanding about suicide and helping you move forward in the healing process.

D2R: From Dependency to Recovery

October 13th - December 1st, 2021
Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

An eight-week program for individuals who are living with an addiction. The program will provide information and resources to assist individuals in staying focused on recovery which takes effort and a strong support system.

Mindfulness

October 18th - November 22nd, 2021
Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A six-week skills-based program designed to introduce you to the benefits and practice of mindfulness in your everyday life and to teach you the basics of mindfulness meditation. Participants will learn how to practice mindfulness to calm the mind and to improve both mental and physical health.

**For more information or to pre-register,
call 652-1447
or email:
dawn.odell@cmhanb.ca**



United Way
Saint John, Kings
& Charlotte

Making Local Issues

#UNIGNORABLE

Now, more than ever, your community needs your support.

**Show Your Local Love
Donate Today**



Happy Anniversary Around the Block!



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
New Brunswick
Mental health for all

**Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale**
Nouveau-Brunswick
La santé mentale pour tous

**WHEREVER
KIDS ARE,
CLUBS ARE**

DONATE TODAY
AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE
HAVE THE BEST
#BGCBACK2SCHOOL



**The Honourable Dorothy Shephard
MLA Saint John Lancaster**

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West Side Neighbourhood Contact

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506 658-2920



TRC's Queen Square Farmers' Market booth (Photo: TRC)

TRC youth volunteers

By Cassandra Moneete, Teen Resource Centre (TRC)

There are moments where I find myself in awe of the youth we work with. This summer, our TRC youth have found multiple ways to build up spaces in our communities and invite us to learn more about who they are and what is important to them. I would like to send a very proud shout out to all the youth who have been part of these projects. FAR Away Kitchen is a group of youth who have come together through their love of food and culture. This summer they succeeded in earning a spot at the Queen Square City Market through the months of July and August. It was a whirlwind of lessons and by the end, they are stronger than ever and their food is absolutely delicious! Check them out on Facebook: FAR Away Kitchen.

Eight of our newcomer youth took part in the I-Click Photography program, where they dedicated their time to exploring cultural identity and growing up between worlds. Each youth displayed two photographs representing the stories they wanted to share with our community. Their exhibit, Middle Ground, was a deeply insightful event hosted at the Saint John City Market. This project ran in partnership with the Teen Resource Centre, the Saint John Arts Centre, and the University of New Brunswick. It was also part of the Third Shift Festival.

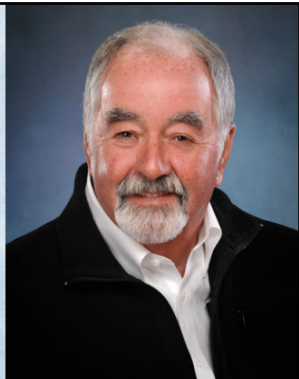
trc
TEEN RESOURCE CENTRE

CONGRATULATIONS AROUND
THE BLOCK ON YOUR 13TH
ANNIVERSARY!!

Pathways
to Education

Gerry Lowe
Ward 3 City Councillor

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



Under one roof

By Diane Kerns, Avenue B

We are very pleased to announce that Fresh Start Services and Avenue B Harm Reduction have joined forces under one roof. Each of the organizations continues to provide their individual services and maintain their own identity but there is now the convenience of accessing those services with one stop.

Many individuals typically access both of our services on a regular basis. Having a shared space allows clients easy access to all that both agencies have to offer. Staff and volunteers are able to work together to provide the best of both worlds.

We ask for your patience as we work out some of the kinks, sort out the boxes, and get to know each other. We can be found at 62 Waterloo Street and invite you to check out our shared space!



Fresh Start Services



Welcome, Lois Irvine!

By the Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP)

PCAP would like to welcome Lois Irvine as a new Case Manager to our team. She has been with us since August, covering Hallie Merry's Maternity Leave. (Congrats to Hallie and her family on the birth of another beautiful baby girl!)

Lois has her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and worked for Social Development 11 years in the Disability Support Program for adults and then finished off her career in the Children's Residential Services unit before her retirement in 2018. She is a lifelong volunteer with various groups and organizations through out Atlantic Canada. She lives in Saint John with her orange cat Winnie and has two grown daughters.

We are grateful Lois has come out of retirement to join our team as we are still accepting referrals! Please call (506) 214-1186 anytime between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Above right: Lois Irvine (Photo: Joanna Beckett)



**Waterloo-Village
Neighbourhood Contact**

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commorg.penni@gmail.com
Saint John Learning Exchange
139 Prince Edward Street
647-8047



PALS welcomes Michael Whelton to our team!



Michael Whelton and Susan Tipper (Photo: PALS)

By Deb Fisher, PALS Co-ordinator

PALS is very pleased to announce that we have expanded the PALS En Route to Success program to not only include St. Malachys Memorial High School but Saint John High School as well. We are looking forward to working with both these schools in the coming year. As a result of this expansion, we are very excited to welcome Mr. Michael Whelton as the PALS En Route to Success Lead for Saint John High School.

Michael has been a Principal, Vice-Principal, guidance counselor, Anglophone South District lead as well as a high school and middle school teacher. Michael brings with him a wealth of knowledge and available resources that we know will be a positive addition to our program and one that our students will be able to access.

We (Deb Fisher, Susan Tipper and Michael Whelton) are all looking forward to seeing everyone again and continuing our work with the schools and students of our community.



Gleaming floors, fortunate school

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

I have worked at SJBKE for many years - despite witnessing the summer cleaning process many times over, the restorative works our custodians undertake in the warm months never cease to amaze me.

The oldest part of our school is many decades old, with original floors. Seeing these at the end of June with the wear and tear of yet another year on their careworn tiles and you mightn't give them a second glance. Come back in September and you are treated to something very special - a surface so clean, bright, and shiny that you can see yourself clearly in the gleaming reflection, while finding yourself wondering how such a thing is possible, even though you've witnessed the same effect before every school start for years.

The answer lies, of course, with our wonderful custodians, who take their job and the work they do far beyond what one would expect.

We are so fortunate and grateful to have Rose, Scott, and Bryan on our team, helping us to build the village of wonderful people, in all vocations, that help SJBKE provide the best environment possible for our community.

Above: A vintage floor in the King Edward wing, shining like new, ready for the kids! (Photo: Ben Gillcrist)



A new school year at Centennial!

By Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, Centennial School

We are very excited to be starting a new year of learning here at Centennial. Our Stingers are looking forward to an amazing year filled with lots of wonderful opportunities. We are very fortunate to be welcoming several new staff members to our team this year, as well as having some veteran team members assume roles outside of the classroom. We would like to welcome all of our new staff into our Stinger family! As a school, we would also like to give a huge thank you to all of our truly valued and dedicated custodial staff who worked so hard during the summer months to ensure that we are returning to a school that is not only safe but sparkling clean as well!



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



Deborah Fisher
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Susan Tipper
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We ALL have something to offer!

We're back and better than ever!



Prince Charles School students enjoying a recess break
(Photo: Prince Charles School)

By Lori Doyle, Principal, Prince Charles School

We are so excited to be back for another school year of learning, friends, and fun! The resiliency of our staff, families and students has helped us adjust to our new guidelines to keep everyone safe. Bins of breakfast food are in the classrooms each morning to help get our brains ready for learning. The Boys & Girls Club look after lunches for us and our Monarchs are energized! We are so fortunate to have so many kind, community-minded folks who support us! We send out a “we miss you” message to our volunteers and partners and are so looking forward to seeing you all again soon! If you'd like to add to our breakfast/snack bins please give us a call at 658-5355.

HWSF student gardeners

By Vicki Lawrence

All summer long our Hazen White-St. Francis (HWSF) students were hard at work weeding, watering, and harvesting our garden plots at The Growing Place Community Garden in Crescent Valley. We had a plentiful crop full of lettuce, kale, beets, carrots, and some beautiful marigolds. Our students really took pride in the garden and were very invested in maintaining it throughout the summer months. They were also very excited to harvest and take home their fruitful pickings to use in meals at home. A few favourites were using the lettuce to make salads and using the carrots to make soup!



We are so thankful to the Crescent Valley Resource Centre and their partners for enabling our students to learn how they can grow their own food, and to provide them with the opportunity for this hands-on learning.

Above right: HWSF student Kadin in front of one of their plots (Photo: HWSF)

Attention all high school youth, family, and school personnel!



By Anna Merrithew, Education Manager, BGC Greater Saint John

RBC Raise the Grade is an individualized support and mentorship evening drop-in program for high school youth in the Greater Saint John area. They are recruiting high school students (limited spaces) and volunteers to be a part of the fun!

RBC Raise the Grade gives youth the opportunity to be matched with a suitable mentor who will connect with and motivate them to explore strengths and interests and then guide them to how to excel in those areas. Youth in this program have a constant stream of support for academic ability through mentorship, tutoring, and goal setting which gives them the academic freedom and confidence to discover their purpose and turn it into deliberate career paths. This cultivates a meaningful and lasting relationship with their education. Knowing that someone is on your side makes a difference in achieving the life you have always dreamed of.

RBC Raise the Grade is located at the new BGC Education Centre at 37 Hanover Street, second floor, and operates from 5:30-8:30 p.m. every weeknight starting October 4th, 2021. Transportation for members is provided (some exceptions apply).

If you are interested in participating as a youth or volunteer please reach out by email to anna.merrithew@sjclub.ca, phone (506) 349-9153, or register right away on our website: www.sjbgclub/raise-the-grade



Get a head start on your future.
Join RBC Raise the Grade today!



Social Pediatrics Centre now open



Some neighbourhood friends drop in to check out the new Centre
(Photo: Sarah Gander)

By NB Social Pediatrics

NB Social Pediatrics is a network of doctors, social workers, clinicians, researchers, students, volunteers, community partners, and families that are dedicated to building and sustaining healthy communities in New Brunswick. We are pleased to announce the opening of our Community Social Pediatrics Centre at 106 Princess Street. Community Social Pediatrics has the primary goal of helping children reach their full potential. We facilitate family support, social services, enrichment opportunities and medical care to help children meet their goals. Watch out for more information about our official launch and upcoming programs. Special thanks to the NB Children’s Foundation, the TR Meighen Family Foundation and the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) for their support in making the Centre a reality. For more information go to: www.nbsocialpediatrics.com.

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, 8 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:
district15mprovinces@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.



Congratulations on your 13th Anniversary!



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

One person, one unit, and one case plan at a time

By Cathy Boyce, Affordable Housing Specialist, Human Development Council

Working in the homeless-serving sector is a challenging gig. Daily, workers see their clients face many barriers.

Amidst the chaos of the frontlines, there are bright moments of hope that help to fuel the good work. They keep us going and lead us toward our goal of ending chronic homelessness in Saint John.

Since the pandemic arrived in NB in March 2020, a dedicated group of housing and shelter providers and community agencies have gathered around a virtual Zoom table. Discussion focuses on an end to homelessness in Saint John, one person, one unit, and one case plan at a time.

The conversations at the Saint John Case Conferencing table are difficult and focus on the daily struggles that our neighbours face as they navigate the increasingly tricky housing market. Daunting stories of rapidly rising rents and the threat of spending another night on the streets are too frequent.

Despite the complex situations they face every day, those who work in the homeless-serving sector continue to bring hope, compassion, and persistence to their work. Amidst the day-to-day and systemic challenges, there are stories of hope that, coupled with the shared aim to end homelessness in our community, help to feed the momentum.

Across the province and the country, there are tables just like this one, working to create a more just and equitable world for those experiencing homelessness. We open our case conferencing meetings with a guiding statement which includes the following words:

We are here because we believe everyone has a right to live in a safe, affordable home. Each of us brings to this table a different set of experiences and opinions. Every voice is valued, and all perspectives are needed. Together, we create solutions that would not be possible alone.

In the language of social work or social justice movements, we often describe the people we support as vulnerable. Many of the stories we hear at the Case Conferencing table showcase incredible resilience and desire for equity.

Perhaps we re-frame the problem of homelessness from an experience of those who are vulnerable to a situation wherein multiple barriers create inequitable access to housing and community support. Through our work as a community, together, we continue to guide equity-seeking people in their journey towards a free and just life – and in that way, we transform our world.

Let's keep going.



Spring and summer cleanups

By The HUB Green Team

The HUB Green Team is so thankful for the volunteers who came out to our spring and summer cleanups this year. What a success! Together we are working to create a healthy and safe community while improving the natural environment. Are you interested to get more involved? The Green Team is always looking for new members to bring fresh ideas and conversation to our monthly meetings.

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 12 p.m. and we would love to see you there! Reach out at hubgreenteam@gmail.com for more information!



Top: Volunteers from the Saint John Community Loan Fund at the summer cleanup (Photo: Abigail Reinhart)
Bottom: The Green Team and volunteers posing with the cleanup pile after the spring cleanup in Waterloo Village (Photo: ACAP Saint John)



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HELP STARTS HERE





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Crypt, Eden, Jordyn, Sarah, Ben: CEJSB Productions

By Abigail Reinhart, Saint John Community Loan Fund

The Youth Entrepreneurship program had another successful season of positive impact. A total of 45 youth were involved and six micro businesses were started. They came with ambitious ideas to address issues they were concerned about that ranged from affordable housing to social isolation amongst youth.

The group of youth pictured above left returned for their second time in the program. With passion and a natural gift for creative writing, a business idea came quite naturally. They formed a plan to start a writing and animation group to provide entertainment for youth experiencing boredom and social isolation. Their vision is for the long term but they've already started writing short stories and bringing them to life through characters and imagination.

At the Social Enterprise HUB they had a chance to have a brainstorming and question/answer session with *Around the Block* Editor, Lorna Brown, where they came away feeling even more inspired and supported. CEJSB Productions will work together over the school year and continue their venture into the future.

Cotton Candy - Life is Sweet

By Abigail Reinhart, Saint John Community Loan Fund

Aleksey and Valentina, pictured left, are some of Saint John's youngest and most dedicated entrepreneurs. It was our pleasure at the Loan Fund to work with these amazing youth to help them grow their cotton candy business. The siblings put their heads together to come up with the idea of making cotton candy and selling it to kids in Saint John or anyone interested in fun, tasty treats.

With the help of their amazing and supportive parents, the idea became a reality. The family worked together to create a business plan and get everything they needed to start.

They began selling cotton candy at the Saint John City Market on Saturdays. "Cotton Candy - Life is Sweet" soon became known for their unique New Brunswick organic maple flavoured cotton candy. Aleksey and Valentina realized that cotton candy wasn't just for kids; adults also loved to put it in their coffee or drinks as a sweetener.

Aleksey (13) and Valentina (10) participated in the Loan Fund's Youth Entrepreneurship program and loved meeting the team, spending time at the HUB, learning with other youth entrepreneurs and being involved in the community carnival with other youth from all over Greater Saint John.

The carnival on the boardwalk was their best sales day yet and they were kind enough after to share their products with their fellow youth entrepreneurs in the program. They continue to sell their cotton candy at the City Market on Saturdays - and learn more about entrepreneurship as they go!



Left to right: Crypt, Eden, Jordyn, Ben. Missing: Sarah
(Photo: Brent Pugsley)



Valentina and Aleksey Myzdrikov (Photo: Abigail Reinhart)

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Calling all volunteers!



(Photo: Shauna Sands)

By Shauna Sands, ACAP Saint John

ACAP Saint John has pledged to plant 10,000 trees in 2021 and **we need your help!**

During the month of October we will have many opportunities for YOU to get out and plant native trees throughout the Greater Saint John area to improve our green spaces and protect our wildlife.

These events will be open to all ages. **Please send us an email (office@acapsj.org) for more information.**



Anne Bardou plants a tree at the Caledonia Brook storm water pond in Milledgeville (Photo: ACAP)

The Learning Exchange Academic Program (LEAP)



Logo design: Holly Grenier

By Ginny Hooper, LEAP Instructor, The Learning Exchange

The Learning Exchange has recently launched our most flexible academic program yet! The Learning Exchange Academic Program (LEAP), created in March of 2021, offers both in-person and online General Educational Development (GED) and Adult High School Diploma classes. We have always worked hard to meet learners where they are and give them flexible options that will work for them to help them meet their academic and employment goals.

During the pandemic our classes were entirely online for a few months; once in-person classes started up again, we recognized that there was a need to continue online classes as well – and so, LEAP was born! The name and logo came from the learners who said it was something that reflects the class and their journey.

For more information about LEAP or other programs offered by The Learning Exchange visit our website (<https://www.sjle.org>) or contact us at:

(506) 648-0202 or info@sjle.org

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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FUNERAL HOME

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COMMUNITY
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Reading Education and Adult Development Saint John (READ SJ)

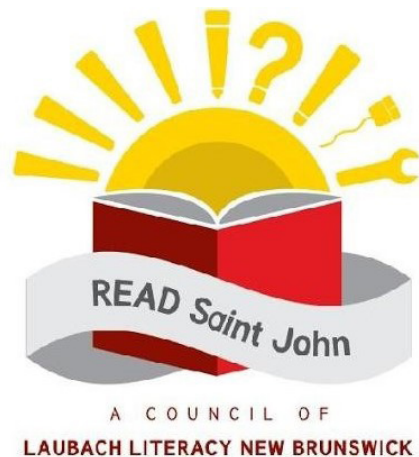
By READ SJ

Reading Education and Adult Development Saint John (READ Saint John) has been proudly working to improve the lives of Saint John residents since 1976. We provide confidential, one-on-one tutoring to low literacy adults, focusing on reading, writing, and basic math.

Our tutors design learning plans tailored to each learner's interests and goals. We work with learners to help them learn at their own pace and on their own schedules. We have worked throughout COVID-19 to modernize how we deliver and structure our tutoring practices.

We have helped learners boost their literacy confidence so they are able to complete a beginner's driving test, obtain employment, and read bedtime stories to their children.

133 Prince Edward Street, Suite 102
506 633-2011



Each one, teach one.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest

By Juanita Black, HDC
and Mary LeSage, PULSE

For Issue 79 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 17 and one in the sponsor section on 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;**
- **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, October 21st 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 78 winners were Dawn McDermitt and Gabriela deAustin.

Around the Block Proud Supporter



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building a greater saint john

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Issue 78's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest winners were drawn by Her Honour the Honourable Brenda Murphy, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. (Photo: Juanita Black)



New Community Lead at Brilliant Labs



Noah Ritcey with a Brilliant Labs youth (Photo: Harry Daley)

By Brilliant Labs

Brilliant Labs is excited to welcome Noah Ritcey and his passion to support youth empowerment to our team!

Noah joined the team this summer to manage our free, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) Camps in Saint John. Thanks to funding from Canada Summer Jobs, Canaport LNG, City of Saint John Community Grants, Government of New Brunswick SEED, and the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, camps were offered in partnership with youth-serving organizations to bring hands-on, experiential learning activities to over 800 girls and boys.

Noah has worked with Brilliant Labs and our partners over the past three years in various capacities, and has facilitated and supervised programs in diverse, community settings. As the new Community Lead, he will be working closely with our partners to develop and plan activities such as coding, 3D printing and other technology-based programs to create learning opportunities for youth to identify and work on projects which are significant to them and their communities.

Ralph Thomas honoured

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Thomas championed an awareness program to challenge racial and ethnic stereotypes among youth, and developed partnerships with the Anglophone School District and multicultural groups.

“New Brunswick is an exceptional province because of the people who use their talents to serve their communities and their province,” said Premier Blaine Higgs. “Each of the 2021 recipients is an example of what can be accomplished when thoughtful, committed and passionate people put their hands to work to make a difference for their families, friends, communities and New Brunswickers. It is with the utmost respect and admiration that I congratulate all the recipients.” Mr Thomas was cited “for his passionate advocacy and promotion of diversity, inclusion and cultural understanding.”

Ralph Thomas’ previous honours

- 1992 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Sports Awards
- 2002 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Award
- 2002 YMCA Peace Medal
- 2006 Saint John Y’s Men Club Friends of the Community Award
- 2012 New Brunswick Human Rights Award

YMCA update



By James Mallory, Marketing and Communications Supervisor
YMCA of Greater Saint John

Did you know that some of our programs at the YMCA of Greater Saint John are open to the public? This fall, we welcome non-members to “Try the Y” for just \$2 per visit.

This includes our Parent & Tot recreation program at the Saint John Regional Y, offered on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays to parents and children (ages 0 - 5). This newly revamped, 50-minute program integrates equal time for structured activities for child development and free play with families and instructors.

For youth between the ages of 13 and 17, pop into the Saint John Regional Y for our Teen Zone program. Hang out, make friends, and play games on Friday evenings from 5-9 p.m. for \$2, or for FREE at the Irving Oil Field House from 6-9 p.m. And for those ages 6 to 17, the Saint John Regional Y hosts a Youth Badminton program, every Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

Our KinderGym and KinderField programs are also offered daily at the Saint John Regional Y and Irving Oil Field House for parents and children (ages 0 - 5). These programs are fun-filled, playful movement sessions designed for your toddler and preschooler to develop general motor skills including jumping, rolling, balancing, and basic coordination.

Learn more about these Community Drop-In Programs and more, by visiting our schedules page:
<https://saintjohnny.ymca.ca/membership/schedules/>

YMCA of Greater Saint John

Saint John County | Charlotte County | Kings County

Community DROP-IN

for non-members | \$2

PARENT & TOT

Ages 0 - 5 | Sun, Tues & Thurs: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM | Saint John Regional Y

REGISTER ONLINE | saintjohnny.ymca.ca/membership/schedules/

Page 14

So long, summer...Hello, fall



The take-out window at Romero House (Photo: Romero House)

By Romero House

With the weather beginning to change; sunny days growing shorter, nights cooler and COVID still going strong, we can't help but wonder, and yes worry about, what this coming winter has in store for us. COVID has been difficult for us all and an even rougher road than usual for many in our community. Here at Romero House, we have been serving meals daily “out the window” and our other services have been placed on hold since COVID began. Although we wish it could be otherwise, to maintain the safety of those we serve it appears as though we will need to continue to do so for a while yet. Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe – wear a mask, social distance, and get vaccinated.

Romero House
by the numbers:
78 weeks (546 days)
“out the window” =
183,182 Meals Served

BGC Greater Saint John celebrates new, inclusive branding!



(Photo: BGC Canada)

By Benjamin O'Neill, Philanthropy & Community Giving Manager

It's official. The Boys and Girls Club of Saint John has become BGC Greater Saint John. Not to be trendy. Not because it's shorter or catchier. But because we open our doors to all kids and teens, and we believe our name should reflect that.

Removing gender from our name modernizes BGC Greater Saint John and echoes the inclusive practice we're known for without straying too far from our history and national brand. It also embraces the fact that we proudly serve young people and families of all ages, backgrounds, and identities.

New name, same legacy: 120+ years of creating opportunities for kids and teens in the Greater Saint John area.

To learn more about the program and services we offer check us out at: www.sjbgclub.com



BGC Take-home care packs



(Photo: BGC Greater Saint John)

By Rachel Murphy, Community Program Supervisor (SECC Location), BGC of Greater Saint John

We were lucky to be able to open our doors back up to our youth for our Level Up After School Program at the South End Community Centre (SECC) last September after everything happened in March of 2020.

We noticed some families struggling with buying essential care items for their families and decided a great way to give back to our families was to make take-home care packs to give away. We filled these bags with items for the whole family: dental hygiene products, laundry detergent, shampoos and conditioners - anything we thought would alleviate some stress from their lives for a little while.

The kids loved it; they would get so excited when it was their turn to take a bag home, running down to tell their parents about all of the items they found in their bags. It was wonderful to see how much these families appreciated the help.

Congratulations **Around the Block** on your 13th anniversary edition.

Thank you for providing a voice to share good news in our communities.

The Saint John Police Force wishes you continued success.



Thanksgiving food safety



Safe for people does not always mean safe for pets (Photo: SPCA)

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

Overindulging in the family feast can be unhealthy for humans, but it is even worse for pets. Fatty or rich foods are hard for animals to digest. Meat bones, especially poultry, are prone to splintering and can damage your pet's digestive tract. Many foods that are fine for people are poisonous to pets – including onions, raisins, and grapes. If you want to share a Thanksgiving treat with your pet buy them a special healthy treat at the pet store so you know it is made just for them.

Never give your pet holiday desserts. They can contain ingredients that are poisonous to pets including the artificial sweetener xylitol –which is commonly used in gum and sugar-free baked goods. Xylitol is deadly if consumed by dogs or cats. If you believe your pet has been poisoned or eaten something it should not have, call your veterinarian or local animal emergency clinic immediately. Happy Thanksgiving and stay safe.

Bonne rentrée en santé!

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

Après une longue attente, cette rentrée 2021 va pouvoir nous ramener dans une presque normalité. Tout en gardant à l'esprit les mesures préconisées par la Santé publique afin de minimiser les risques de propagations de la COVID-19, les activités santé mieux-être de la communauté vont pouvoir reprendre.

Des sorties et des activités familiales vous seront proposées. Nous espérons dans un avenir proche inviter nos aînés aux activités intergénérationnelles qui faisaient la joie des petits et des grands. Côté santé, il est aujourd'hui primordial de recevoir ses soins dans la langue de son choix. Aussi n'hésitez pas si vous avez des questions, des plaintes pour un service non rendu ou bien que vous êtes un professionnel de la santé ou du mieux-être bilingue à nous le laissez savoir au cathy.wojtala2@arcf.ca ou 506-658-4606.

Bonne rentrée à tous les étudiants, je suis certaine que vous allez apprécier cette année!



(Photo: Cathy Wojtala)

Youth Creative Nights



(Photo: Tanya James)

By Tanya James, Project Coordinator, Chroma NB

Chroma NB's *Youth Creative Nights* are monthly arts events, hosted by Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) facilitators and held for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and allies between 12 and 18 years old. Held in partnership with BGC Greater Saint John, these nights foster a space for participants to make new connections, learn a new skill, and get creative in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Creative Nights are free to attend, all materials are provided, and transportation within the city is provided by BCG.

This fall, look forward to:

- Woodworking with Adriana Craig, October 19th
- Painting with Andre Haines, November 16th
- Zine Making with Bliss Behar, December 14th

Find registration information closer to each date at chromanb.ca, or on Chroma's or BCG's facebook page.

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.

New delivery person on the “Block”!



Angel Cass (Photo: Amanda Donovan)

By Around the Block

Around the Block has welcomed a new face to our intrepid team of delivery people – the ones who work hard to make sure the paper gets to your door in the priority neighbourhoods. Angel Cass started on Wednesday August 4th and with her godmother to take her around, she proudly delivered 115 papers on Anglin Drive. Thanks, Angel!



St Luke’s update

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

Most readers might know about St. Luke’s because of our regular meal programs, at least until the pandemic disrupted our schedule. Since then, we’ve been offering assistance to folks in our community in other ways, and this summer we started preparing take-out lunches on Tuesdays. By the time you are reading this, we should have our revamped meal program in full swing again for the fall/winter. You can reach out to us for details at stlukesportland@gmail.com

While caring for our community remains deeply important to us at St. Luke’s, all that we do is rooted in our love for Jesus Christ. We do our best to love our neighbours because Christ first loved us. We meet each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as a vibrant, small-but-growing community to worship. Throughout the week we offer various programs in addition to our free meals! (Photo: St. Luke’s)




211






By The United Way


The new searchable database provides access to information on community and government resources in New Brunswick, allowing users to access the entire 211 database, with results available in both a list and map format, for ease of navigation. At the same time, the 211 Community Navigators remain available at the other end of the phone line to help users with specific questions or needs they may have, when they dial 2-1-1. Visit nb.211.ca today. Help starts here.

211 is the front door to help. Please share this resource with your networks, to help us ensure no one is left behind.

WHEREVER WORKS FOR YOU



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-  Go paperless
-  Report an outage & get updates
-  See energy saving tips
-  Sign up for alerts



Make the switch today:
www.myaccount.sjenergy.com/

LIFE CAN BE HARD.
FINDING HELP
CAN BE EASY.



Dial 2-1-1 to find help for all of life's challenges.

Other ways to reach 211:
Visit nb.211.ca
Toll-free number: 1-855-258-4126
TTY/text-based number: 1-855-405-7446
E-mail: 211nb@findhelp.ca



#HelpStartsHere

Around the Block: What does it mean to you? Tell us and we'll tell the world! :)

It is Around the Block's 13th anniversary! Thirteen years of celebrating the good news from our priority neighbourhoods - and there is a ton of it, which we never seem to hear about in other media. Thirteen years of promoting great events and services for our residents, and talking about the challenges that face our neighbours - housing and homelessness, food security, finding help, simply being heard.

ATB is different things to different people. All are welcome here. Community-building is about getting from where we are to where we need to be, and we do it with as many voices at the table as wish to come. We asked our regular submitters to tell us what the community newspaper means to them; we are truly grateful for their heartwarming response. Below is just some of what they told us - with some great photos people have sent to the paper in recent times!

Now have YOUR say! For our next issue, please tell us what Around the Block means to you. We will publish as many of your responses as we can, and everyone who writes in will go into a draw for one of four \$25 gift cards as a "thank you" from the Human Development Council, who publish the paper. Write a line or two about what Around the Block means to you and share it with us. Don't forget to tell us your name and phone number or email or mailing address so we can contact you if you win! The draw closes on Friday November 12th. Responses will be published in Issue 80 in early December. Send your thoughts to us:

-by email: sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

-by mail: The Editor, Around the Block
Saint John Human Development Council
139 Prince Edward Street
Saint John NB E2L 3S3



-in person In the ATB box at the Social Enterprise HUB
139 Prince Edward Street

Around the Block is the best way to find out what is happening in our community. We can see pictures of friendly faces, find out about things we may have missed or plan to attend upcoming events. Thanks for keeping us in the loop!... Many of our clients do not have a device that would allow them access to an online version. From an older person's view (me), I much prefer to sit with my coffee and the paper.

Diane Kerns, Avenue B

Happy 13th Anniversary to Around the Block! The paper has shared so many wonderful stories and updates for the priority neighbourhoods over the years. I especially love the look on a student's face when they receive an issue they submitted to.

Krista Turnbull, Seaside Park Elementary

Around the Block has been a great partner, promoting information and good news in Saint John. It provides a worthy platform for residents to express themselves and we look forward to working together more in the future.

READ Saint John

It allows us to communicate with local families about our free program, to encourage more families to attend, and to learn about some of the amazing things that are happening in our community which impact the families we support! We love that it is a community-based publication as well.

Jan Vezna, Bee Me Kidz

In a city where the media is dominated by corporate culture, amplifying the voices of the people and community organizations is more important now than ever, and ATB is a source of unbiased and honest news that helps to facilitate this.

Abigail Reinhart, SJ Community Loan Fund



By serving the priority neighbourhoods, I was able to reach many more people by placing a story and our application form in Around the Block.

Patti Blake, Empty Stocking Fund

With it, Saint John is a better place, because information from this publication is often used by the newest people in our city to make decisions that help increase integration, literacy and pride.

Mohamed Bagha, The Saint John Newcomers Centre

The newspaper is the only mechanism that directly brings our voice to the neighbourhoods and their voices back to us.

Seth Asimakos, Saint John Community Loan Fund / Social Enterprise Hub

BGC Greater Saint John is thrilled to hear of the 13th anniversary of Around the Block! We are thankful for such a positive light in our community and are thankful to everyone who works on, contributes to, and reads this paper. The messages shared inspire and ignite potential in community members to build a better community for our young people to be proud to be a part of.

Benjamin O'Neill, BGC Greater SJ

Around the Block is an amazing resource that provides information to individuals who find traditional modes of communication more easily accessible and digestible. ACAP Saint John is eager to continue participating in future issues.

Roxanne MacKinnon, ACAP

We're forever grateful for every opportunity to share our community-based activities and programs for children with the neighbourhoods in Around the Block and have received great feedback from people after they've read about us in the paper. Thank you!

Brilliant Labs

I always know that stories have been written by residents themselves, or staff or volunteers of organizations working directly in these neighbourhoods. It gives a voice to those we hear about too often, and hear from not often enough.

Tanya James, Chroma NB

Around the Block...provides opportunity for community building.

Evelyn McNulty, Romero House

Councillors' Corner

Members of Common Council




At Large

Left: Brent Harris
(506) 977-3853

Right: Gary Sullivan
(506) 639-1603







Ward 1

Left: Joanna Killen
(506) 639-1506

Right: Greg Norton
(506) 977-3848







Ward 2

Left: John MacKenzie
Deputy Mayor
(506) 977-3849

Right: Barry Ogden
(506) 639-1334

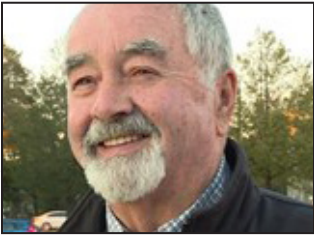





Ward 3

Left: David Hickey
(506) 721-5690

Right: Gerry Lowe
(506) 639-0969






Ward 4

Left: Paula Radwan
(506) 977-3846

Right: Greg Stewart
(506) 977-3854



Send in your questions for Councillors' Corner:
sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com or (506) 647-4850



Around The Block Team (Issue 79)

Publisher: Human Development Council
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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,
Joanne Britton and Lorna Brown
Layout and design: Lorna Brown and Juanita Black

Editor's note: For this edition of Councillors' Corner, we begin a series of articles by your Councillors themselves! Below, Brent Harris takes up the pen to write about a new perspective on our priority neighbourhoods - and the opportunities they hold. You can look forward to more articles by members of Common Council in our December issue, and beyond.

And at left we have the photos and phone numbers of all our Councillors, for readers who wish to get in touch with their elected municipal representatives.

We are eager to hear your thoughts on Councillors' Corner and to receive your questions for the Councillors. Send them to: sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com or (506) 647-4850. [~LB]

The comeback neighbourhood

By Brent Harris, Councillor at Large

It has been four months since I was sworn in as your Councillor at Large. I've learned to balance my responsibilities as a councillor with my roles at the Saint John Tool Library, as a father, and as a husband. I am eager for the opportunity to serve my community. What I want to write today about is neighbourhoods.

To sum things up, our neighbourhoods are possibly the most underrated piece of Saint John's growth potential. We have spent the better part of a decade speaking about our "priority neighbourhoods" but we have never stopped to speak about their potential. Saint John has visible and clearly defined neighbourhoods, unlike other cities whose layout and sprawl make them non-existent or at the very least ambiguous. I believe we need to change our language when it comes to using the term "priority neighbourhoods" and instead use the term "comeback neighbourhoods."

Let's zero in on the Old North End for this brief column. The Old North End has some of the most obvious potential to be a comeback neighbourhood. City planners all over the world have learned the hard lessons of the 20th century. Building cities that are overly focused on car usage creates unsustainable cities. All that asphalt is expensive, and it turns cities into single-use districts that kill community culture and ends up creating fragility.

Communities that are diverse and have mixed uses for commercial, residential, and leisure have proven to be more resilient to economic downturn. This is something that the North End has that other cities envy. Many cities have chosen to sprawl and created single-use communities that focus on just one thing; this has proven to be a bad policy.

The Old North End maintains a highly mixed-use reality today. It is still walkable, has a mix of commercial spaces to provide for day-to-day needs, has waterfront, has multiple parks, and a thriving community centre at Nick Nicolle. All it needs is upfront investment to catch the attention of others and it will organically become a comeback neighbourhood that people take pride in.

To achieve this, we will need a focused Council and a responsive community. Let's start talking about the comeback neighbourhoods - everyone loves a good comeback story, after all!



Harry Forestell and Brent Harris (Photo: CBC)

Christmas dinner through the Christmas Exchange

The Saint John Christmas Exchange is a non-profit agency, coordinating with churches/agencies in the Saint John area. Our goal is to provide food for Christmas dinner to those in need. Our office opens Monday, November 8th, 2021 (closed November 11th) and the last day for registration is Wednesday, December 8th, 2021. We are asking individuals/families to register in early October at a local church/agency. Please contact the church to see when their registrations start. You can register for both the Empty Stocking Fund and the Christmas Exchange at the same time, but only once for each. Duplication of registration will result in delays. Churches require current Government ID for each household member. The Exchange checks all those registered for duplication. The church/agency where you register provides for you, and will advise when you can pick up your gift card or basket. The Christmas Exchange Organization does not give gift cards to individuals. The Christmas Exchange does not take registrations. Looking forward to serving our community again this year.

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