



Around *the* Block



Issue 83 June/July 2022 sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

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Way to go, Tom!



Tom Rogers (Photo: Rob Rogers)

By Theresa Rogers

We would like to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of a youth in our community. Tom Rogers, a Grade 9 student at St. Malachy's Memorial High School, has been selected to participate in the 2022 U16 Elite Development Training Program through Football NB.

A few months into the process, Tom has succeeded in advancing through the first two levels of cuts. His enthusiasm, athleticism, and work ethic have served him well in the midst of some pretty fierce competition from all over the province.

We wish him well as he continues to go after his gridiron dreams. He is a great example of what tenacity, integrity, and drive can do. Good luck, Tom! We are rooting for you!

Proud Sponsors of Around The Block



SAINT JOHN



Get stoked – skateboards now available at the Market Square Library!



Left to right: Moe Arsenault, Laura Corscadden, Kasey Roberts, Kevin Murray, and Mark Goodfellow (Photo: Rocky's Sports Bar)

By S.D. Thompson, Saint John Free Public Library

The Saint John Free Public Library (SJFPL) has had books on skateboarding for decades. Now, it has skateboards.

On May 14th, the Main Branch Library at Market Square put out its latest lending objects – five skateboards with helmets, financed by Moe Arsenault and Rocky's Sports Bar. *(continued on page 12)*

From the Editor's desk:

Let's get active!

Lorna Brown, sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

As we deliver the paper, spring is at its height and summer not far away. It's a time to get outdoors, for those of us who can, and be active! Many stories that came to us this time remind us of the importance of physical activity to our well-being - and the joys! A visit to the Carleton to meet the new Executive Director, Jen Brown (page 14), reminded me of just how many recreational activities, indoors and out, go on over there. And as Jen says, recreational facilities and activities are important for everyone. Councillor Barry Ogden mentions recreation in his entry in Councillors' Corner (page 16). We have a story on a successful youth in football training (see left), and now there are even skateboards available to borrow from the Library! (See above.) For those of us with the privilege of being able to walk, let's get out and do that, whether on our own in our beautiful city or with others. See the Wednesday Walks with PULSE on page 3, and a selection of David Goss' free Walks 'n'Talks on page 8, if you want to learn more about Saint John history at the same time! Or just run on Bayshore Beach, like the joyful kids from Seaside Park (page 5).

Social activity, too, is critical to our well-being. And as restrictions are lifted, it has become more possible. Community matters. It was lovely to see that more than 100 people attended the first BBQ in three years at Stone Church (page 16). It is great to see the spring clean-ups around town (see ONE Change on page 2 and Crescent Valley on page 4). Whatever the event, a BBQ or a clean-up, a Seniors' Tea (page 2) or a Pep Rally (page 7), it is wonderful to see groups of people in our community gathering together again, for a common purpose. We have all missed that so much. Let's not forget that for some of our neighbours the joys of spring are in short supply. Romero House reminds us that inflation and rising food costs impact the most vulnerable most harshly. They see too many seniors at their take-out window. Gratitude for what we have and for those who help ends this story, along with: peace and joy to all. You get them by giving them.

Introducing Caitlyn Mitchell



Caitlyn (Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

I would like to introduce you to our newest member of our team, Caitlyn Mitchell. Caitlyn will be working on the North End Revitalization Project. Part of her role will be the beautification of the North End and increasing exposure to community services. Caitlyn joined us in April. She is a graduate of Saint Thomas University in Criminology and Psychology. She enjoys meeting new people and travelling. Her best friends are her kitties, Gomez and Milo. Caitlyn has been a great addition to our team, and she always has a good joke to tell when she comes to work.

Clean-up



The clean-up team (Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

On May 14th, we had our ONE Change clean-up. What a fun day! The RiverCross Mission hosted a BBQ celebrating the life of Mickey Verner, and many people came out to join us. A huge thank you to Chuck's Store for all your help! The City of Saint John were there with the green machine, with bags and tools to help us make the North End beautiful. Thanks to United Commercial Travellers Jack Kidd Council #755 for coming to join us. A special thanks to all the families who joined us. It was a great morning. We couldn't have done this without the help and support of our community and our community partners.

Seniors' Tea returns!



March 2022 Seniors' Tea (Photo: Christa Petts)

By John Driscoll, ONE Change

In March, The ONE Change wanted to close out the month with good friends, music, and conversation, so we held our first Seniors' Tea since the beginning of the pandemic. We had seniors from all over our community join us as well as The KV Country Band in welcoming everyone back into a social and friendly atmosphere. The room was filled with smiles and great music. One of the seniors who attended said, "It was really nice being able to get out and see everyone again. It feels like it's been so long, and this is what we needed." When community members come together as one, the natural conversations will follow. We hope to see everyone at our next tea. Be sure to like us on Facebook to always be in the know of programs we offer at The ONE Change.

Bless' amazing science fair project

By Jonathan Driscoll, ONE Change

For the past month The ONE Change has had the privilege of helping one young man new to our programs with an amazing school project. Bless is in grade 7 and thought it would be an amazing idea to create a prosthetic hand for an upcoming science fair project among all schools. He came up with the whole concept on his own as well as the coding and wire set up and servos. He then went to the Saint John Library where he had a small prototype built for him; they suggested that he see Jonathan at ONE Change to help him with the full project: a "hand." We then put our heads together and printed out a beautiful stunning prosthetic hand that moves with the push of a button. It was an honour to work alongside this young talented individual and to share with all of you just one of the many fun projects we are doing alongside all our others.



Above: the prosthetic hand (Photo: Jonathan Driscoll)

Barry Ogden

Ward 2 City Councillor

Email: barry.ogden@saintjohn.ca

Phone: 639-1334

A portrait of Barry Ogden, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a light blue shirt. He is smiling.

North Neighbourhood Contact

Christa Petts
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Nick Nicolle Community Centre
85 Durham Street
658-2980



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

All stories by Lisa Morris, Resident Engagement Coordinator, PULSE Incorporated

-PULSE Hours of Operation

Visit us Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop in and visit our staff and volunteers.

-Lunch Connections: Summer Edition will be gearing up for another summer season! Starting July 5th, join Erin and her many helpers every Tuesday and Friday in the PULSE parking lot for a lunch and good company!

-Wednesday Walks – Join us Wednesdays! We will meet at Tannery Court at 11 a.m. and 175 Britain at 11:15 a.m. for a walk around Rainbow Park. Welcoming group for everyone of all levels. We will start with a short distance and see it increase over the summer! Cancelled if weather is more than a drizzle.

-Vaccination Lamination - Need your vaccination record laminated and made to fit into your wallet? Stop in and visit Lisa in the office and she can resize and laminate a copy for you to keep in your wallet at no charge. Donations are appreciated

-Tax season is over but that doesn't mean we are not here for you; we are open year-round. Drop off your taxes and pick up in approximately 4-5 business days.

-Low-income seniors, don't forget you can apply online for the Low Income \$400 Seniors Benefit. Deadline to apply is December 31st, 2022. If you need help applying, please call for an appointment to lessen your wait time.

-Monthly Calendars available! Next time you stop in don't forget to grab a monthly calendar to keep track of the comings and goings at PULSE!

-Internet Access - PULSE has a tablet available at no cost for residents' use for accessing appointments, job searches, and printing resumes or forms. Please call ahead to schedule: (506) 632-6807. Limited to 30 minutes.

-Our Nurse is available upon request as always and can be found at PULSE Thursday mornings for drop-in. Please call us at (506) 632-6807 to schedule.

Affordable fresh fruit and vegetables

For over eight years I have been purchasing my fruits and vegetables through the SJ Food Purchasing Club and am never disappointed. Beginning of the month I send my payment along and mark my calendar for my favourite day of the month: "Veggie Day." I love the SJFPC so much that every month I do a live unbagging of the current vegetable order. Check out #sjfoodpurchasingclub and see how orders vary month to month.

SJ Food Purchasing Club offers once-per-month food orders in two sizes: \$15 & \$25 packages. The orders vary every month, depending on the season, availability, and cost. Here is an example of the order from February 2022:

\$15: 5 apples; 2 grapefruit; 3 pears; 2 pounds carrots; 1 green pepper; 5 pounds potatoes; 1 pound tomatoes; 2 pounds beets

\$25: 5 bananas; 1 avocado; 1 English cucumber; 1 package of mushrooms; 5 oranges; 1 lime

Money can be dropped off to PULSE or e-transferred to: Martha.MacLean@HorizonNB.ca (please include name, phone number, and pickup location). Money is due the second Friday of the month; pick-up is the following Friday between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. If there are five weeks in a month, money is due the third Friday and pick-up is the following Friday.

PULSE Help Yourself Pantry and Garden

The PULSE Pantry was created by both residents and community partners. It's a friendly, nonjudgmental environment where residents in need can receive food items and connect with programs and services in the community. Just months after the Pantry opened its doors our province went into lockdown. Neighbourhood organizations came together forming the Greater Saint John Emergency Food Program, which delivered food hampers to those in need throughout the city. When the lockdown ended the PULSE Pantry remained open providing pantry bags twice per month, as the pandemic was still impacting our residents' day-to-day access to food. We are excited to transition the Pantry to a Help Yourself Pantry with help from the Community Investment Fund which purchased new food storage equipment, which allows residents to choose what items they need.

The Help Yourself Pantry is stocked daily with donated food items from The Saint John Bakery and Starbucks (Westside) through a partnership with Second Harvest. Our public washroom is also filled with personal care items, Healthy Hair Lice Treatment, as well as women's feminine products provided by Code Red.

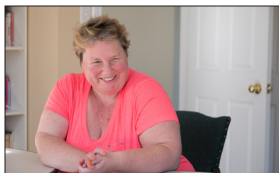
PULSE Inc. and Roots & Wings volunteers have once again partnered to plant and create the Help Yourself Garden located in the PULSE parking lot at 251 Wentworth Street. It is filled with vegetables - ex. radish, beets and kale. Residents are welcome to come tend and harvest the garden anytime or just take a seat and enjoy a moment in our garden space. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that you can pick up bags of coffee grinds at Starbucks for your garden!

Above: (top) Help Yourself Pantry located inside PULSE at 251 Wentworth Street; (bottom) last year's Help Yourself Garden in the PULSE parking lot. Below: past \$25 Food Purchasing order - see story, left (Photos: Lisa Morris)



South Neighbourhood Contact

Mary LeSage
pulseinc@bellaliant.com
251 Wentworth Street
632-6807



The Honorable Arlene Dunn
MLA Saint John Harbour

Constituency Office: Mercantile Centre
55 Union Street, Suite 140
Saint John, NB E2L 5B7

Phone: (506) 643-6138
Email: arlene.dunn@gnb.ca

Hazen White–St. Francis (HWSF) at The Growing Place



Marigolds planted by HWSF students, who will plant them with our community partners (Photo: Kate MacDonald)

By Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, HWSF

Our students are working away at getting our community garden plots ready in the Crescent Valley Growing Place. We are so excited to have plots again this year. This experiential learning allows our students to see the lasting impact that can be had when you learn the amazing skill of how to grow, maintain and harvest your own crops. We are very grateful to friends at the Crescent Valley Resource Centre for this wonderful partnership. We also have another growing project that is near and dear to our hearts. Our marigolds are growing, and we cannot wait to plant them with our community partners to help spread some cheer and brighten the day for our friends.

Juanita Black awarded Red Triangle



Juanita Black (front row, centre), Coordinator of Around the Block for many years, proudly displays her Red Triangle Award. The YMCA bestows this prestigious annual award on one extraordinary person for long and meritorious service, outstanding contributions and achievement in the community. Juanita is surrounded by the team from the Human Development Council. (Photo: Cindy Bishop)

The Honourable Trevor Holder MLA Portland - Simonds

Constituency Office:
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Tel: (506) 657-2335
Email: trevor.holder@gnb.ca

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



Thank you to Xerox!



Xerox volunteers outside the CVRC with trash collected at Crescent Valley Community Clean-up (Photo: CVRC)

By Anne Driscoll, Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC)

We would like to say a big “thank you” to Xerox Saint John for volunteering their time to hold a community clean-up in Crescent Valley! Ten volunteers did an amazing job and collected over 30 bags of garbage and other larger items to be taken to the landfill. We appreciate their support and their contribution to making our neighbourhood a safer place!

**Are you interested in organizing a clean-up
in your neighbourhood? ACAP Saint John
donates all the supplies you’ll need to organize
a successful clean-up.
Contact them today (652-2227)!**

**SUMMER
BRAIN GAIN**

BGC OF GREATER SAINT JOHN

BGC of Greater Saint John Education Centre
37 Hanover St., Saint John NB

FREE

The Summer Brain Gain Program focuses on maintaining reading comprehension, mathematics and social emotional learning into a fun summer camp setting.

Available for those attending Grades 1-5 in the Fall of 2022.

VISIT WWW.SJCLUB.CA OR CALL 634-2011



Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

Anne Driscoll
CVRC.driscoll@gmail.com
130 MacLaren Blvd.
693-8513



BGC Seaside Park soaking up the sun at Bayshore Beach



Sheer joy at the beach!
(Photo: David MacDonald)

By David MacDonald (he/him), Team Leader
Seaside Elementary School, Youth Programming
BGC Greater Saint John

With the rising temperatures and beautiful weather on the West Side, the kids at BGC Seaside Park were able to go to Bayshore Beach for a picnic and a quick run through the water.

The BGC was able to get to the beach at low tide and explore a lot of the area. Some of the kids chose to explore the sand and find rocks to skip in the water while others investigated the periwinkles on the rocks.

After playing in and around the water, the kids got to set up on beach towels and enjoy their lunch in the sun. After getting back to the school, the group was treated to Freezies to help them cool off.

Camp Carleton Registration now open!



Enthusiastic kids at the Carleton Community Centre (CCC)
(Photo: Madelynn Ryan)

By Madelynn Ryan, Youth Program Coordinator, CCC

Come join us Monday through Friday, starting June 27th, for what's going to be your best summer yet!

**Contact Madelynn to register by phone
(506) 658-2920 or by email:**

youth@carletoncommunitycentre.ca

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The Honourable Dorothy Shephard MLA Saint John Lancaster

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Saint John, NB E2M 3W5
Constituency Office is located
at side of building facing Church

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Dorothy.Shephard@gnb.ca
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West Side Neighbourhood Contact

Jen Brown
director@carletoncommunitycentre.ca
120 Market Place, Saint John NB
E2M0E1
506 658-2920



Sustainer Container planting day

By Lisa Morris

The Sustainer Container is a standard shipping container located in Chown Field across the street from the Social Enterprise Hub. It will be transformed into a living building that grows a variety of plants and vegetables on its walls and roof. Created by Jean and Jack Hudson of Rexton, New Brunswick, the container was kindly donated to the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John to provide healthy food to the community. The walls of the container can be filled with various lettuces and herbs. The roof has been seeded with fescue and wildflower mix for added greenery and to bring needed pollinators to the garden.



Roots & Wings has partnered with ACAP to look after the Sustainer Container in Chown Field. We are looking for your help to plant and maintain the Sustainer Container. Next time you're walking in Chown Field bring a watering can and help us bring this container to life! Above: Sustainer Container planting day 2021 (Photo: Lisa Morris)

Welcome to summer students - Coverdale programs open to community

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

We want to introduce our summer students for this year! Welcome to Zoe and Ivana.

Coverdale offers skills-building programs to women accessing our residential services, and also to women in the community! Our Program Facilitator develops program schedules on a rotational or as-needed basis and sends them out to other agencies in the community to spread the word.



Programs are offered to groups, and individual sessions are available as well. Group size is limited, so it is best to call and register for a program in advance. A list of our programs is available on our website at www.coverdalecenterforwomen.com. Our Program Facilitator also works with individuals to determine goals and make plans for achieving them, including working on problem-solving skills.

For more information about our programs, please reach out at coverdaleprograms@gmail.com or at 634-0812.

Above, left to right: Zoe and Ivana (Photo: Channele Morgan)

Gerry Lowe
Ward 3 City Councillor

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

PCAP: one year at the Wheelhouse and taking referrals



(Photo: PCAP)

By Joanna Beckett, Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP)

We have hit our one-year anniversary in our location at 105 Prince Edward Street in the Wheelhouse of Waterloo Village and we absolutely love it! We have successfully completed our initial three-year program and are moving into our next phase. With clients graduating, we are ready for new referrals! (See image above.) If you know someone who checks these boxes, please give Joanna a call and she can go over specifics and determine whether they are indeed qualified for the program.

Also please note that we are changing email addresses: PCAP.SJ@outlook.com will still be our office address but moving forward our advocates are now: Holly.Seale@HorizonNB.ca, Kelly.Carline@HorizonNB.ca, and Lois.Irvine@HorizonNB.ca. Thank you!



**Waterloo-Village
Neighbourhood Contact**

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



“Welcome to K” Dinner @ SJBKE,
May 16th



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

As we head into the end of this school year, thoughts are already turning to the next! We were so happy to host our first “Welcome to K” Dinner in three long years, on the evening of Monday, May 16th. New students and families filed into our gym for a pizza/salad dinner followed by several fun activities. Our awesome Kindergarten team linked up with FACE, featuring amazing storyteller Margo Ringuette (thank you, Jeremy!) and our friends at the YMCA Early Learning Centre, keeping kids interested and engaged – a great harbinger of things to come when we welcome this new group of SBJKE students into school in September. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this event happen!



Top photo: Storytime!
Above: SJBKE teachers
Robyn Fraser, Tania Moriarty,
and Amy MacDonald get ready
to serve dinner to our new kids
and families

(Photos: Janet Flood)

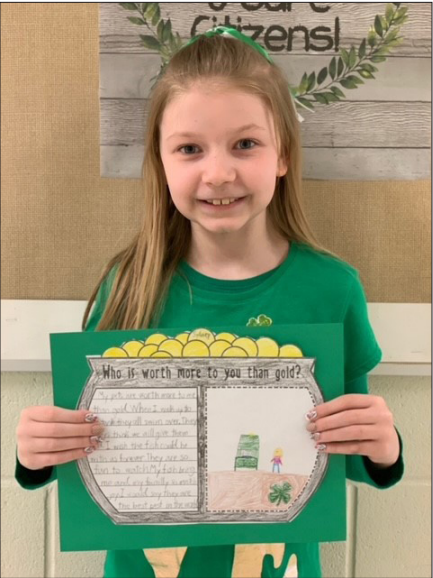
Who is worth more to you than gold?

By Sydney Gates
Grade 3 student, Seaside Park
Elementary School

My pets are worth more to me than gold. When I walk up to my fish tank, they all swim over. They always think we will give them food.

I wish the fish could be with us forever. They are so fun to watch. My fish bring me and my family so much joy. I would say they are the best pets in the world.

Right: Sydney and her story
(Photo: T. Shipley)



Simonds spirit



Simonds High School Pep Rally with the Memorial Cup!
(Photos: Jennifer Carhart)

By Jennifer Carhart, Principal, Simonds High School (SHS)

The “Hive” has been alive all year but this spring we focused on our culture and spirit through the beautification of our school yard and a school-wide pep rally to kick things off! At this time of year, High School focus shifts to grade 12s and all things prom and graduation. Our entire school has got into the spirit, contributing to make the school as beautiful as possible. Our Essential Skills students have been busy building and creating Adirondack chairs with matching beautiful planter boxes to highlight our 25-acre property on the day of the outdoor graduation. Meanwhile, our Skills and Trades department is busy building prom sets and staging to transform the inside of the school.

We have had successful athletes in our curling, badminton, swimming, and rugby teams this spring – all of whom were recognized at the pep rally that included the Memorial Cup! SHS is fortunate to have a large footprint that allows us to showcase so much talent and diversity. As our school year winds down, we look forward to putting it all on display at graduation and prom – an event that recognizes the hard work and resiliency of staff, students, and their families!

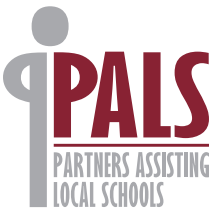
Right: Essential Skills program
is busy building Adirondack
chairs for graduation

(Photo: Cobie Wilson)



Supporting our
Neighbourhood Schools
Kindergarten to Grade 12

- Partners
- Volunteers
- Role Models
- Coaches
- Literacy Supports
- Breakfast/Lunch Programs
- Enrichment Opportunities
- After School Programs
- Career Explorations
- PALS En Route to Success
- ... and so much more!



Deborah Fisher
Susan Tipper
Michael Whelton
info@PALS.com



Help Make a
Difference!

Walks n' Talks: June-July 2022 (free)

By David Goss

Most walks are designed so that participants can do portions of the 2 kilometers. If the weather is questionable, a recorded message on line 672-8601 is placed one hour before the walk. For more information, email: gosswalk@nbnet.nb.ca. Selected walks:

-Tuesday, June 21st, 7:15 p.m. at corner of Union and Smythe. Saint John Energy's Centennial. This uptown area walk will focus on the events and people who have been diligent in distributing power to the city over the past 100 years. Sponsored by Saint John Energy.

-Tuesday, July 5th, 7:15 p.m. at Three Sisters' Lamp, Prince William at St. James Street. Murder and Mayhem on the Saint John Waterfront led by Greg Marquis of the New Brunswick Historical Society. Sponsored by Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency.

-Tuesday, July 26th, 7:15 p.m. at Brenan's Funeral Home, 111 Paradise Row: A visit to the Valley. Brenan's is the starting point for stories of the industrial, commercial, spiritual, and recreational pursuits that have been distinctive to this area's history since 1783. Sponsored by Brenan's Funeral Home.

-Thursdays 10 a.m. June 23rd – August 25th, leaving from the Saint John Arts Centre and exploring early Loyalist History. Followed at 11 a.m. by Georgian Serenade, a 45-minute concert of Loyalist-period music performed by pianist Tim Blackmore. Free. A program of the Saint John Early Music Festival & Saint John Arts Centre.



Above: James Mullinger (centre) speaking to participants on a walk organized by David Goss (right) at Fernhill Cemetery, Sept. 2021 (Photo: Donna Goss)

St. Luke's Monday lunch (to June 20th)

By The Reverend Dr. Cole Hartin, Rector

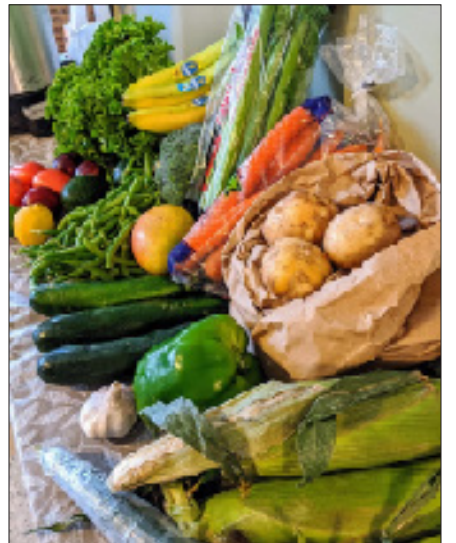
St. Luke's Anglican Church, Parish of Portland, 369 Main St. N.

Here at St. Luke's, we continue to offer our hearty (and free!) Monday take-out lunches from 12-12:30 p.m. We will do this each week up to and including June 20th. Then our volunteers will take a rest for the summer. This means we will not be offering lunches in July and August. We are hoping to provide sit-down meals once again, potentially in the fall. We'd love to have you stop by for a meal, or if you are interested in volunteering, we'd love to have you as well. You can reach out to us for details at stlukesportland@gmail.com. We do our best to love our neighbours because Christ first loved us. We gather for worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest

By Juanita Black, HDC and Mary LeSage, PULSE

We are happy to partner with Saint John Energy for the seventh year! We offer two \$15 fresh fruit and produce orders for this June issue, one each to two winners. Throughout *Around the Block* there are three Saint John Energy logos that you cannot use for this contest: one in this article (see right), one in the ad on page 5, and one in the sponsor section on page 1.



To enter the draw you need to locate the other two Saint John Energy logos, hidden somewhere in the paper! 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 at noon on July 21st and orders, if possible, will be delivered on July 22nd (or you might be asked to pick up your order). We will also list the winners on the Human Development Council Facebook page.

The Issue 82 winners (both first-time winners!) were:
Stephanie Warner and Marilyn McAllister

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. There are no dues. Face-to-face meetings have resumed; masks are not required but feel free!

- Tuesday 7 p.m., Waterloo AFG
Stone Church, 87 Carleton Street

- Wednesday 7 p.m., Woolastook AFG
St. Mark's United Church, 50 Dexter Drive

- Thursday 7 p.m., Portland AFG
Sophia Recovery Centre, 83 Hazen Street

- Thursday and Sunday 7 p.m. Zoom Meetings
To attend, send an email to District15mprovinces@yahoo.com. You will receive an email from Ann Wilson with instructions approximately 15 minutes prior to the meeting.

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E-mail
211nb@findhelp.ca

New Brunswick
CANADA

MUSIC IN THE PARK

2022

Music in the Park - Chown Field
July 4th - August 15th
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Donations to the food bank would be appreciated
BRING YOUR CHAIR - ALL WELCOME
WEEKLY 50/50 DRAW - CANTEEN ON SITE

July 4th - Halbert and Friends, July 11th - Steve Gons, July 18th - The 4 Seasons, July 25th - Connor Zoro, Aug 1st - March and Christine, August 15th - Debra and Phyllis

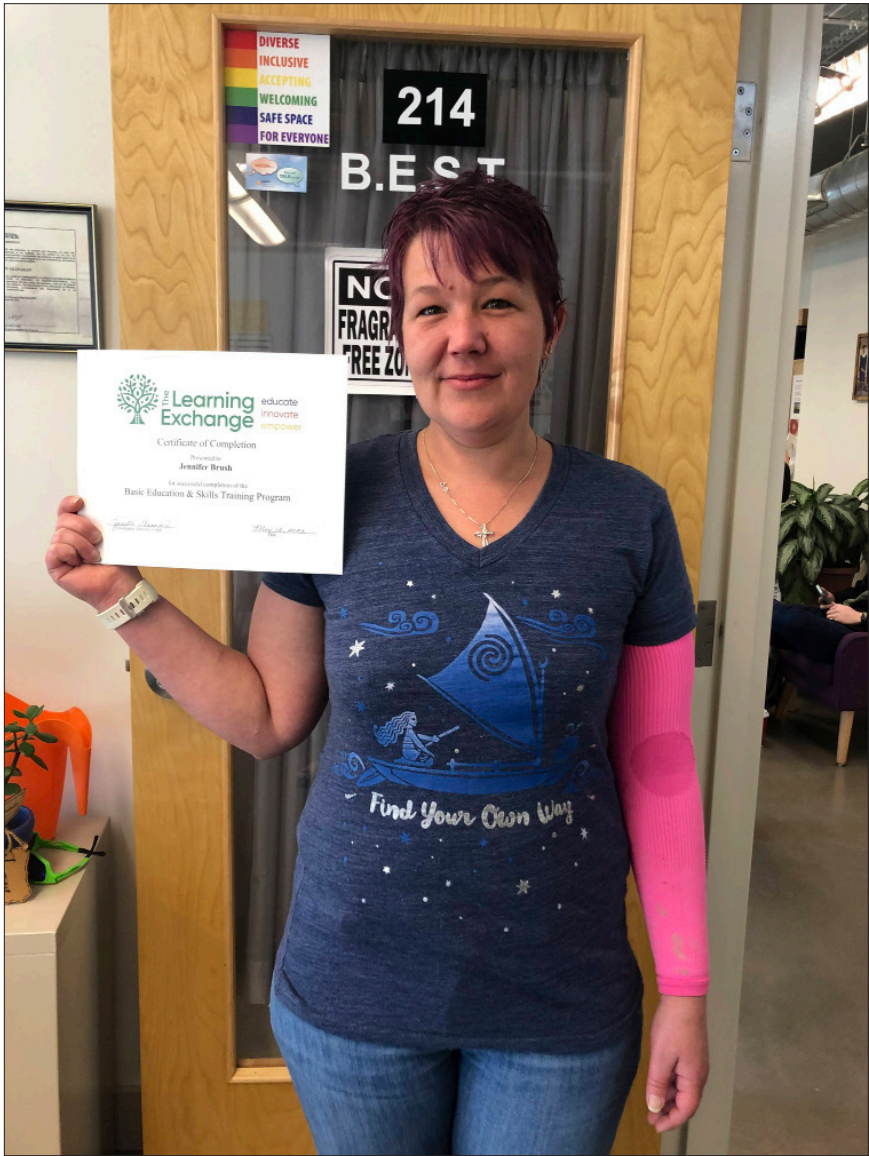
THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT STONE CHURCH, 87 CARLETON STREET, IT WILL NOT BE OUTSIDE.

Sponsored by: Waterloo Village Association, The City of Saint John and Social Development



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

The journey to my GED



Jennifer Brush proudly holds up her Certificate of Completion from the Learning Exchange, where she received support to complete her GED (Photo: Janelle Flanagan)

By Jennifer Brush

I entered a program at the Learning Exchange to get my GED (General Educational Development). What started as a journey for education ended up being a journey of self-discovery and growth.

I worked with Janelle and completed my GED, but I got so much more. I met with Patrick and Mary in Work Links. They helped me fix up my resume and I found employment. Look at what this team has helped me achieve - education and employment.

I also took the Soft Skills program. I learned a lot about myself, about skills I have and ones I need to work on. Kelly helped me gain a clear head and recognize what was going on in my personal relationship.

I don't know what will happen tomorrow, but I know I will get through it. Through this I became someone, and she has the skills to face any challenge.

What started as a journey for education ended up being a journey of self-discovery and growth... I don't know what will happen tomorrow, but I know I will get through it. Through this I became someone, and she has the skills to face any challenge.



Homelessness summit returns



Abigail Sheppard and Doug Pawson from End Homelessness St. John's present at the 2022 CAB Summit (Photo: Michael MacKenzie)

By Michael MacKenzie, Systems Planner,
Human Development Council (HDC)

After three long years, the Human Development Council was excited to finally reconvene (in person!) our annual CAB Summit on May 18th-19th in Moncton. Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are committees made up of local stakeholders and experts on homelessness that help to set priorities for federal funding in their communities. More than 120 participants attended the Summit from around the province to review data, receive training, make connections, and get inspired! Presenters highlighted some of the great work being done in New Brunswick's homeless-serving sector, including an overview of six diverse supportive housing programs. Other topics included prevention and diversion, integrating health and homelessness services, and how to prevent compassion fatigue in the sector. More than 30 staff from 10 homeless-serving agencies in Saint John attended the two-day event. Thanks to all who took part and so generously shared their experience and wisdom.

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The kaleidoscope of financial empowerment



By Darlene Jones, Financial Literacy Coordinator, Kaleidoscope Social Impact

The kaleidoscope with its ever-changing lights, colours, and various shapes represents unlimited views, opportunities, and the release of blocked creativity. When our Executive Director came to me with the idea of using Kaleidoscope as our new name I felt a smile begin in my tummy. Not only is it a fun word but to me it represents who we serve as a community. For most of us, our lives have not been a straight line. We have many different pieces that do not fit into text book thinking, but yet all these experiences have created the life we now have.

The way you see through your kaleidoscope of life determines so much in respect to your own happiness, freedom, wealth, and success. Do you need to twist it and look through it again to see something better or something you couldn't see before? Does your kaleidoscope contain something you don't like to see? When it comes to change we must face the truth. Here are a few steps to follow to help you change your financial empowerment kaleidoscope:

Step #1. Identify the problem. We cannot change what we do not know. Most of our Money Matters clients identify not having enough money or fear of not having enough as the number one problem. What is the picture you see in your kaleidoscope?

Step #2. Ask yourself, what is the opposite of your problem? What would it look like if you had enough? Be reasonable. You are not going to change your bank balance overnight. Remember, you have the same ingredients; you just have to learn to make a different cake. Allow yourself the possibility to see something different in your kaleidoscope.

Step #3. Make up your mind! Having a mindset that "I can change how I manage my money" will speed up the process. Giving up or thinking "I am just not good with money" will not lead to financial wellness. Be kind to yourself. Finances are able to heal, and growth and progress can be seen within a few months.

As we transition from the Saint John Community Loan Fund to Kaleidoscope Social Impact, I encourage you to like our new branding on Facebook and Instagram as well as our website at <https://kaleidoscopeimpact.com>.

Can you look through the kaleidoscope and see a new pattern? Are you going to take another look? A different possibility. A different truth. Perhaps even a different view ahead. A glimpse of light. A glimmer of hope. Remember no matter how high your money tree is, how you spend it does matter.

Contact us at 652-5626 (ext. 4) if you need assistance.



Citizen science opportunity



By Shauna Sands (she/her), Conservation Coordinator, ACAP Saint John (Atlantic Coastal Action Program)

Are you interested in reducing waste and limiting microplastics? You are in luck! ACAP Saint John is giving away Lint LUV-Rs to households and small businesses for free in exchange for some data that is simple to collect and record.

This initiative promotes citizen science and minimizes microplastics spreading. These Lint LUV-Rs are simple filters that hook up to your washing machine to collect lint, which is important because it is estimated that an average household load of laundry sheds thousands to millions of microfibers in a single wash. These filters are to be cleaned every 2-3 weeks, and we provide a sheet and scale to weigh and record the lint data. Make a difference by participating in this project. Send us an email at office@acapsj.org to get started!

Youth Entrepreneurship Success (YES)



By Nihma Hussain, Kaleidoscope Social Impact

Nowadays people prioritize finding jobs that match their values and allow them to pursue their passions. Luckily, working as a summer student at what is newly known as Kaleidoscope has been one of the most rewarding experiences. The untraditional creative workspace and environment welcome people from all walks of life. As a YES (Youth Entrepreneurship Success) program coordinator and a first-year university student, I have the joy of facilitating a program that allows youth to build their entrepreneurial skills through the summer. Kaleidoscope is unique in that as a nonprofit they strive to promote creativity and support passion. It gives working students the opportunity to think innovatively, instead of restricting them to a standard job experience. Being able to be a part of the Kaleidoscope team for the second summer is enlightening as I am able to contribute to the success of many youths across the city. To know that my work and efforts have a direct positive impact on my community is not only a motivational factor but an inspiring one as well. There are many exciting plans for YES this summer so stay tuned on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to see the progress of our incredible youth. Above: Nihma (Photo: submitted)

Rainbow family drop-in

By Tanya James (she/elle),
Project Coordinator,
Chroma NB

On March 14th, POP (Pediatrics on Princess) together with Chroma NB held a new 2SLGBTQI+ (2 Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and other) family drop-in. Welcoming all families who have a child in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, or who are questioning their gender or sexual identity, this was a chance to meet and connect with other families and meet NB Social Pediatrics’ pediatricians and social worker. Chroma brought an artist who led a fun activity for youth, and had members on hand to answer questions and spark discussion. We will continue to have family groups throughout the summer. Come have great conversations with other families, and ask all your burning questions. Our next group will meet in July. Please follow Chroma_nb on Facebook or Instagram for more details, or email query@chromanb.ca. Above: Facilitator reading “Jacob’s New Dress” before starting an art project (Photo: Tanya James)



New faces of Sophia



Some of the Sophia team, left to right: Angela Curwin, Peer Support Specialist; Nicole Lee, Outreach Coordinator; Maureen Pappas, Volunteer Coordinator; Kathy Gorman, Director of Communications & Development; Julie Atkinson, Executive Director; Anne Gautier, Program Facilitator; Sam Flewelling, Director of Programs; Donna Parker, Office Manager

By Kathy Gorman

As the need for community support has grown, so has the need to grow the Sophia team. This year, we’ve welcomed a wonderful team with a range of expertise allowing us to broaden our support. Many of the team have lived experience with the impacts of addiction and recovery, and everyone has a passion for supporting women.

Sophia is a safe place for women to recover from addiction through non-residential support, individual and group counselling, and informal gatherings while fostering connection. These connections create a community helping women reach long-term stages of recovery. We look forward to deepening our connections with you. Saint John: 83 Hazen Street, (506) 633-8783. St. Stephen: 59 Union Street, (506) 469-1058



BGC update



BGC Evening Cooking Program (Photo: Sara Bustard)

Main Club By Jill Farrar

Evening Program at the BGC is finished for the summer and we had a great year coming back to regular programming after two years. We ran several programs between March and May including Cooking, Torch Club, Keystone, Soccer, Ball Hockey, Art Club, Science, and we had our computer lab open. We will be back in early October with more free programs for children and youth, with free transportation running in the South and North ends. If you have any questions in the meantime, or are interested in free programs that we run during the summer, email Jill at jill.farrar@sjclub.ca or call (506) 634-2011.

South End Community Centre By Rachel Murphy

With Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Week coming to an end on June 10th, we down here at the South End Community Centre want to give the biggest thank you to our amazing staff. We had a few fun surprises planned for the special week - see our Facebook page! The staff work tirelessly all year round to provide safe, inclusive, educational, and fun programming to all of the children and youth who come through our doors. Whether it be during summer, evenings, or after school, we know we can count on them to show up and provide the best programming they can. They go above and beyond to help out where needed and are sorely missed on days they are not here by the children and other staff.

Civic Tech Saint John

By Volunteer Co-organizers

Civic Tech Saint John (CTSJ) is excited to announce the appointment of Karla Marticorena as Community Coordinator! In her new role, Karla will engage with residents, community leaders, and a diversity of people working, studying or looking for work in technology to convene and volunteer in building greater social inclusion and development in Saint John. CTSJ is an all-volunteer group of passionate citizens who believe in increasing civic engagement and community participation by applying technology, data, and design for the betterment of the community. At CTSJ, volunteers and community stakeholders come together to identify and solve social-related issues as a group. It is a project of the Human Development Council to foster social cohesion, with *Around the Block*, Brilliant Labs, ConnexionWorks, New Brunswick Community College and University of New Brunswick Saint John as co-founders. The role of Community Coordinator is a partnership with the Government of New Brunswick Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour. For information, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/civictechs/ Above: Karla (Photo: Lorna Brown)



Stroke Navigation program: we need your help!



**By Jannick Thériault, CTRS, Stroke Navigator
Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick are assessing our Stroke Navigation program to better understand client experiences with stroke recovery. We want to understand how Stroke Navigation affects recovery, and in what ways! Your experience will help us learn the importance of this program and how to continue helping others living with stroke! To join is easy! Here are the steps...

1. Be at least 65 and live in New Brunswick
2. Fill out a form during our first session
3. Fill out a form during our last session
4. Optional: agree to a 30-minute interview

By joining, you will help us to showcase the program and the results we hope to see, ex., if Stroke Navigation:

- helps you manage the effects of stroke
- helps you find community support
- prevents you from experiencing re-hospitalization

If you would like more information about our Stroke Navigation program or how to join, please contact Jannick Thériault at (506) 634-1620 or 1-800-663-3600.

Skateboards at the Library!

(Continued from page 1)

Acquiring the boards would not have been possible without the efforts of Kevin Murray, local skateboarder and videographer. He brought the Library and Mr. Arseneault together to make this donation a reality. Murray also worked with Working Class, a skateboard and menswear shop in Moncton, to make some awesome designs for the boards.

"[Thanks to] Working Class Store for supplying the skateboard scene with everything we need to keep us going," Murray said. "Can't wait to see all the boards set up in the Library!"

The skateboards and helmets are available to sign out for one week with a New Brunswick Library card. Patrons must sign a waiver to borrow a board, and they must return it by the due date – unlike books, they cannot be renewed, nor can they be placed on hold. If their first day of availability was anything to go by, the skateboards should be a hit – all five were signed out by closing time that first day.

For more information, please contact us on Facebook (@sjfpl), Twitter (@SaintJohnFPL), by e-mail (sjfpl@gnb.ca), or by phone at (506) 643-7236. *(Photo below: SJFPL)*

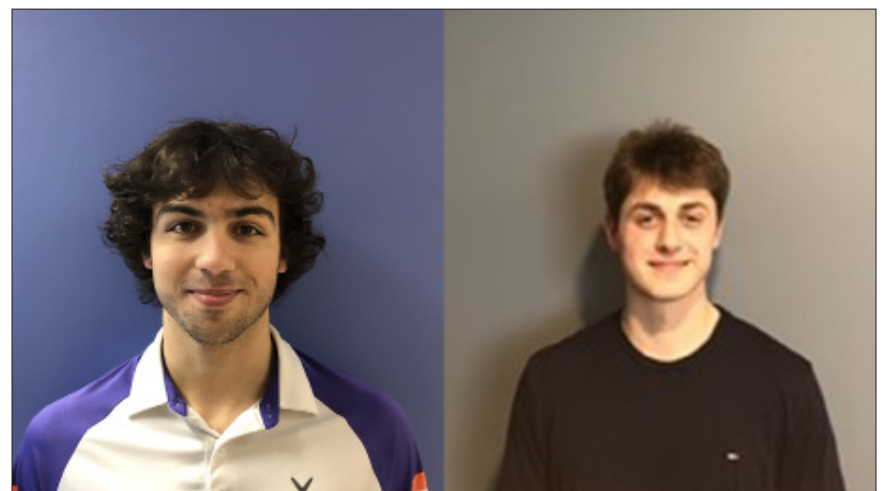


Du renfort pour la 41e Finale des Jeux!

**Par Céline Fournet, Coordinatrice de la 41e Finale
Société des Jeux de l'Acadie**

Deux nouveaux membres sont arrivés dans l'équipe des Jeux de l'Acadie. Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à Jacob Ouellette et Nicholas Connors qui vont donc travailler avec le comité organisateur sur diverses tâches et missions. Nicholas, pour sa part, va avoir la tâche double: il est en parallèle le responsable de l'ultimate frisbee tandis que Jacob Ouellette va nous faire bénéficier de son expérience en tant qu'ancien participant aux Jeux. Des profils différents, mais très intéressants!

Pour rappel, ce sont environ 1000 participants qui sont attendus à Quispamsis et Saint-Jean les 1, 2 et 3 juillet 2022. Le prochain mois va passer très vite pour eux! Nous nous permettons de vous rappeler que nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles. Toute personne capable de s'exprimer en français pour aider les visiteurs est la bienvenue à se joindre à l'équipe. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter au 506 658 4600 poste 2022 ou au coordination@jeuxdelacadie.org pour en savoir plus.



Jacob & Nicholas (Crédit : Gracieuseté; photo: submitted)

Reinforcements for the 41st Final of the Games!

By Céline Fournet, Coordinator of the 41st Final, Société des Jeux de l'Acadie

Two new members have joined the Acadian Games team. We welcome Jacob Ouellette and Nicholas Connors to work with the organizing committee on various tasks and missions. Nicholas, for his part, will have a double task: he is also the manager of the Ultimate Frisbee competition, while we will profit from Jacob Ouellette's experience as a former participant of the Games. Different profiles, but very interesting!

As a reminder, approximately 1,000 participants are expected in Quispamsis and Saint John on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2022. The next month will pass very quickly for them! We would like to remind you that we are looking for volunteers. Anyone who can speak French well enough to help visitors is welcome to join the team. Feel free to contact us at (506) 658-4600 ext 2022 or at coordination@jeuxdelacadie.org for more information.

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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Fallsview**
FUNERAL HOME

Kennebecasis
COMMUNITY
FUNERAL HOME

Connection NB for seniors

By Wanda Wilson
(she/her), Community Coordinator – Connection NB, Canadian Red Cross | Croix-Rouge Canadienne

The Red Cross Connection NB program has recently launched in New Brunswick. The aim of this program is to ensure that older adults in our area are able to remain living at home safely, and remain visible, active, contributing members of our community. So far, our community connectors have helped older community-dwelling adults connect to everything from transportation services, to landscaping services, to ballroom dancing. Both the participants and the volunteers report that this is a valuable program and look forward to their next visits.

The Red Cross is actively recruiting both volunteers and participants in Saint John. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Connection NB, or know someone who is, visit connectionnb.redcross.ca/volunteer to apply, or contact Coordinator Wanda Wilson at (506) 343-4339. You may also to get in touch by email at connectionNB@redcross.ca.

Carol from the Canadian Red Cross at the Market in Saint Andrews
(Photo: Wanda Wilson)



Romero House: how inflation impacts the most vulnerable

By Evelyn McNulty, Romero House

Here at Romero House, we are still operating “out the window” (over 800 days). Since the start of the pandemic we have been seeing more and more new faces every day – new individuals, families and so, so many seniors – too many. It is becoming harder for many to make ends meet and for those living on a fixed income the first thing to go, in an already overstretched budget, is often food. An average month now has us serving over 11,000 meals (58%+ increase).

On March 16th Statistics Canada reported that food prices rose 7.4 per cent in February compared with a year ago, the largest yearly increase since May 2009. That rise has come as the annual inflation rate climbed to 5.7 per cent, the highest it’s been in 30 years. Grocery store prices also rose 8.7 per cent year-over-year in March 2022, the fastest annual rate of increase since March 2009.

Like everyone, we are looking forward to being open again one day. Unfortunately, there is much to consider before that can happen including the reality that the pandemic is not yet over and the most vulnerable whom we closed to protect remain the most vulnerable. We are however ever hopeful that better days are coming. To all who help us in the big and small ways; the ordinary and extraordinary ways: thank you.

Above: Charlene Good at the window (Photo: Romero House)



PRUDE: Valuing Our Differences

By Gary Flanagan

Valuing Our Differences is a presentation delivered throughout the Anglophone South School District, to all grade levels. It is a program delivered by PRUDE Inc, a non-profit based in Saint John for the past 40 years. The purpose of the presentation is to educate students about cultural diversity, inclusion, stereotypes, and much more. It has been delivered to thousands of students over the years and has been praised for being very informative and eye-opening.



Why Is valuing our differences important? There remains a need to inform students of all ages about the importance of diversity, and why it is so crucial to our society. We live in a province that is becoming more and more ethnically diverse with each passing year, and it is paramount that students understand the importance of our ever-changing cultural fabric and the great benefits that this brings to all of us. This presentation makes students stop and think about their own beliefs, and it makes them sometimes realize that what they themselves have actually believed for years may indeed be stereotyped. The presentation also informs students about why inclusion is such a powerful tool.

For further information about Valuing Our Differences, or to book a presentation for your class, please contact Gary at gary@prudeinc.org. More than 900 students have received our school presentations this year, and we have worked with almost 20 schools! This project has been funded by the Province of New Brunswick.

Above: Hampton High School students with Gary (Photo: Gary Flanagan)



STANDING FOR YOU!



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

The *Around the Block* interview: Jen Brown, Carleton Community Centre

By Around the Block
Jen Brown is the new Executive Director of the Carleton Community Centre. We are excited to see a young woman from our community step into this position! ATB sat down with Jen to talk about her journey to the new role and her hopes for the future.



CCC Executive Director Jen Brown in her office at the Carleton (Photo: Lorna Brown)

ATB: So you're sitting here now in the Carleton Community Centre, this lovely old school building where so much good work happens. So when did you start here? Let's talk about your journey.

Jen: I just started this week, on Monday May 16th, so I'm very new in the role. Today will be day 5 for me in this role. I came from working for the Minister of Health, Minister Dorothy Shephard; I was one of her assistants for the past three years. Prior to that I was the Community Schools Coordinator at Hazen White-Saint Francis, so fortunately I am very familiar with the neighbourhoods - with the needs, with the schools, with our partners and how important it is to have all of them around the table and supporting. Also I've been very familiar of course with *Around the Block* as a contributor from the school lens, so I know how important it is to our community - to share those stories. That's the most important part for me personally. I grew up in Crescent Valley so I grew up in poverty and I was raised by a single mother. Fortunately I was able to break the cycle and get out of the generational poverty that we're seeing so much now. So my biggest role in advocacy is sharing my story to as many people who can listen, at as many tables as I can be around, to share how difficult it is at this moment in time for people, but also how important it is that we can bring others along to get out of that.

I've been on many boards in the community. I love volunteering, it's one of my favourite things to do. I volunteer with Pro Kids; I coach field hockey at Saint Mac's [St Malachy's High School]. I was involved with the Community Foundation and the United Way on some of their grant review communities. I'm involved with the Football New Brunswick board. So I just try to find anywhere that I feel my voice will fit, being a young female and being someone with lived experience [of poverty]. I'm so grateful for the schools I went to, Hazen-White, St Mac's, UNB Saint John. They do amazing things for our community and for kids in the priority neighborhoods. Education is first and foremost, then everything else comes around that to move individuals out and onto a path to have a successful life.

ATB: What's new at the Carleton? Do you have a sense of your priorities?

Jen: The summer program is getting back up into gear for our youth! Obviously there've been some challenges through COVID with the number of restrictions and having them in bubbles. This will be the first summer in a while that things are back to what they were. For me I definitely want to continue with the good work that the staff and our board have done along with our residents. And then I just want to see where my lens fits into that and find out where I can add to that and continue to amplify the work that we're doing here.

ATB: What most excites you about this new position?

Jen: It's being back in community - and this is a happening spot, there's no doubt! From pickleball to Zoomers to basketball to the kids youth program in the evenings - they're in the gym, they're playing table tennis, they're cooking... I'm so excited to be back in that world and to see the importance that community and a recreational facility play in bettering the lives of people. And that goes for everyone, not just people who are in priority neighborhoods - it's beneficial for everyone. So I'm excited to be back in community and especially to work with youth again, things that have been very, very close to my heart personally. I'm very excited to be back in this world.

New interpretive opportunity at the AREA506 Container Village



A view of the containers in the Area506 Container Village (Photo: Port Saint John)

By Port Saint John

What better place to learn about port operations than in a shipping container? Port Saint John is launching The Port Pod, an interpretive experience located in the AREA506 Container Village. The Port Pod will act as a storefront for all things Port Saint John. The goal is to demystify the complex port ecosystem for locals and tourists while promoting port career paths to younger generations.

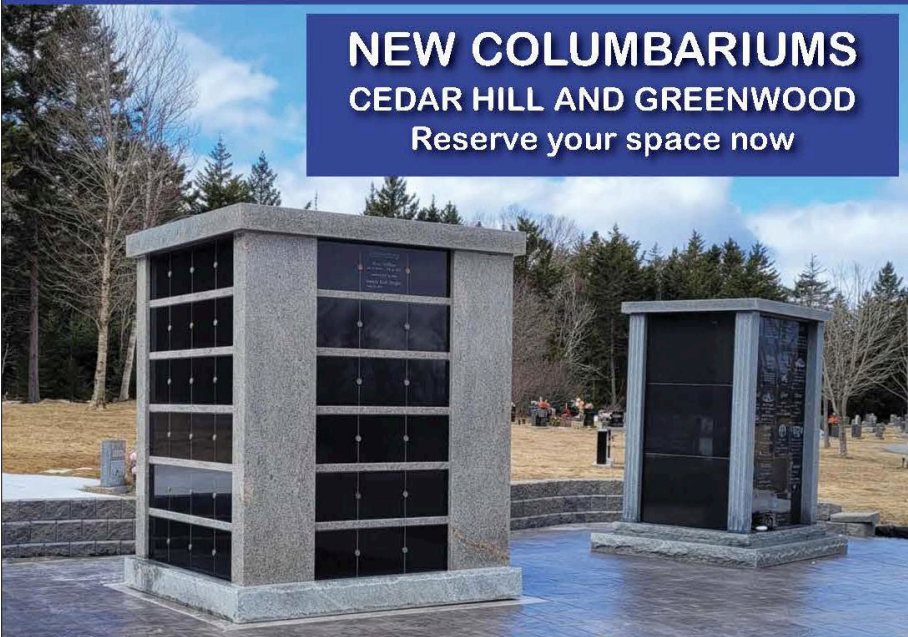
In addition to the interpretation of port operations, there will also be local goods for sale to help Port Pod visitors share their love for their Port City and help empower local businesses. There will be a Port City collection of Beck & Boyd sweatshirts, created by local entrepreneur and artist, Allie Beckwith. For the animals in your life, Port City Pup Co will be creating a custom Port Saint John line of dog bandanas. A portion of the sales will be going to charity.

"Helping the public understand what happens at Port Saint John has been a part of my personal and professional mission since I started at the port over 20 years ago. I'm so happy to see this opportunity come to fruition in partnership with AREA506," says Paula Copeland, Vice President of Engagement and Sustainability.

The Port Pod will be opening in early June with the rest of the Container Village.

[One goal is] promoting port career paths to younger generations

Cedar Hill - Greenwood Cemetery



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1650 Manawagonish Rd. Saint John, NB – 672-4309

Find help 24/7 with 211



By Daniela Fernandez (she/them - elle/iel), 211 NB Director of Community Engagement, United Way

Separations are extremely hard for people, especially when they involve financial, housing, and legal issues. 211 Service Navigators are available 24 hours per day to help people find the government and community services that they need when they are facing difficult transitions in their lives.

A 211 Service Navigator received a call from a woman who was very emotional and crying. She said she was separated, but thought she should be able to receive her portion of Canada Pension benefits from her husband, as she had a very low income. She said she would like to have legal advice and help with Service Canada applications. The Navigator listened and showed empathy for the caller's situation. She then provided her with information on a program for women, which gives a free hour of legal aid; information on the Outreach Centre of Service Canada for the Atlantic Region, which helps vulnerable people to access programs with Service Canada; and information on subsidized housing and how to put her name on a waiting list for a subsidized apartment.

The caller sounded more calm by the end of the call. The Navigator offered a follow-up call to ensure she had received the services that she needed. The caller politely declined and thanked the Navigator saying she would call back if she still needed assistance in the future. The Navigator welcomed her to call 211 back at any time.

Poster: United Way/Centraide



Around The Block Team (Issue 83)

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Lower South End: Mary LeSage/Lisa Morris
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Waterloo Village: Penni Eisenhauer
Lower West Side: Jen Brown
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Register now for YMCA Summer Day Camps!



After School kids having fun doing messy art (Photo: Laura Greer)

By Shelagh Murphy, Child Care/Camps Communications Coordinator, YMCA of Greater Saint John

Summer Day Camps at the YMCA are almost here! Keep your kids active and happy during the summer break while helping them grow and learn!

YMCA Day Camps offer children, ages 5 to 15, fun-filled days of activities like swimming, arts and crafts, sports, and games across nine locations in the Greater Saint John Area. Watch their confidence grow as they make new friends, have fun, and develop lifelong skills.

Summer day camps are available for 10 weeks from June 27th to September 2nd. Registration is online.

For more information on camp location details and schedules please go to <https://saintjohnny.ymca.ca/camp/day-camp/summer-day-camps/>



Stone Church had a party!

By Around the Block with Stone Church (Photos: Barbara Shantz)

Stone Church was happy to host a community event after many months of restrictions. “We usually have an annual community BBQ but due to COVID this was our first one in three years,” said Reverend Jasmine Chandra.

The weather meant it was held indoors but she continued, “It actually was better because people sat around and talked and visited. We had over 100 people attend. A very nice sense of community.”



Top: Declan Landry gets puppy dog face painting by Dominique Campbell; main photo: 100+ enjoyed the lunch event

Councillors’ Corner

By Around the Block

With a year under their belts, we asked our Councillors for their thoughts on a few points: what achievement are they are most pleased about, what was the biggest surprise of the past year, and what will be the most impactful achievement for the priority neighbourhoods over the next year?



John MacKenzie, Deputy Mayor
(506) 977-3849

The last couple of years have been difficult for everyone. I feel with cautious optimism that things are getting better. Council is working hard to improve transportation options by supporting SJ Transit with On Demand service as I talked about in the last issue. Along with that we have now paved the way for ride share companies to come to Saint John. They will operate using the same guidelines as city taxis so there is no unfair competition. You should also know that the active transportation corridor from Lansdowne Avenue to Union Street has been approved by council. The Provincial Government will need to give their blessing as Main Street is part of Provincial Highway Number 1, but all indications are they are on board. This will make walking or biking uptown from the North End much safer. Have a great, safe summer everyone.
John

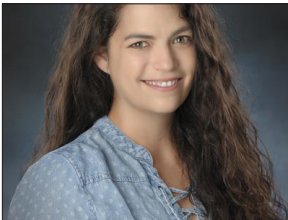


Gary Sullivan, Councillor At Large
(506) 639-1603

Most pleased about? That is like asking which of my children I love the best. I think our biggest achievement is focusing on a few, high-impact projects while staying fiscally

Councillors’ Corner (continued)

disciplined. We can see the work on public spaces like Market Square and Dominion Park, but we also are building strategies for housing and active transportation. My happy surprise is the number of Saint Johners that I see online bragging about good things going on in our city. Social media can be a very toxic place, but I am seeing rays of sunshine from our online “Johners.” :) Priority Neighbourhood impact? The highest impact will likely come from our strategy on affordable housing. Our working group is focused on support that a municipality can bring, and we have recently put some budget monies towards actioning the plan.



Joanna Killen, Ward 1
(506) 639-1506

I am most pleased about the progress we have made as a council in defining what we want to focus on for the next 4 years, while also recognizing that the unexpected will happen and planning for that accordingly. The biggest surprise was the learning curve for me. There is so much nuance and context when it comes to every single issue. I have loved getting to know each and every one more deeply to figure out how I can help best. Our efforts as a council on Affordable Housing are, hands down, the most important issue over the next 12 months. We have experienced exponential growth and need to implement policies to ensure all Saint Johners are housed.



Barry Ogden, Ward 2
(506) 639-1334

Saint John has the lowest number of university courses and students in Atlantic Canada. I put a motion forward to pursue growing our university specifically in our Uptown and older neighbourhoods, and it passed unanimously. It’s the first time the City has passed such a motion. I also put a motion to grow our number of Federal Government employees, passed unanimously. We have lost 5,000 Federal Government Employees. I was chair of Parks and Recreation for some years and pushed for a multiplex recreational facility with two ice surfaces. Now that is one of Council’s priorities. I was on the original Waterfront Committee; I am glad progress is being made there. I wish we could do more in housing, get new schools in the South and North End and end poverty. I have worked with our food banks for 33 years and our poverty level has grown in Saint John.



David Hickey, Ward 3
(506) 721-5690

Affordable housing will be the most important accomplishment for this council. This past month, Council issued an emergency on affordable housing in Saint John. More 30% of our residents are struggling to afford housing and we need to act. Our Affordable Housing Action Plan will be released this fall, and while housing is normally funded through the province, the City has no choice but to step in. I hope we see immediate action taken by the City to direct money towards supporting much-needed safe and affordable housing for everyone. There’s a lot left to do, but we’re on the right track.



Gerry Lowe, Ward 3
(506) 639-0969

To get to know the remaining 9 councillors was important as each has their own strengths and views in different subjects. I was especially pleased that we were able to use those strengths to form a strong Council around the horseshoe. The biggest surprise was the way we handled the challenges that we had because of the pandemic. I find it hard to not be physically with the group I am communicating with. Zoom meetings were difficult but we made it work. What I would like to see, and feel that it is so important, is getting back to Community Policing in each Priority Neighbourhood. Each neighbourhood needs to have a police officer assigned to their community, who, in turn, visits the schools on a regular basis. I believe a police officer must get the respect and trust of the children in the school to be able to be effective.