



# Around *the* Block



Issue 85 October/November 2022 [sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com)

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## All Women Project: 100+ Stories



All Women Project team at Queen Square Farmers' Market, August 28th, 2022. (Photo: PRUDE Inc.)

**By Brenda Diaz, PRUDE Inc.**  
(Pride of Race, Unity, and Dignity through Education)

In the five months since the launch of PRUDE Inc.'s All Women Project, women from communities throughout the Greater Saint John area have shared 130 individual stories with us. Our All Women Project will use these stories to formulate a set of recommendations to local civic leaders designed to help remove systemic barriers for women in the region.

In August we collaborated with PULSE (People United in the Lower South End), Saint John Pride, First Steps, The Nick Nicolle Centre, The Queen Square Farmers' Market and Carleton Community Centre to spread awareness of our project in the region. We have more events planned in the coming weeks, and we encourage all women to come and share their stories with PRUDE, as every story will help improve our community.

**We thank everyone who has participated in PRUDE's All Women Project to help us create a more equitable society.**



## Proud Sponsors of *Around The Block*



SAINT JOHN



## Flemming Court (Potash) Park



The Splash Pad (Photo: submitted)

**By Ann Barrett**

In the first publication 14 years ago of what has become *Around the Block*, I wrote an article about the dreams of the youth in Crescent Valley to have a splash pad and a playpark in the green space in front of Flemming Court. The Board of Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) and Crescent Valley residents kept the completion of the park as one of their priorities.

Much fund raising was needed, and with the cooperation of and funding from all three levels of government, corporate funds from large and small businesses, and grants from local foundations, service clubs, and individuals, we were able to raise approximately \$1 million. (*Continued on page 19, with a surprise*)

## From the Editor's desk:

### The power of partnerships

Lorna Brown, [sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com)

It's been 14 years since Ann Barrett wrote about Crescent Valley youth's desire for a splash pad and a playpark in an unnamed publication that became *Around the Block*. A lot of things have changed since 2008 (see the splash pad above) but this newspaper is still bringing the good news from our priority neighbourhoods, and those who serve them, to the whole community.

For ten of those 14 years, the heart and soul of this paper was its coordinator, Juanita Black. She sent us her reminiscences on her time with *ATB* (page 13). *Around the Block* owes a lot to community stalwarts such as Juanita and Ann, and to a lot of other people - submitters, sponsors (see below left), regular advertisers, and friends who never forget to drop by with an anniversary ad once a year. This is your voice. Thank you for sharing it.

The words are the voices. But looking at this issue, one of the things I love most is the faces: Cass M's vibrant smile as she creates a reconciliation mural (page 12); the graduates at ONE Future (page 2) and the Saint John Learning Exchange (page 12); a BGC Summer Slide kid playing a literacy game as he learns (page 3); SJ Newcomers staff at a barbecue (page 13); Seaside kids at the bowling (page 6); student Erin Lawton (page 15).

We receive many serious stories about serious problems - Romero House's numbers never cease to shock and dismay (page 17). *ATB* is here as a constant to reflect the truth of our communities, the joys and the challenges and the new ideas in action. Don't forget, if you have challenges or ideas you would like to share with elected officials, you can always start by reaching out to your councillor (page 20).

Peace and joy to all. You get them by giving them.



# ONE Future 2022



Top, left to right, Cat, Joe, Sidney, Shelby, Heather, Joseph, Jenna, Kailer, Megan, Brian. Middle: left, Digital Media Marketing Instructor, Sean Simpson; right, celebration cake. Bottom, participants' gift to Workplace Essential Skills (WES) Instructor Joe Marriott: left to right, Hayden, Heather (and daughter), Brandon, Brian, Joe, Sidney, Jenna, and Joseph. (Photos: Jill Richards, except Sean, taken by Megan Bartlett)

By Jill Richards-Cook, Coordinator, ONE Future

The ONE Future Digital Media Marketing Interns marked the end of their 12 weeks of training with a Celebration of Achievement on August 19th. The participants and their instructors welcomed representatives from Working NB, New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), and the City of Saint John, family, friends, and community members.

“This program has been so important to us all. It brought us out of a spiral after COVID left us jobless; it gave us an education when we thought we’d never be able to afford school. It’s given us a chance at a new life when we thought we’d be stuck in jobs we hated forever because we just didn’t know anything else,” said Megan Bartlett delivering the class address. Each participant stood and introduced a two-minute demo reel of the digital content created throughout the program (photos, video, posters, etc.) set to music, and that was the highlight of the event. Although this group of interns is currently on their work placements, they remain connected through a group chat they created. One participant said, “Despite our differences, we all supported each other and worked well together. We still talk daily.” As Megan said, “If you’re ever doubting yourself, don’t forget that we’re all just a message away and more than happy to help.”

Barry Ogden

Ward 2 City Councillor

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# Summer Camp

By Christa Petts, ONE Change

We had such a fun-filled summer this year. We enjoyed beach days, coding camp, tennis and much more. Now we are getting ready for fall, and we will have Tech night, Theatre, and many more activities. Thank you to all our partners who made this summer exciting. Thanks, NBCC, United Commercial Travelers (UCT), and the City of Saint John, for all you do for our kids. Our amazing summer crew were really dedicated to making sure the summer was great for our campers. Thanks for your hard work and dedication. (Photo: John Driscoll)



# Adult programs at the NNCC

By Julia Cool, ONE Change

We have some great programs going on here at the ONE Change/Nick Nicolle Community Centre (NNCC).

- Monday and Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Zoomers on the Go: Participants will learn basic resistance training, balance, and flexibility techniques while becoming more physically active.
- Tuesday, 1:30-3 p.m.: Chinese Yoga (Qigong, pronounced chi gong) involves using exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind, and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being.
- Friday 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: Tea and Tech is geared towards seniors and adults who are having difficulty operating their phones, tablets, or laptops (bring them with you!). For more information, please call us at: (506) 658-2980.



(Photo: ONE Change)

# Engage 4 Change

By John Driscoll, ONE Change

The ONE Change is excited to announce a new program launched on October 5th to help inspire youth with coding, robotics, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and more! ONE Change is partnering with NBCC)and Brilliant Labs to offer a program that is sure to deliver nothing but smiles and fun, all while keeping the young minds educated and thinking of what possibilities they can do next. Engage 4 Change is a ten-week robotic course using the Orange Tart Lego compatible robot that works with iOS or Android. Each child who attends our programs seems to excel each day they are here and becomes more and more advanced in everything they do. This project is designed to take that next step into opening their minds. We can’t wait to see what fun and creative things each child comes up with. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at The ONE Change to see progress posts and many more fun programs that we have to offer this year!

North

Neighbourhood Contact

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Nick Nicolle Community Centre

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

By Lisa Morris, Resident Engagement Coordinator, PULSE Incorporated

**PULSE Inc. NEW Hours of Operation**  
Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m.– 3 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Tax season** is over; however, we are still here for you! PULSE is open year-round to complete your taxes, including previous years’. Drop off your taxes anytime we are open and pick up in a few business days.

**Halloween Trick or Treat** – PULSE will be open Oct. 31st, 5:30-7:30 p.m., passing out treats; do not forget to stop in!

**Monthly Calendars available!** Next time you stop in, do not forget to grab a monthly calendar to keep track of what is going on each month!

**SJBKE Parent Coffee & Chat** – Join us every Wednesday morning from 8-9 a.m. after dropping your children off at school and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and friendly conversation.

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

**Our nurse** is available upon request as always! Call us at (506) 632-6807 to schedule.

**Help Yourself Pantry** - The Help Yourself Pantry is stocked daily to help residents grab a couple of items to make a meal. Donated food items include bi-weekly bread donations from The Saint John Bakery, and through partnership with Second Harvest, twice-a-week donation from Starbucks (Westside). Our public washroom is also filled with donated personal care items through Code Red and the community. If you would like to donate, please contact Lisa at (506) 608-9609.

**SJ Food Purchasing Order** - Looking for affordable veggies? Money can be dropped off at PULSE Inc., 251 Wentworth St or e-transferred to Martha.MacLean@HorizonNB.ca.

Please include your name, phone number, order size and pickup location.

- October – money due October 14th, pick up October 21st
  - November- money due November 10th, pick up November 18th
  - December – money due December 9th, pick up December 16th
- If you want to Pay It Forward with a SJ Food Purchasing Order to someone in the community, simply send a \$15 or \$25 e-transfer to Martha.MacLean@HorizonNB.ca and put in the notes in which area you would like your order donated!



The Honorable Arlene Dunn  
MLA Saint John Harbour

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Summer Slide in the South End



One of our Summer Slide participants playing a literacy game (Photo:Jenn Lingley)

By Rachel Murphy, BGC

We are celebrating another successful year of our Summer Slide program! In this program our participants spend six hours a week working on their math and literacy skills with teachers from the district. This was our fourth year running the program and we saw some great results this year. One hundred percent of our participants either increased or maintained their reading levels, and roughly 74% increased or maintained their math skills. Now these kids can go into the new school year a little more prepared, rather than spending their time trying to catch up to where they were when they left school in June. We love this program and the dedication our teachers have to it and our kids. So a big thank you to Mr. Patrick, Ms. Kennedy, and Mrs. Rockwood for all the hard work they put in each summer to make this program as awesome as it is!

Adventures in recycling

By Malvina Ortega

Even though we are a small family, we produce many recyclables in our household. Before our move to Saint John in 2015, we had been recycling for almost two decades. When the large blue bins were removed from Mecklenburg a few years ago, it made me think long and hard about the lack of sustainable resources in this new community we call home. My children and I advocate for community gardens, food security, composting, recycling, and reusing resources. We recently learned that our city would soon be providing recycling options for our neighbourhood. This is excellent progress for the City of Saint John and exciting for us as a community! After all, it is only fair that priority neighbourhoods and people living in poverty have access to the same resources that other more privileged residents of our great city have access to. I wholeheartedly encourage residents to participate in this opportunity to become familiar with the do’s and don’ts of reducing and recycling household waste. There are so many ways each of us can help to build a more sustainable community; recycling is a fantastic start. Every little bit counts! A big thank you to all who made this possible. Looking forward to seeing the new bins. Let the recycling adventure begin!

South End Neighbourhood Contacts



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### Harvest time at The Growing Place



Above and below: produce donated to the North End Food Bank Association (Photos: RoseEva Butler)

By RoseEva Butler, gardener and Advisory Committee member

Since the beginning of The Growing Place at CVRC (Crescent Valley Resource Centre), providing food to the North End Food Bank has been one of the important objectives related to food security risk in the Saint John Region. A substantial amount of vegetables has been contributed over the past three years and, as of mid-September, 229 pounds have been contributed so far this year. While we may document contributions in pounds, more important is the high-quality nutrition of organically raised crops.

Students hired for the summer have learned to plan, plant, maintain, and harvest a variety of crops in six outside gardens and in two raised-bed greenhouses. A number of starter plants were contributed by gardeners. Also of note, gardeners from the West Side are using a TGP (The Grocery People) greenhouse plot for early starter plants that will be transplanted to the Carleton Community Garden, which contributes to the West Side Food Bank.



### Karen Rodgerson wins big at the Ex!



Karen and all her ribbons (Photo: Juanita Black)

By Juanita Black

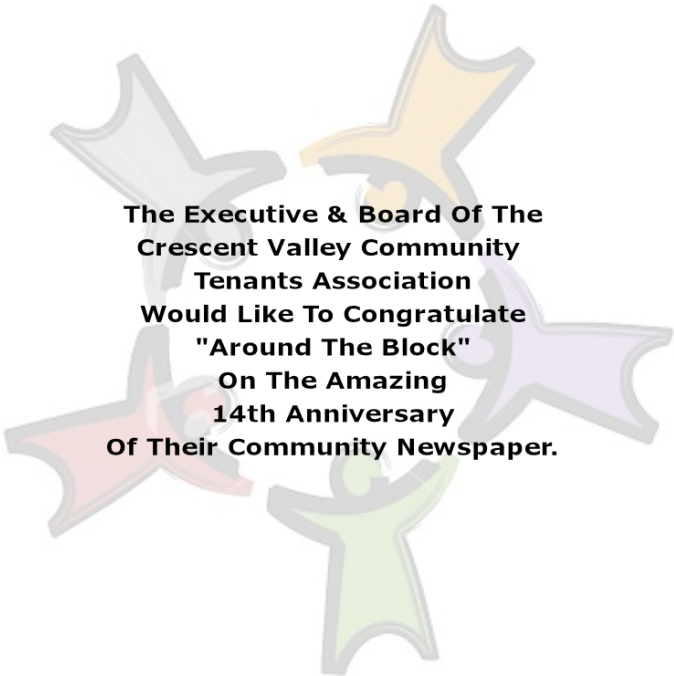
In every community there are unsung champions. People that you might see volunteering at community events. They quietly go about doing what they do best. I would like to tell you about Karen Rodgerson. Karen does many things in Crescent Valley, such as being Second Vice-President of the Crescent Valley Community Tenants Association (CVCTA) and she is captain of the CV Community Garden.

What you don't know about Karen is, she makes the best pickles and jams. At the recent Saint John Exhibition, she entered some preserves. She won the following ribbons: First Place, dill pickles and bread and butter pickles, and Second Place, mustard pickles. In the jams category she won: First Place, blueberry jam and raspberry jam, and Second Place, strawberry jam. She also won Best of Show in the Jam and Jelly section for her raspberry jam. Way to go, Karen!

### CVCTA opens for events

By Wanda Roche

As we were all waiting for COVID restrictions to be lifted, our office at the Crescent Valley Community Tenants' Association (CVCTA) was closed. But with the lifting of some COVID restrictions we were happy to plan some events for the summer months. In early June, some of our seniors got together with children and youth for a day of craft-making. All the kids were so proud of their Fathers' Day cards! To follow that up, for July 2nd we planned a bingo for the adults. The weather tried to dampen our spirits, but we just went indoors, moved some of the furniture, set up the bingo machine, turned on the grill for burgers and hot dogs and had some pop. Many folks hollered "Bingo!" On New Brunswick Day (August 1st) we planned a children's day. The wagon ride and tattoo lady were the most popular areas. The wagon ride took 20 kids a trip for 10 rides through the community, and the kids were busy showing off all their colourful one-day tattoos. We also had lawn games, a story tent and a free barbecue. Every child left with a treat bag, as long as supplies lasted. For September, to finish off the summer we hosted a backyard street dance. The DJ was popular, a canteen was set up, and we had door prizes for the dancers.



### Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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Oh Shoots!! - youth supporting community pantry



Micro greens (Photo: by Tim Chaffey)

By Tim Chaffey, Neighbourhood Developer, Carleton Community Centre

Food security is a major problem in Saint John; prices are going up and nutrition is going down. Amazingly, the crew at Carleton Community Centre was gifted a wonderful opportunity to change those trends. We're excited to announce that Oh Shoots!! has moved from Uptown Saint John to the Lower Westside! Under the leadership of our Neighbourhood Developer, Oh Shoots!! is now a social enterprise run by youth in our programs with all proceeds supporting our emergency pantry. Learning and experiencing the process of planting, growing, and harvesting locally grown sustainable micro greens has created some excitement with the kids. During the summer, those that helped with the program were delighted to take home microgreens that they helped grow and harvest to show their family and friends. It's been a really neat learning experience! For more information on our micro greens, how to support our social enterprise, or place an order for purchase please reach out to @OhShootsGreens via Facebook or Instagram.

Remembrance Day

By Eric George Garnett

When I was young  
We would have November 11th off from school.  
My father would take me uptown  
To see the soldiers march around the Square.  
I would ask him questions.  
Why did these men and women fight?  
He said, to make the world a better place,  
And to have the freedom we have today.  
Now I'm older and a man myself.  
I think of those men and women,  
Who fought two great wars.  
They had dreams and ideas  
That will never be known.  
But I and so should you remember them  
Because they helped us have the freedom  
We have today. Remember.



The Honourable Dorothy Shephard  
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Outdoor learning in our community



Grade 4 Ravn, with Jamylynn from ACAP (Photo: Krista Turnbull)

By Krista Turnbull, Community Schools Coordinator, Seaside Park Elementary School

Many of our grade 3-5 classes have been enjoying some fun-filled lessons about our ecosystem and the importance of pollinator gardens. Our newest community partners with ACAP (Atlantic Coastal Action Program) have spent several hours with our students at their newest pollinator garden. In the spring they embarked on a de-paving project across the street from our school, at Seaside Park. In place of the asphalt, they planted a pollinator garden with a gorgeous view of the Bay of Fundy. We have been so fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning in such a beautiful environment, with folks who are working so hard to provide solutions to existing and pending environmental problems. Special thanks to Jamylynn and partners for the fun activities they organized for the students.

BGC Seaside kids work - then play!

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

The kids were industrious this summer and opened a lemonade stand in front of Seaside Park Elementary in order to raise some money for the kids.

Kids made a sign and were selling lemonade, pride bracelets, and bottles of water for \$1 each. Over the course of two afternoons, the groups were able to raise \$175 from the community.

They used their money to go to the Fairview Lanes for some bowling and got pizza and soda from the local pizzeria. A few were confident enough to take on the staff that was bowling in leagues. They had enough money left over that the kids got some slushies!



Above: staff members Shay (left) and Sami (right) with the kids at bowling (Photo: David MacDonald)

West Side  
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## Art at Stone Church



The new mural (Photo: Rev. Jasmine Chandra)

**By Reverend Jasmine Chandra**

If you haven't seen the new mural at Stone Church, it is worth a look. Created by 14 students taught by Fabiola Martinez of the De Las Artes Art School, it is a celebration of colour and heritage.

Stone Church has been hosting Artists in Residence this fall. The public had been able to come to the church and watch them create unique artwork inspired by the history and beauty of Stone Church. Here is a list of artists who have been creating at the church:

- Andre Haines - Sept 12th-16th
- Tracey Brown - Sept 19th-23rd
- Crystal Drew - Sept 26th-29th

You can come and watch Dale Cook and Helen Shideler, Oct 17th-21st.

## Youth Connection



**By Erin Rideout, Inner City Youth Ministry**

Stone Church and Inner City Youth Ministry will once again be running Youth Connection starting this fall. It's a weekly evening of fun for youth in grades 5-10. Join us Friday evenings at Stone Church, 6-8 p.m., for supper, games, and conversation.

## Rose House is on schedule



**Story and photo by Graham Savage, Rose House Project Manager**

Coverdale Centre for Women is a non-profit organization that serves at-risk females in the Saint John area. They provide emergency overnight shelter which gives a client a safe, warm, clean place to sleep, and a meal in the morning before they head back to the street for the day. Many of these women are ready to take the next step in returning to a more normal life in society. Coverdale made the decision two years ago to build a 12-unit apartment building to provide transitional housing for such women. Executive Director Mary Saulnier-Taylor began discussions with me, and we worked together to plan the project and acquire non-repayable funding from the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick to construct the building, with own source funding to round out the financing. We also secured rent supplements from the Province for the next 20 years. The General Contractor is Iron Maple Constructors from Sussex. Construction started in May at our site on the corner of Brunswick Drive and Middle Street. Things are proceeding on schedule, with occupancy expected by December 1st, just ahead of winter. Please take a minute to drop by and have a look - it is going to be a very important addition to our local resources as we work together to fight homelessness.

## Supporting Romero House

**Story and photo by Debbie McLeod (Social Development)**

We recently presented Romero House with \$827. The funds were raised from the 50/50 draws during Music In The Park at Chown Field on Monday nights for six weeks. Thanks to Linda Harvey for selling the tickets each week. Thank you again to the performers who entertained us every Monday night. We had to move inside for two shows, so a big "thank you" to Jasmine from Stone Church for hosting us. Thank you all for supporting the event. See you all next year. *Left to right, Evelyn McNulty (Romero House), Linda Harvey, and Debbie McLeod.*



**Gerry Lowe**  
Ward 3 City Councillor

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Thank you from HWSF School!



Ms. Connors is thrilled to receive donations of school supplies from our generous partners at Horizon Health (Photo: Kate MacDonald)

**By Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, HWSF**  
Welcome back to all of our Hazen White-St. Francis (HWSF) students and their families. We are so excited to be starting our school year with wonderful things happening at our school. First, we would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our partner, Horizon Health, for the very generous donation of school supplies. These items will be put to good use, assisting in our students' learning. Your continued support is cherished by all - thank you Horizon Health!  
Secondly, we would like to take a moment to say "thank you" and to our friends at PALS for all that you do to ensure our students have the wonderful learning opportunities. PALS allows our students to experience new adventures they may otherwise miss out on. In the few short weeks that school has been back in session, we have gone to New River Beach, seen amazing art sculptures, gone on a scavenger hunt, and taken trips to beautiful parks. All of this is thanks to our PALS! We say with a very full heart, thank you for all that you do for our entire community, and those you serve.

What PALS means to us

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

PALS is the hat that fits so many heads. It's a walk down a country lane where there wouldn't have been one, the derby car soaring down what would have been a lifeless hill. It is the hands of the drivers who deliver lunches to our kids, the heart within Paul that makes the Kids on the Go Bus a rolling beacon of kindness. It is volunteers, it is opportunities, it is the altruism in the souls of people like Debbie Fisher, and the very fact that these same movers are too humble to want to be mentioned (sorry, Deb!) that informs and uplifts this singularly special phenomenon.

For SJBKE, PALS is nothing short of family, people who stayed steadfast during the worst years of the pandemic and remain with us now, ready to look to a brighter future again. The privilege is ours, and we can't wait to see what's next!

Congratulations, ATB, from PALS!

**Story and photo by PALS**  
PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) would like to congratulate *Around the Block* on serving the Saint John community for the past 14 years. We've had the pleasure of partnering with this grassroots newspaper which has been a valuable source of information for our neighbourhoods. Thank you for celebrating our PALS and their partner schools. We look forward to working with you for many more years! Congratulations on a job well done.



NBCC Literacy Camp for Glen Falls



Glen Falls Students visit YSJ Fire Station during NBCC Literacy Camp

**Story and photo by Jill Nylen, Community School Coordinator, Glen Falls School**

Our sixth annual NBCC Literacy Camp for 16 of our Glen Falls students took place in August 2022. Glen Falls School, in partnership with PALS and NBCC, offers a four-day camp full of daily adventures. This experiential camp helps broaden our students' knowledge base and enriches their vocabulary and speaking skills by exploring our community. This year's theme was Port City Transportation, which gave us opportunities to visit Saint John Airport/Fire Station, Shining Horizons, Port Saint John, and Saint John City Transit. Each day begins as the Kids On the Go Bus picks the students up at Glen Falls School driving them to New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) where we spend the morning participating in literacy activities. This year, students created their own scrapbooks, filling them with pictures and descriptions of their daily adventures. The afternoons were spent visiting the transportation destinations. Thanks to all who made this camp a huge success!

Celebrating National Tree Day

**Story and photo by Krista Turnbull, Community Schools Coordinator, Seaside Park Elementary School**

On September 21st, three of our classes celebrated National Tree Day by planting 100 seedlings in our school garden. With the support of amazing PALS at the JDI Sussex Tree Nursery, and our community partner, Jim Landry, Executive Director with Landscape NB/PEI, we had a wonderful morning. Classes had an opportunity to learn all about trees from Jim, clean up our garden beds, and plant the seedlings. Our hope is to tend to them over the next few years, until they grow strong enough to harvest for a fundraising sale, as well as placing a few on our school property. The funds raised will assist us in purchasing seeds and supplies for our vegetable garden. Thanks to our amazing Parent Association and ASD-S we were able to have fencing installed this summer to keep our garden secure. The students had a great morning, and comments such as "I'll never forget this day" made the event even more special.  
Above: Students from Grade 5 Fulton with Steph Rae and Jim Landry





### 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!

**Help Make a Difference!**



Deborah Fisher  
Susan Tipper  
Michael Whelton  
info@PALS.com





## #STEAMCAMPS2022 in Saint John



STEAM Camps at Crescent Valley Resource Centre's Summer Squad camp (Photo: Brilliant Labs)

**By Brilliant Labs**

Thanks to our community partners, over 975 girls and boys (aged 7 to 12+) from all walks of life and abilities had lots of fun this summer developing their digital skills by learning how to create and innovate with today's technology at free STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Camps.

In partnership with: Adoringly Shire; AREA 506; BGC of Greater Saint John; Carleton Community Centre; City of Saint John's Sunshine Program; Crescent Valley Resource Centre; Milford Memorial Community Centre; The ONE Change at Nick Nicolle Community Centre; KV Oasis Youth Centre; and the Main, North-East and West Branch Public Library, Brilliant Labs' camps ran for seven weeks in 16 locations.

Brilliant Labs was able to provide our STEAM Camps free-of-charge thanks to funding from the Government of Canada's CanCode and Canada Summer Jobs programs, Port Saint John, Saint John LNG and Ted Rogers Community Grants. Thank you for your support!

## YEP supports wellness at HWSF



HWSF students thank donors to Nutrition Programs (Photo: Ann Barrett)

**By Ann Barrett, Youth Enhancement Program (YEP)**

The Youth Enhancement Program Inc. is a charitable organization that seeks funding to help supplement the Hazen White-St. Francis School (HWSF) nutritional programs. We have been very fortunate to receive three wonderful contributions for the 2022-23 school year. The NB Children's Foundation granted us \$12,000 to help supplement the nutritious breakfast, and to provide two lunches a week, healthy snacks, and emergency food. We also received \$3000 from the Community Foundation to run an after-school Smoothie program. Also, a former teacher, Octavio Ribeiro, donated \$5000 to the ongoing nutrition programs. The students thank you all for your wonderful support.

## Kids Lead: community development camp at Stone Church



Kids touring the Salvation Army (Photo: Rev. Jasmine Chandra)

**By Reverend Jasmine Chandra**

This summer Stone Church offered a one-week camp teaching kids the values of volunteering, advocacy, and fundraising. They toured several non-profits and learned about what they do and what ways there are to help them, and they volunteered at a seniors' event and at the Lunch Connection program in the South End. The participants also created their own ideal cities and presented them to the group. We hope this begins a lifelong journey of community involvement!

## Registrations open for Propel Program

**By Rhoda Welshman, Marketing & Special Projects Coordinator, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)**

The Propel Program equips teens and young adults with essential skills and real-world experiences, exposing them to opportunities that build better self-awareness and confidence when making decisions around their education and career paths. Learn how to leverage your strengths and weaknesses, understand your personality and those around you, explore businesses and careers that interest you most, build your resume, network, and knowledge when it comes to post-secondary education and job search. Most importantly, come hang out with a great group of peers who will support and cheer on your personal goals – even if you don't know what they are just yet.



Registration is now open! The Propel Program will run on Mondays in St. Andrews and Tuesdays in Saint John from 4-5:30 p.m. Dinner, among other incentives, is provided weekly and throughout the duration of the program, beginning October 2022 until May 2023. Call 635-1145 or email [Rhoda.welshman@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Rhoda.welshman@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca). Above: Propel Participants, Summer 2022: Aidan, Brody, Josh, Zoey, and Cheyenne (Photo: Rhoda Welshman)



## 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.

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](mailto:District15mprovinces@yahoo.com). You will receive an email from Ann Wilson with instructions approximately 15 minutes prior to the meeting.

## St Luke's lunches on Mondays

*By The Reverend Dr. Cole Hartin, Rector*  
*St. Luke's Anglican Church, Parish of Portland, 369 Main St. N.*

**We are continuing our lunch program with take-out meals this fall every Monday 12-12:30 p.m. unless there is a school holiday.**

## The Honourable Trevor Holder MLA Portland-Simonds



**Congratulations to Around The Block on your 14 year anniversary!**

Constituency office:  
229 Churchill Blvd., Suite 11  
Phone: 506-657-2335  
Email: [trevor.holder@gnb.ca](mailto:trevor.holder@gnb.ca)

Office Hours:  
Monday: 8 am to 4 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:  
9 am to 1 pm  
Friday: closed

## 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 October 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 16, 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](mailto: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 October 20th and orders, if possible, will be delivered on the 21st (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 84 winners were:  
Jeanne Laforest and Lorraine Lord**

**Congratulations!**

## Register early!



*By Beth Roy, President, SJ Community 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 14th, 2022 and the last day for registration is Wednesday, December 9th. We are asking individuals/families to register early. Please contact the church to see when their registrations start. You can register for Christmas Exchange at only one place. Duplication of registrations 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.

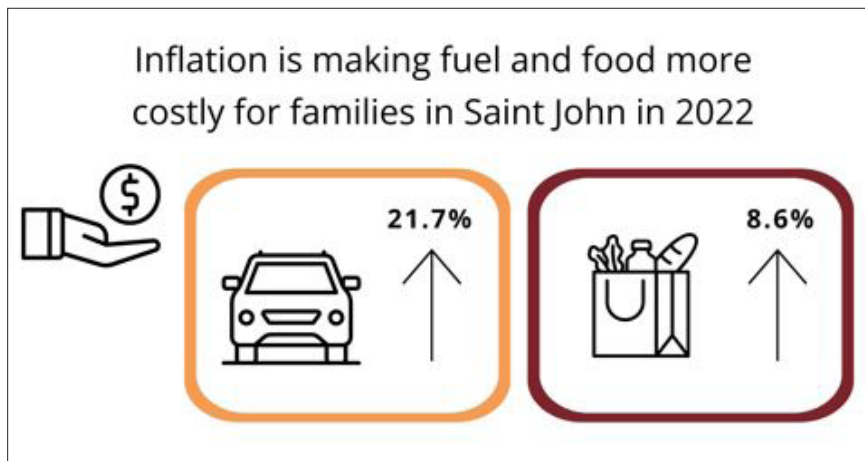
Looking forward to serving our community again this year.





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## Living wages rise in 2022



**By Heather Atcheson, Researcher, Human Development Council**

The Human Development Council's (HDC's) latest report, Living Wages in New Brunswick 2022, reveals that living wages increased by 9 to 12% in cities across the province over the last year. A living wage is the hourly rate a household requires to cover basic needs and live with dignity while enjoying a decent quality of life.

Saint John's current living wage is \$21.60, an increase of \$1.85 since the last calculation was completed in 2021. This higher wage reflects recent inflation and a spike in living costs. Over the last year, the family's transportation expenses climbed by 21.7% in Saint John, largely driven by the substantial rise in gasoline prices. The cost of food rose by 8.6%.

"Many families in the province earn less than a living wage and struggle to make ends meet," said Randy Hatfield, Executive Director of the Human Development Council. Paying a living wage benefits workers and their families, employers, and communities. It is a long-term investment in a healthy economy and society. To read the full report, visit <https://sjhdc.ca/living-wage/>. (Images: HDC)

## Youth build their lives and tiny homes



**By Callie Mackenzie, UYES! Project Manager, Human Development Council (HDC)**

The Introduction to Carpentry and Job Readiness Program is an important part of the Urban Youth Education/Employment Service (UYES!)—an HDC project—and of Outflow Ministry's Training and Employment Programming, under their social enterprise, Catapult Construction. On September 6th, we celebrated the start of another cohort of trainees — our largest group yet. They are young (18-28 years old), diverse, and eager to learn. After orientation and team-building, they began learning essential workplace "Skills for Success" with a New Brunswick Community College instructor through our alliance with Working NB. Soon, they'll certify in Workplace First Aid/CPR, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and Fall Arrest, as they learn to safely use power tools and other workshop equipment. Ultimately, the team will construct a tiny home, potentially one of Outflow's first in a series that is hoped to be part of a solution to ending homelessness in Saint John.

Above: some of our new trainees in the workshop (Photo: Callie Mackenzie)

## There is hope for climate change



Vincent's first-ever speech in front of 1000 in Montreal on Earth Day 2017 (Photo: March for Science of Montreal now Science Advocates Canada)

**By Vincent Scully, ACAP Saint John**

Since starting to study in the environmental field in university, I have become very interested in environmental education, especially Climate Change. I think this interest began when I helped organize the March for Science event (Montreal, 2017) that was part of a worldwide action in support of science and the environment. Through my education, I always tried to explain to people that climate change doesn't care who you are; it will affect all of us. I have also started to encourage my generation, as well as younger ones, to become more involved. Even though things may seem dire right now, it is not the time to give up! There is still hope!

With my new position at ACAP Saint John, I am excited to engage with the citizens of Saint John and inspire change. To learn more about adapting to climate change in Saint John, visit our website at <https://www.acapsj.org/>.







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## Financially empowered education



**By Darlene Jones, Money Matters Coordinator, Kaleidoscope Social Impact**

One of the most underutilized government benefits is the Canada Learning Bond (CLB). The CLB is money that the government adds to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for children from low-income families. This money helps to pay the costs of a child's full- or part-time studies after high school at:

- apprenticeship programs;
- colleges;
- universities.

Why is this important benefit missed by families? Two main reasons are that people believe they are not considered low-enough income to qualify, and that people believe they have to contribute to the RESP on a monthly basis. Let's take a closer look at the qualifications. If you have one to three children and your household income is less than \$50,000/year, your family will qualify for the benefit. Also, no personal contributions to the RESP are required to receive the CLB.

Are you missing out on this important benefit? Let me tell you how to set this up. In October you will receive a letter from the Child Tax Credit indicating your eligibility. We are hosting a sign-up event on November 25, 2022 at the HUB on Prince Edward St. We want to assist you and your family to obtain this benefit. To have your questions answered, please reach out to me at:

652-5626 Ext 4

or by email:

[darlene@kaleidoscopeimpact.com](mailto:darlene@kaleidoscopeimpact.com)

***Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.***  
**NELSON MANDELA**

## Saint John Unsheltered Outreach



Jason packs his backpack with supplies before an outreach shift  
Photo: Jason Green

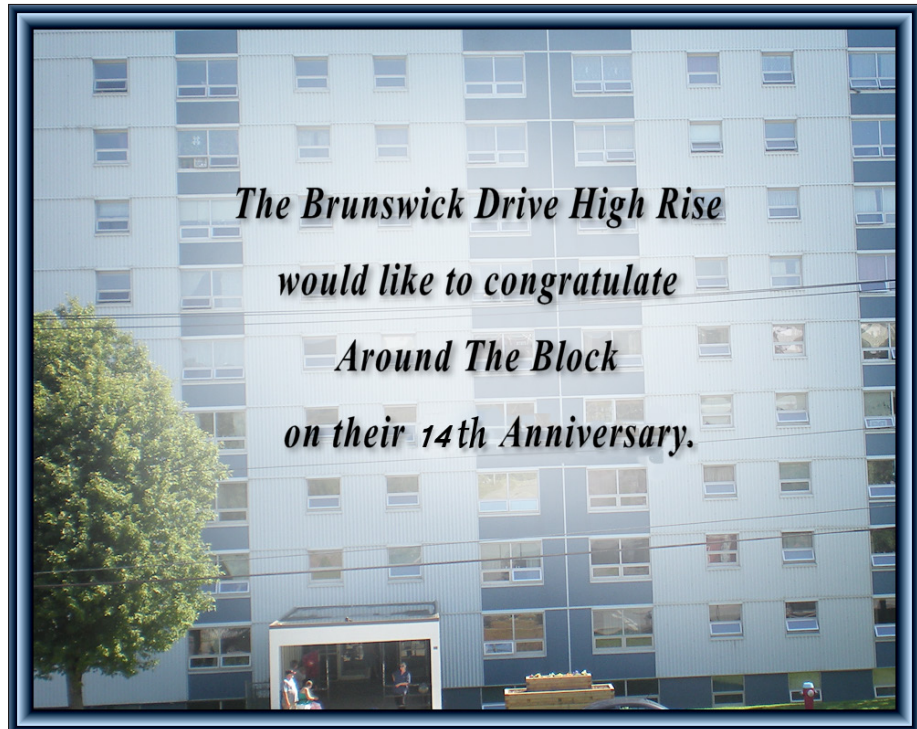
**By Cecilia Asbridge, Coordinated Access Facilitator, Human Development Council**

Within the homeless-serving sector, people experiencing homelessness who do not present to agencies to receive services as often referred to as the "hidden homeless." The most vulnerable of this population are those who as unsheltered or "sleeping rough," those sleeping in tents or on park benches. These are the people most likely to slip through the cracks of our system. This observation has led to the creation of Saint John's newest coordinated outreach effort, Saint John Unsheltered Outreach.

Jason Green of the Human Development Council launched this initiative in August. Throughout the week, he and a volunteer can be found visiting tent sites around Saint John. They visit each known site once a week to provide wellness checks and items for people's survival needs such as snacks and hygiene products. The outreach team also checks if people are on the By-Name List if they would like to be and can connect them to agencies for intake and support. There are no prerequisites for people to receive outreach support; they do not even need to provide their names if they prefer to stay anonymous.

The goals of this program are twofold: to gain an accurate understanding of unsheltered homelessness in our city, and to provide year-round wellness checks for vulnerable community members. With accurate numbers, the homeless-serving sector can plan accordingly for supportive housing and extreme weather.

**If you have seen someone sleeping rough or are interested in getting involved, please contact Jason at [jason@sjhdc.ca](mailto:jason@sjhdc.ca).**



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## Kaleidoscope Youth Entrepreneurs



Cass working on her truth and recognition mural in the SJ City Market  
(Photo: Abigail Reinhart)

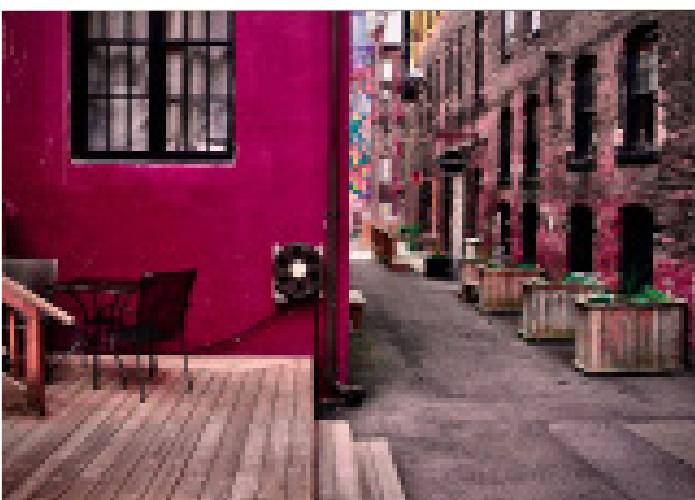
### **An enigma of spiritual forces, by Cass M**

The name, Cass M - that's all you need to know. Who am I? An enigma of spiritual forces. In reality I'm actually NorthEastMoon and that's my usual tag on art. I was born and raised in Saint John but and of mixed heritages, European Descent and Inuvialuit. My younger self definitely was a personal inspiration to become a self-employed artist; from a young age I remember creating a lot and always being interested in the art of art. Now I dabble in everything from textiles to classic oil paintings. My favourite part is constantly learning. My least favourite is mastering. Testing my ambition and what I can put out is a benefit of entrepreneurship. Community involvement has helped me tremendously, not just for exposure, but for connecting, learning and integrating myself and finding out where I evolve into as mitochondria to this world as a whole. My goal as an artist is to roll 20s on all of my productions and pieces, and to bring recognition to natural stories, supporting a land-based thought revolution.

Take breaks, breathe, expel emotion as you need, drink more tea and water - don't drink your paint water - and install a coffee shelf. These are a few things I have learned and would offer as advice to any other aspiring artist entrepreneurs. Make your art as YOUR altar to the spiritual self.

You can find my art at: [www.northeastmoon.com](http://www.northeastmoon.com);

[Linktree.com/northeastmoon](https://linktree.com/northeastmoon); and [@northeastmoonart](https://www.instagram.com/northeastmoonart) on Instagram.



### **Ex-Rogue (Story and photo by Blaise Boyd)**

When I first found Grannan Street Studio, my life looked very different. At the time I was unemployed, and none of my online job applications seemed to get any attention. I had just lost what must have been my sixth job of the year, and I was wondering where I would ever find the stability that I needed. Focusing on my music, I was cold-calling every local establishment to see if I could do my one-man-show, and when I asked the guys at the studio, they said no. What they offered instead was much more valuable, and very soon I became the intern: making money from my own art for the first time in my life. Since then, I have experienced a massive personal growth and belief in myself and I feel nothing but excitement to see how the rest of my journey unfolds. This photo was taken on the patio in front of the aforementioned studio, and for me, represents the magical and transformative energy of Grannan Street Studio, and the surrounding alley. To stay posted on my adventures, check out my instagram [@blaisethex](https://www.instagram.com/blaisethex).

## Learning Exchange Youth Graduation



The Class of 2022 (Photo: Laura Dincorn)

**By Erin MacKenney, Saint John Learning Exchange**

Thursday, September 1st was a day three years in the making – the GOALS (Growing Occupational Academic & Life Skills) Graduation ceremony! Graduation had been postponed due to COVID multiple times and we were finally able to come together. We combined the graduations for 2020, 2021, and 2022 and celebrated their achievement!

Eighty youth earned their diploma and over 40 attended the ceremony. Families and friends were invited to share in this special day, with lots of hugs, laughter, and tears of joy and pride!

The ceremony was the celebration of all their hard work while overcoming obstacles to return to school and complete their Adult High School Diploma.

For many graduates this is just the beginning of their journey with us as they delve into Post-Secondary coaching and explore different options, while others go to WorkLinks to attend coaching in job readiness and resume building and explore job opportunities that are now available to them.

**Congratulations Class(es) of 2020, 2021, 2022!! We are very proud of you and cannot wait to see what you will achieve next!**

**If you want to know more about The Saint John Learning Exchange and our program, please visit our website:  
[www.sjle.org](http://www.sjle.org)  
- or call us at 648-0202.**



**CONGRATULATIONS AROUND  
THE BLOCK ON YOUR 14TH  
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**Pathways  
to Education**



## Around the Block - looking back

By Juanita Black, Coordinator (retired), ATB

Way back in October 2008, I was a volunteer in Crescent Valley working on a new project. It was going to be a good-news newspaper that would focus on the five priority communities - a celebration of the good news that was happening in each area.



The paper would be hand-delivered to residents in the five priority communities. This paper had no name, so we had a contest to pick a name and by Issue 3, *Around the Block* (ATB) was selected.

For issue 2, I had a new job: Coordinator for this newspaper. Not being very knowledgeable about computers, I found it scary at first, but as the newspaper grew, so did I. Working with the communities and the non-profits we published stories, pictures, and information that would help residents.

I worked as Coordinator of *Around the Block* for 10 years, until my 65 birthday; it was a job that changed my life. I thank everyone who worked with me and guided me. ATB is now in the capable hands of Lorna Brown, still providing the good news stories, pictures and information, 14 years after that very first issue. Happy Birthday, *Around the Block*! May you have many more. (Editor's note: Thanks, boss! Couldn't have done it without you!)

Above: Juanita Black (Photo: Human Development Council)



# STANDING FOR YOU!



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

## SJNC has moved to a new place

By Saint John Newcomers Centre (SJNC)

Since September 13th, we have been working in the new office located at 75 Prince William St., Suite 100, Saint John E2L 2B2. This move marks an exciting milestone in the growth of our organization. Thanks to our clients and partners, SJNC has evolved and expanded over the years. With the bigger space at a more convenient location, we are excited to continue our journey of newcomer care where more and more newcomers start their integration and consider Saint John their home as much as we do.

To contact us, please email us at [info@sjnewcomers.ca](mailto:info@sjnewcomers.ca) or call (506) 642-4242.



SJNC employees at the Green BBQ event for newcomers (Photo: SJNC)  
/ Les employés du CNASJ à l'activité de barbecue vert pour les nouveaux arrivants (Crédit : CNASJ)

## CNASJ a déménagé dans un nouvel endroit

Par CNASJ

Depuis le 13 septembre, nous travaillons dans les nouveaux bureaux situés au 75, rue Prince William, bureau 100, Saint John E2L 2B2. Ce déménagement marque une étape importante dans la croissance de notre organisation. Grâce à nos clients et partenaires, CNASJ a évolué et s'est développé au cours des dernières années. Grâce à un espace plus grand et à un emplacement plus pratique, nous sommes ravis de poursuivre notre mission de venir en aide aux nouveaux arrivants, où de plus en plus de ces derniers commencent leur intégration et considèrent Saint John comme un nouveau foyer autant que nous.

Pour nous contacter, veuillez nous envoyer un courriel à [info@sjnewcomers.ca](mailto:info@sjnewcomers.ca) ou appeler le (506) 642-4242.

Questions about our services? Call anytime or visit us at [www.BrenansFH.com](http://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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& CREMATORIUM

**Castle Fallsview**  
FUNERAL HOME

**Kennebecasis**  
COMMUNITY  
FUNERAL HOME



# Chroma launches intergenerational Rainbow Connections



Rainbow Connections art night (Photo: Mariah Darling)

By Tanya James, Operations Manager, Chroma NB

Chroma launched its new intergenerational group series, Rainbow Connections, on September 20th at the Crescent Valley Resource Centre, with a wearable sculpture art night led by artist Amy Ash of Sculpture Saint John.

These bi-weekly groups are places for Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) youth and adults, their families and supporters, to come together to build networks and explore their identities through art and creativity. Chroma staff are on hand to answer any and all questions and offer 2SLGBTQIA+ resources in a judgment-free zone.

They will be held every two weeks, rotating between different community locations in the city to spread the love to all neighbourhoods. The next two meetups at Crescent Valley will take place October 18th. In November we will be moving to a new location: stay tuned!

Want to know more? Please email [query@chromanb.ca](mailto:query@chromanb.ca) or visit [chromanb.ca](http://chromanb.ca).

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[211nb@findhelp.ca](mailto:211nb@findhelp.ca)

# Latin American Heritage Month

By Red Latin Southwest NB

Red Latin@ is pleased to invite the Saint John region general public to celebrate Latin American Heritage Month. (Red Latin is Spanish for Latin Network.)

With the collaboration of community partners such as the Saint John Public Library, Saint John Youth Orchestra, Print three, Five and Dime, and DJ Mike Red and Blue, among others, we are organising events every Saturday in October. We have sports, food, social and cultural events for all ages. We want to share our Latin heritage with you!

These events are possible thanks to the funding provided by Opportunities New Brunswick, the support of the University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ), and the hard work and support of all the board members and volunteers and our community.

For further information please follow our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/redlatinswnb](http://www.facebook.com/redlatinswnb) or our website: [www.redlatinswnb.ca](http://www.redlatinswnb.ca)

The logo for Red Latin@ Southwest NB features the text 'Red Latin@' in a colorful, multi-colored font, with 'Southwest NB' in a black sans-serif font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized sun icon with yellow rays.

Carrie Tanasichuk  
Director of Impact Measurement  
& Evaluation

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Harry Daley  
Director of Community  
Investment & Learning

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Cheers to 14 years of  
Around the Block!

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## Students in the community: Erin Lawton



*Erin Lawton (Photo: UNBSJ)*

***By Paige Stewardson, Office of Experiential Education, UNBSJ***

SOCS 4501, an experiential learning course offered at the University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ), aims to integrate the knowledge we bring to the class, challenge the assumptions and ideas we currently hold, and strengthen our understanding of ourselves and each other. These goals are achieved with the help of dedicated community partners.

Erin Lawton, a SOCS 4501 student, was partnered with Gentle Path Counselling Services this summer. Erin worked as the Community Outreach Coordinator, an opportunity that allowed her to gain more confidence in her skills and abilities. A key aspect of her work involved organizing donations for the auction portion of a Gala sponsored by Gentle Path. Erin says this was no small task as she contributed to the estimated \$15,000 in donations received. She explained that Gentle Path aims to offer as much subsidized counselling as possible, and by raising funds, they can draw from their pool of money to be distributed accordingly. Erin says her experience in SOCS 4501 and working with Gentle Path exceeded her expectations, helping her grow as an individual and leading her to stay on as a volunteer.

## We give because we see an impact



**Story and photo by Shelagh Murphy,  
Child Care/Camps Communications Coordinator, Saint John Y**

The YMCA has been a part of Brice and Cathy Belyea's life since childhood. From learning to swim and attending camp, the Y was like a second home.

When asked what stands out about the Y, Brice credits a group of men breaking the generational barriers and including him in activities. This impact would continue decades later, influencing the Belyeas to continue to be involved at the Y.

From their daughter's helping to introduce the Stay Strong program, to his serving as the Co-chair of the first Early Learning Centre, now known as the Early Childhood Hub, the Belyeas played a key role in getting the Y involved in critical programs in the community.

**“Within the last 10 or 15 years, the Y has really increased its presence in the community. We want to ensure we are doing whatever we can so the Y’s work continues in the years ahead.”**

**Editor's note:**

**Excerpt's note:**  
(Use your phone to scan the QR code in the photo above to read Brice and Cathy's full story.)

## Cedar Hill - Greenwood Cemetery

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## 211: a caller story



#HelpStartsHere (Photo: Omar Lopez via Unsplash.com)

**By Daniela Fernandez (she/them), 211 NB Director of Community Engagement, United Way Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick**

211 service navigators go above and beyond to help callers facing challenges to accessing help. In this case, a woman with no access to internet at home called 211 since she was anxious that her one-year term with the Canada Housing Benefit (CHB) was coming to an end and she did not know how to renew her benefits or how to contact the CHB. The service navigator reassured her that 211 could help by contacting the program on her behalf and relaying her questions and concerns; the caller agreed. The CHB program was contacted to verify the renewal process, and the staff explained that they would be reaching out to the caller by mail. The 211 navigator contacted the caller back with this information, reassuring her that the CHB program would be sending her information about her renewal of benefits, and at the end of the call, the caller said “Thank you for taking the time to look into this for me. I’m a busy mother and it’s hard not having the Internet at home.”

Anytime you need support, remember that #HelpStartsHere, at 211.

## The cruise industry is back in SJ!



Norwegian Breakaway Cruise Ship in Saint John

**Story and photo by Port Saint John**

The cruise industry has successfully restarted in Saint John and this year marks an important milestone. The Port and community has welcomed its three millionth cruise guest to the city!

While the first cruise ship to call in Saint John in 1989 was an unexpected arrival due to a hurricane diversion, her visit here over 30 years ago was so successful that it kick-started the local cruise industry, which today has an annual economic impact of \$68 million.

## The Purse Project in its seventh year



A load of filled purses, ready to go! (Photo: Karen Stears)



**By Pam Thomas, Canadian Progress Club Ignite**

The Canadian Progress Club Ignite is proud to present the Seventh Annual Purse Project on Saturday, November 5th (10 a.m.- 3 p.m.) at 100 Station Street continuing with a drive-through drop-off. New and gently used purses filled with various personal care items for women, including hats, gloves, or scarfs are accepted. Also accepted are filled backpacks for those living rough. The purses are donated to community partners who are direct resources for women facing unfortunate life circumstances from homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, or other emergency situations. Community partners distribute the purses, as needed. Our community partners include First Steps/Second Steps, Fresh Start Services for Women/YWCA, Elizabeth Fry Society, Avenue B, Coverdale Centre for Women Inc., and Hestia House, among others. The 2021 Purse Project collected over 1,300 purses.

Canadian Progress Club Ignite (<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianProgressClubIgnite>) is a volunteer not-for-profit service club chartered in April 2012. Our mandate is to strive to assist women and children in need within our community through fundraising efforts and volunteering. Ignite is part of the Canadian Progress Club (<http://www.progressclub.ca>) founded in Toronto in 1922.

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One day of service @ Romero House:  
Monday, September 19th, 2020



Phyllis Beckingham @ Romero House

Story and photo by Romero House

**Chili con carne, basmati rice, dinner roll and bottle of water**  
First one in arrived at 5 a.m. to get the ovens going, the chili heating up and the basmati rice cooked. The rest of today's crew (four) in at 7ish to finish the remaining prep and start the packaging and serving.

Day's statistics

- # of meals served: 586
- # of individuals served: 440 (including 84 children - no school today)
- Breakdown of # of meals received: one meal – 312 people; two meals – 107 people; three meals – 16 people; four Meals – three people

Resources used for meal

- 586 clamshell containers/586 forks
- 36 pounds of basmati rice
- 24 cans – 796 ml diced tomatoes
- 48 cans – 540 ml kidney beans
- 18 cans – 398 ml baked brown beans
- 49 dozen dinner rolls
- 27 pounds of hamburger
- 30 cans – 680 ml pasta sauce
- 18 cans – 540 ml chick peas
- Onions, chili powder, spices, salt and pepper

In addition: extra bread and sweets are passed out daily as long as supplies last. Personal hygiene items, socks, shoes, and winter wear are given when requested and available. Any remaining time, energy, and idle people 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. focus on preparing for the next day's menu.

**This year from January – August 2022: 92,793 meals served**

La vérification des sièges d'auto pour  
enfants maintenant offerte en français



Dominique (à gauche) et Christine (à droite). Crédit: Gracieuseté

Par Dominique Daigle, Agente de développement communautaire,  
Réseau de santé Horizon

Christine (intervenante à la petite enfance et en francisation de l'ARCF) et Dominique (agente de développement communautaire pour la Régie de santé Horizon) ont suivi une formation de technicien en sécurité des enfants passagers (TSEP) offerte par l'Association pour la sécurité des enfants passagers du Canada (ASEPC).

Cette formation leur a donné un vaste éventail d'informations et de connaissances sur la sécurité des enfants passagers incluant: les meilleures pratiques, l'utilisation des sièges d'auto et les lois entourant ce sujet.

Si vous ne savez pas comment installer votre siège d'auto, vous n'êtes pas sur si vous l'avez bien fait ou vous avez des questions sur quand et comment faire la transition à la prochaine étape, vous pouvez contacter Dominique (650-6536) ou Christine (658-4600, poste 2101) pour prendre un rendez-vous. Elles se feront un plaisir de vous aider et répondre à vos questions.

EFryNB assistance available

By Melissa Moore, Special Administrative Support  
Elizabeth Fry New Brunswick Nouveau-Brunswick (EFryNB)

Did you know thousands of Canadians are underemployed or unemployed because of having a criminal record? That the application process is lengthy, taking anywhere from 3-12 months to apply and another 6-24 months for the application to be reviewed by the Parole Board of Canada?

Good news is that this year the cost to apply for a record suspension has been reduced to \$50 from \$657. More good news is that EFryNB assists you all the way through the application process, which can feel challenging. Ask us about our subsidies to help with costs of the application base fee and additional requirements of fingerprinting and accessing criminal records. We understand this can be a stressful process and fully respect confidentiality. Can we help you? Want to find out more? Please call our EFryNB office at 635-8851!  
(Photo: Judy Murphy)



Questions about our services? Call anytime or visit us at [www.BrenansFH.com](http://www.BrenansFH.com)

It's traditional...

There are many traditions surrounding funerals.

The oldest have been with us for centuries, the newest - they're being created everyday. It is our tradition to do everything we can to ensure that each family that turns to us gets the service they expect, the respect they deserve, choices that suit their budget and everything they need to find meaning for today and hope for tomorrow.



**Brenan's**  
FUNERAL HOME  
& CREMATORIUM

**Castle  
Fallsview**  
FUNERAL HOME

**Kennebecasis**  
COMMUNITY  
FUNERAL HOME



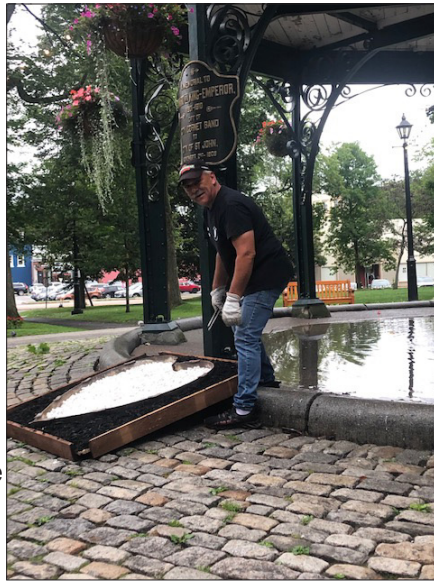
## Operation White Heart 2022

Story and photo by Lorraine Lord

It all started in the North End of Saint John, when Gary Brown Sr. got permission from the Crescent Valley Gospel Centre to plant a 16-foot white heart behind it and Newfie's Car Wash, at the foot of the hill going to the Regional Hospital. You will have no trouble seeing this huge heart. You will also see a small one near the road.

I asked Gary why he decided to do this, and he answered, because he saw a need. The need is to let people know that they are not alone and others care, because mental health and suicide issues are prevalent.

Since April 2022 Gary has "planted" over 300 smaller hearts and people are painting or making white hearts themselves, to show they care. You can find out more by joining Operation White Heart on Facebook. Above: Gary Brown Sr. finishing the heart in King's Square (Photo: Lorraine Lord)



## Intimate Partner Violence Forum

By Nick Shepard, Community Outreach Coordinator  
The Salvation Army

Intimate partner violence (IPV) impacts all of us. Educating ourselves is the best way to support survivors in our communities. This October 26th The Salvation Army will be presenting a one-day event: Intimate Partner Violence Impact On Homelessness Saint John Forum. The barriers that IPV creates for agencies attempting to house survivors can be substantial. They are too large for any one agency and for that reason we are honoured to bring together a diverse group of agencies to discuss the ways in which we can better support survivors of IPV as a community. If you or anyone you know is suffering in silence please contact the IPV support line at 566-5960 or 632-5616.



Giving Hope Today



Are you a high school student needing help with your grades?

RBC Raise The Grade is a BGC evening program that offers high school students the opportunity to explore interests and passions and helps them excel in those areas.

Monday to Friday  
37 Hanover Street  
5:00pm-8:30pm  
amanda.downey@sjclub.ca



SCAN QR CODE  
TO REGISTER

## Public art project a success



The sculptures (Photo: Sculpture Saint John)

By Jennifer Hallihan, Sculpture Saint John

Over four exciting weeks on the Long Wharf, large blocks of granite were sculptured into beautiful pieces of public art for New Brunswick. Artists from around the world representing Turkey, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, and Canada shared their amazing talent with all visitors to the site.

These eight sculptures will now complete the New Brunswick Sculpture trail, with a total of 38 sculptures, 12 sculptures in Saint John, and 20 sculptures outside Saint John communities. Maps are available at Sculpture Saint John. The sculptures will be placed at Deer Island, Oromocto, Dieppe, Moncton, and Grand Bay-Westfield; in Saint John Seaside Park; Kiwanis will place their sculpture in Queen Square; and Uptown Saint John will place one in front of City Hall.

We would like to thank our sponsors and supporters and community partners!

A big shout out to all the volunteers who made this year's symposium a great success!

Congratulations **Around the Block** on your 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

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

The Saint John Police Force wishes you continued success.





## Flemming Court (Potash) Park



The Playpark (Photo: submitted)

(Continued from page 1)

Over the years in stages the beautiful park now enjoyed by the neighbourhood and surrounding communities was completed. In July 2011 the first phase, the Splash Pad, was officially opened. It took us another four years and phase two, the Playpark, became a reality in November 2015. More Park improvements were added in the summer of 2016. These included new benches, picnic seating areas, trash receptacles, and swings. A safety fence around the play structure was put in place in 2019. The Park is a wonderful place that continues to give enjoyment to many children and their families. The dream has come true. *(Editor's note: Please excuse the graininess of the screenshot from Issue 1 below; the original photo is lost, but the opportunity to thank Ann and all who helped was too good to miss. Mission accomplished! Thank you!!)*



Youth at Flemming Ct. future site

Photo from Ann's original article in 2008 (Screenshot: ATB archives)

## Hearing Testing



Left to right: Debbie McLeod, Paula McDermott, Jean Taylor  
(Photo: Gary Ring)

**By Debbie McLeod, Social Development**

Thank you to Paula and her crew for providing free hearing tests for seniors living at Charlton Place and Stephenson Tower. Paula provided door prizes and made the testing process fun! Paula made recommendations and provided resources to people after their hearing tests were complete. It is very important to Paula that people have the opportunity to hear well. Paula has been wonderful to our seniors during special occasions and really understood the importance of seniors feeling supported and connected during COVID. We want to say “thank you” to Paula for her ongoing kindness to our seniors.

## Red Cross support for seniors

**By Grace Anderson, Red Cross Communications Volunteer**

With the fall season approaching, Connections NB is here to support seniors looking for resources to help them with the upcoming challenges of the colder seasons. By enrolling in the program, participants can be matched with a volunteer that will guide them in finding resources for accommodations, health care, food, social interaction, transportation and more. Volunteers can help participants identify their needs and then connect them with our partner organizations. Participating seniors can have regular meetings with their volunteers to re-evaluate their needs. We understand that the transition to colder seasons can be challenging, and we are here to help.

Interested in volunteering? Volunteers gain valuable experience in interviewing, planning, and therapeutic communication. The initial pilot project is being piloted in Moncton, Saint John, St. Andrews and Miramichi.

Visit our website at [connectionNB.redcross.ca](http://connectionNB.redcross.ca) or reach out to [connectionNB@redcross.ca](mailto:connectionNB@redcross.ca) to volunteer or register as a participant.



## Around The Block Team (Issue 85)

**Publisher:** Human Development Council  
**Editor:** Lorna Brown

**Old North End:** Christa Petts  
**Lower South End:** Mary LeSage/Lisa Morris  
**Crescent Valley:** Anne Driscoll  
**Waterloo Village:** Penni Eisenhauer  
**Lower West Side:** Jen Brown  
**Proofreaders:** Mark Driscoll, Jane Hanlon, Daryl Barton, and Lorna Brown  
**Layout:** Lorna Brown





## Civic Tech Saint John Relaunch - a hit!



**By Civic Tech Co-organizers (Photos: Foto Ambience)**  
On September 27th, 2022 at ConnexionWorks, Civic Tech Saint John (CTSJ) formally relaunched its weekly in-person hack nights with an incredible crowd of 80+ Saint Johners of all sectors and interests – techies with skills to offer, charities and non-profits with challenges, newcomers, high school students from the IDEA Centre, UNBSJ and NBCC students, representation from the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, and Councillor David Hickey. The diverse group showed that they had one thing in common: a desire for a better Saint John for all.

The heart of the evening was 17 pitches (see below right) of ideas for challenges to address and projects to improve the community. In addition, co-organizer Kyle Rogers presented data from CTSJ’s biggest current project (with the five priority neighbourhood associations) to address Saint John’s digital divide. (See *ATB* Issue 84, front page.)

CTSJ had not missed a beat in response to COVID, continuing weekly meetings and many successful projects virtually from March 2020, until summer 2022 saw a move to hybrid in-person/virtual biweekly meetings. The Relaunch was the first of our much-anticipated return to weekly hack nights! The popular hybrid component of online and in-person meetings will continue.

Sponsors of the Relaunch included the Human Development Council, ConnexionWorks, and iSpire who kindly provided pizzas from Pomodori Pizzeria. Refreshment sponsors for upcoming hack nights include Costco and A&W. Civic Tech Saint John, a 100% volunteer-driven organization that uses technology for social good, is grateful to the Department of Post-secondary Education, Training, and Labour for funding a one-year staff position to help amplify the successes achieved so far by our volunteers and community partners.

For more information, go to Civic Tech Saint John’s Facebook page, visit <https://civictechsaintjohn.ca/>, or drop in at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays to ConnexionWorks, 1 Germain Street, third floor (sign-in in lobby).



L to R: Community partner Mary LeSage, PULSE; Co-organizer John Wong; Community Co-ordinator Karla Marticorena; Co-organizers Rob Moir, Lorna Brown, Kyle Rogers, and Ben McHarg, and community partner Rob Sancton, PRUDE)

## Councillors’ Corner

*For the 14th anniversary issue of ATB, the voice of our priority neighbourhoods and the organizations that serve our community, we thought about what ATB is about: voice for our community. So this issue’s question for our Councillors was: apart from Around the Block, what are some of the ways you like to communicate with residents and seek to hear their voices?*

**John MacKenzie, Deputy Mayor:**

Every day I interact with citizens across the community either at local stores, businesses or coffee shops or even just on the street. I also receive a lot of phone calls and emails and try to reply as soon as possible. I prefer to resolve people’s issues personally either face to face or on the phone (977-3849) and try to make myself as accessible as possible.



**Joanna Killen, Ward 1:**

I love getting to chat with residents in our wonderful community. Whether it’s online via Instagram or Facebook or at community meetings or out and about, I’m always happy to have a chat about concerns, feedback or what we could do more of. My email is also a great place to send more detailed concerns at [Joanna.killen@saintjohn.ca](mailto:Joanna.killen@saintjohn.ca) Never hesitate to reach out!



**Barry Ogden, Ward 2:**

I try to be with on the street everyday in my ward and work on projects to make our ward better. I return messages right away. I also go to as many events and meetings as I can. I post what I am doing on social media. 639-1334



**Paula Radwan, Ward 4:**

I love connecting with all residents in Saint John. I like using social media and just did a Facebook Live with Ian Fogan from Transit to discuss the new transit system (available on my Facebook page). I will continue doing these videos to help getting messages out to the public. I am always available to have chats by phone at 977-3846 and people can email me at [Paula.radwan@saintjohn.ca](mailto:Paula.radwan@saintjohn.ca). I am also arranging a town hall meeting (I hope in person and online) in October (date will be confirmed on social media).



Pitches from Saint Johners, captured on the Pitch Board by CTSJ Co-organizer John Wong