



Around *the* Block



Issue 87 February/March 2023 sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

Published six times a year by the Human Development Council

Help Stone Church win \$50,000! Oldest local church a national finalist



Story and photo by Stone Church

The National Trust for Canada's Next Great Save competition will award \$50,000 towards the heritage project with the most public votes. St. John's Anglican Church — commonly known as Stone Church — needs our votes to win!

Stone Church has been selected, along with nine other heritage buildings across Canada, to compete for votes with a chance to win \$50,000. The church, which will be 200 years old in 2024, is facing some serious conservation needs and hopes to do major repairs to the tower in 2023. Everyone who comes into the church enters through the front door at the base of the tower. By stabilizing the tower we ensure that people can keep coming in for many years.

(Continued on page 6)

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SAINT JOHN



Meet Molly Maguire: First Friend Volunteer with Newcomer Connections



First Friend Molly and new friends

Story and photo by YMCA

"I chose to volunteer with the Y because I wanted to contribute to the efforts that our province and our country are making to bring new people here," said Molly. "Newcomer Connections is well staffed, very thorough and super-organized - allowing volunteers to do as much or as little as their time allows. Every little bit helps to make the arrival process smooth, effective and hopefully, enjoyable, as these newcomers grow to become our neighbours. Their drive, determination, and enthusiasm is inspiring. I am happy, and humbled, to play even a small part in encouraging their success." First Friend Volunteers like Molly help newcomer families settle in Saint John, assisting them to adjust to their new lives by offering them guided tours, helping them practice English, sharing meals, going to parks and in many other ways encouraging them to become independent. **You can become a First Friend Volunteer too. Apply to volunteer at saintjohnny.ymca.ca/volunteer.**

From the Editor's desk: Livable

Lorna Brown, sjcommunitynewspaper@gmail.com

In this issue we hear a lot about money. About what a difference it makes - and could make. The Stone Church could win a prize to do renovations for a heritage building in which they support so many in the community with basic services (see article, left and page 6). Learner James Byers, who won the Judi Chishom bursary recently after working on his goals one by one at the Learning Exchange, will use the money to buy a laptop to pursue post-secondary education - the first person in his family to do so (page 10). Well done, James! Our intrepid budget columnist, Darlene Jones, reminds us always of that step-by-step approach of making better financial decisions every day (page 11).

Both the op-ed from the publisher, the Human Development Council, and the column in Councillors' Corner from Barry Ogden, focus on the idea of a Guaranteed Livable Income. The good such a program would do is boundless - providing improved mental and physical health to those living in the circumstance of poverty, but also opportunities, options, dignity in which to raise healthier families.

One doesn't hear anyone disputing the social benefits of a livable income. What mystifies me and other proponents is that those who bring up the *cost* don't see that it is really an *investment*. Administering a guaranteed livable income, just in itself, could save money in the short term (fewer programs needed, inside and outside government, which Randy Hatfield glances at in his list of the ways in which we deal with poverty now). And the long-term mental and physical benefits noted above would lower the *economic* cost to society of dealing with these problems - problems that a livable income reduces. It's an upward spiral of impact! A no-brainer.

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

A large, brightly lit Christmas tree stands as the centerpiece in a dark park at night. The tree is densely covered with multi-colored lights in shades of red, green, blue, and yellow, topped with a glowing white star. It sits on a circular concrete base. A diverse crowd of people, including many children in winter coats and hats, are gathered around the tree, some looking at it and others talking. The background is dark, with some distant lights from buildings or street lamps visible, creating a festive and communal atmosphere.

Story and photo by Christa Petts, ONE Change

A great event and we always open our holiday season with the Community Tree Lighting. Thank you to The Honourable Trevor Holder, who donates the tree every year. We had a great number of community members come out and join us.

Constituency Office:
229 Churchill Blvd. Suite 11
Tel: (506) 657-2335
Email: trevor.holder@gnb.ca



Last year The ONE Change Inc. in partnership with New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) and Brilliant Labs hosted a Robot Club for teens, to introduce and develop more opportunities for coding and teamwork. We had 12 participants who started this program, not sure what to expect. However, come the end of the 10 weeks the youth brought guests and some parents to showcase all the amazing robots and inventions they had come up with. We had crane robots, soccer bots, spider bots, and more! The parents and friends loved seeing their projects. Some joined in to work with our participants and their robots. We are excited to be launching not one but two new robot clubs this year and are expanding to all ages. One group is for youth in grades 4-6 and the other is for grades 6-9. If you know a youth who could benefit from this upcoming program, call John today at the ONE Change Inc. at 506-658-2980 and register to reserve your spot today!



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

**By Lisa Morris, Resident Engagement Coordinator,
PULSE Incorporated**

PULSE Inc. hours of operation

Monday–Tuesday 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Noon Nuggets - Join us every Wednesday, 12-1 p.m. for small nuggets of information on a wide variety of topics based on residents' request. Register in advance to make sure we save you a seat! Do you have an idea on a topic or want to lead a conversation? Call us at 506-632-6807. We would love to hear from you!

SJBKE Parent Coffee & Chat - Join us every Wednesday morning from 8 to 9:30 a.m. after dropping your children off at school and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and friendly conversation.

Grab & Go times

- Breakfast: Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., January to March
- Supper: Thursdays, 4 p.m., January to March
- Grab-a-snack for students: every school day after school

Community Health Nurse Kathy London Anthony is available for drop-in at PULSE every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Tax season - We will be able to complete your 2022 taxes starting March 1st, 2023. Drop-offs are preferred but appointments are available upon request. PULSE is open year-round to complete your taxes, including previous years.

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!

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

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.

February – money due February 10th, pick up February 17th
March– money due March 17th, pick up March 24th
April – money due April 14th, pick up April 21st

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

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

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



Grab & Go Breakfast



9am to 11am

Every Tuesday in
January, February &
March

Grab-A-Snack

Attention Students

Stop in afterschool to P.U.L.S.E Inc. say hello and grab an afterschool snack!

251 Wentworth St.

Look for the red railing!



Grab & Go Supper

Leave the cooking to us. Stop in and grab supper to go!
Supper's vary but usually include soup, roll and treat.

4pm to 5pm

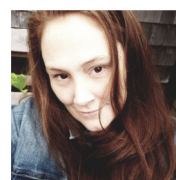
Every Thursday in January, February & March

Monday 9am - 3pm
Tuesday 9am - 3pm
Wednesday 8am - 3pm
Thursday 9am - 6pm
Friday 9am - 4pm

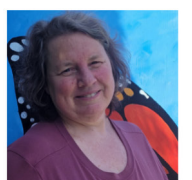


P.U.L.S.E Inc.
People United in the Lower South End
251 Wentworth St
(506)632-6807
info@pulsesj.ca

South End Neighbourhood Contacts



Lisa Morris
Resident Engagement Coordinator
info@pulsesj.ca



Mary LeSage
Neighbourhood Developer
pulsedeveloper.lesage@gmail.com

CVRC news



Stories and photo by CVRC

CVRC receives donation from Port Saint John

Crescent Valley Resource Centre (CVRC) thanks Port Saint John for the generous donation of \$5000 to support our activities in the neighbourhood. We appreciate having Port Saint John as a community partner. These funds will assist CVRC in enhancing our programs and services.

Resumé help

Crescent Valley residents, CVRC can provide help building, improving, or printing your resumé. Just come to CVRC, 130 MacLaren Boulevard, to grab a resumé form. Fill it out to the best of your ability and bring it back to us. We will use that information to put together a great resumé for you!

It doesn't matter if you haven't been employed for a long time or you are employed and looking for something new; anyone who's interested in this service is more than welcome!

You can call 506-693-8513 for more information or just come to 130 MacLaren Boulevard anytime to get a resumé form.

Family Board Game Night - February 17th

Family Day is February 20th and CVRC is hosting another Family Board Game night! This event takes place Friday, February 17th, 6-8 p.m. There will be great games like Fun Meal Caper, Blockus, Snakes and Ladders and much more! All are welcome, but children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. It's a fun, inexpensive way to have fun with the family while teaching children about fair play and positive communication as well as helping improve their reading and problem solving. Come for the whole event or feel free to just swing by for a game or two. See you there!

Family Board Game Night takes place Friday, February 17th, 6-8 p.m.

See you there!

Holiday events at Hazen White-St. Francis (HWSF)

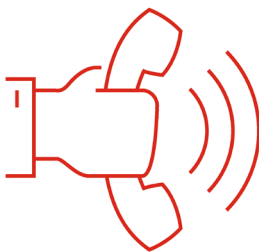
By Ronda Leavitt, Community School Coordinator, HWSF

We had a wonderful holiday season here at HWSF with our ever-popular Christmas dinner for everyone to enjoy! The children were so excited to have Santa visit for pictures and receive all the gifts that were donated by our amazing partners! This year we were able to bring back our in-person concert, which was a huge success. It was so lovely to see friends and family enjoy the show once again!

Thank you so much for showing the children what the holiday season is all about!



Two views of the Christmas dinner at HWSF (Photos: Mrs Connors)



Expanding service to be there for everyone in Canada.
Dial 2-1-1 or visit 211.ca



HELP STARTS HERE



Crescent Valley Neighbourhood Contact

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



Barry Ogden

Ward 2 City Councillor

Email: barry.ogden@saintjohn.ca

Phone: 639-1334





join us today

Community CAFE

starting at 1:00pm
Tuesdays

designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, reduce social isolation, and connect you to resources in a welcoming, safe space

COFFEE & CHAT

drop in,
meet new folks

1:00-3:00pm



SOUP FOR THE SOUL

enjoy a cup of soup
with your community

begins 1:00pm



120 MARKET PLACE | CARLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE | (506) 658-2920

Community Café at the Carleton

Story and poster by Kate Worden, Marketing & Programs Coordinator, Carleton Community Centre

Each week, on Tuesdays starting at 1 p.m., Carleton Community Centre is inviting Lower West residents to enjoy a bowl of delicious and nutritious soup. Coffee and tea are also available. Community Café is designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, reduce social isolation, and connect our neighbourhood residents to resources in a warm, safe space. We invite you to savour the flavours and warm the soul as you enjoy a cup with your community. We want to thank Hillcrest Saint John for their continued support with meal preparation, and the City of Saint John for the funding opportunity. Without such supports, we would not be able to offer programs like Community Café to our community.

For more information on how you can support Community Café, please call us at 506-658-2920 or email info@carletoncommunitycentre.ca

Sparking imaginations at Seaside

Story and photo by David MacDonald (He/Him), Team Leader
Seaside Elementary School, Youth Programming
BGC Greater Saint John

Some kids can't get enough of making their own creations and monsters. The most popular station to bring their imagination to life is our Plus-Plus Station where kids are able to create whatever comes to mind.

At right, we have Emma with her orange giant that is among friends with other creations from our other kids. The blocks allow for three dimensions of building and are mixed with other stations to let the kids build the world around these creations.

Our kids have been able to make everything from frightening monsters that will chase other Plus-Plus figures to super heroes that defend the people of their make-believe world. We have some great story tellers that will make some of the grandest tales, full of redemption and harrowing feats.



Emma and her giant



The Honourable Dorothy Shephard
MLA Saint John Lancaster

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

Tel: (506) 643-2900
Fax: (506) 643-2999
Dorothy.Shephard@gnb.ca
www.gnb.ca



West Side
Neighbourhood Contact

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

Help Stone Church win \$50,000!

(contined from page 1)

The people of Saint John have lost a number of important heritage buildings and churches recently. It is vital that Stone Church — the oldest church building in Saint John — be preserved. Saving Stone Church is about historical conservation, but it’s also about helping the community. Every day of the week Stone Church is actively helping the people of Saint John — providing free laundry services, English as a Second Language classes, programs for seniors and youth, community drop-ins, access to food, cooking programs, and much more.

Stone Church needs you to vote every day to win the \$50,000!

Use this link - <https://buff.ly/3Gdl2WC> - and vote every day until February 22nd!

On the street



Two peer outreach workers with (centre) Cathy Goguen, the peer coordinator (Photo: Chris Reicker)

By Cathy Goguen, Peer Coordinator, Avenue B Harm Reduction Inc.

Having peer staff has been amazing in reaching out to people on the street. The Peer Outreach Coordinator ensures that peer staff have a knapsack full of harm reduction supplies, sometimes a gift card to get a bite to eat or even a bus token to get them underway. Being able to stop in and grab a sandwich and coffee may help fill someone’s belly for a few hours but may be just what they need to get warmed up at the same time. Peer staff provide a safe and welcoming presence on the street as we see more and more people without a place to call home.

Staff are also trained to administer Naloxone just in case they come across someone in crisis. They carry Naloxone with them each time they are out and can reverse an overdose if needed. If you have a significant person in your life who may be at risk of overdose, you too can access training and a kit.

Book an appointment today by calling 506-652-2437.

A different kind of love story

Story and photo by Kelly Carline, Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) team

Janet, a friend of PCAP, has gifted us with beautifully knitted blankets in various hues. Recently, one of our moms Jill (*not her real name), received for her infant son, Kody (*not his real name), a soft blue and white blanket. Jill found the blanket soft, beautiful, warm and the perfect size for tucking around Kody’s stroller on daily walks.



Jill popped by the office recently to show off Kody’s growth and cute little grin. While Jill was in the office she commented again on her appreciation of the blanket. Jill asked, “Can I write a thank you note to her? Would you deliver it for me?”

We took a photo that day to go with Jill’s thank you note. Kody grins in his stroller, wrapped warmly in his blanket. The picture captures the love of Kody’s mama Jill and the love of a community member who used her gifts to lovingly envelope both mama and son. What a love story! Above: Kody in his blanket, knitted by a community member



Waterloo Village Seniors’ Step it Up Event

Wednesday, February 15 & March 15, 2023



**2 pm to 3:30 pm
Stone Church
87 Carleton St**



- ✓ Guest Speaker
- ✓ Snack and Door Prizes
- ✓ Music with Delbert



Sponsored By:

New Horizons for Seniors Programs, Stone Church, Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association & Social Development

Waterloo-Village Neighbourhood Contact

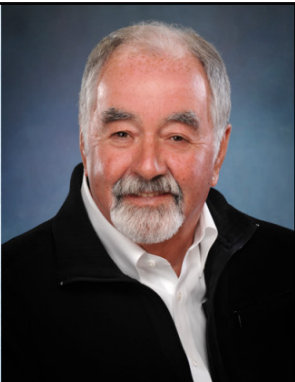
**Penni Eisenhauer
commorg.penni@gmail.com
Saint John Learning Exchange
139 Prince Edward Street
647-8047**



Gerry Lowe

Ward 3 City Councillor

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



Holiday events at Centennial School



Our PALS from NB Southern dropping off some beautiful care packages to help support some of our families

Story and photos by Kate MacDonald, Community Schools Coordinator, Centennial School

The holiday season has come and gone here at Centennial, and we are so pleased to share just a few of the initiatives our students were able to take part in. We had our always popular holiday bazaar, our very cozy pancake and pajama day, as well as a lovely holiday dinner. This year we also welcomed back our in-person holiday concert. Students and families were so excited to be here to watch performances! Our students and their families benefitted greatly from the generosity of our friends and associated partners.

Thank you so much for helping to spread cheer during this past holiday season. We are so very lucky to have you!

A special partnership



Tracy (seated) cuts pita for the kids at Lunch Connection

Story and photo by Ben Gillcrist, Community Schools Coordinator, Saint John the Baptist/King Edward School (SJBKE)

When you work in a Community School, the value of partnerships can be overstated, and SJBKE has always been so very fortunate in our friends. What's been truly special in the last little while is how we've seen those different groups come together to make a concerted effort on behalf of our kids. Our Irving Oil partners are case in point: while they maintained their own (awesome!) programming, Christmas this year found Irving Oil doing not only these things, but also helping Holyoke and the Firefighters put on our Christmas Dinner (the first in three full years!), and then turning up the next week at Lunch Connection to help Inner City Youth Ministry get bagged lunches out. This is the stuff of magic in a Community School. It does one's heart so much good to see all these many people we care about from different organizations coming under one umbrella. We are so lucky!

Work placements for success!

By Michael Whelton, PALS En Route to Success Coordinator

High schools students from St. Malachy's and Saint John High School have successfully completed their first semester of classes and En Route to Success work placements.

We are looking forward to welcoming Grade 9 students to the En Route program in February 2023. These students will spend their afternoons at work site placements observing and learning by doing under the watchful eye of a workplace mentor. We can't do this alone. Participating schools and the PALS En Route to Success program need participation of interested businesses and their employees to complete the learning that prepares students for their future.

For more information on how you can partner with the PALS En Route to Success program, please contact the PALS En Route to Success Coordinators.

Susan Tipper : Tipper.Susan@JDIrving.com
Michael Whelton: Whelton.michael@JDIrving.com



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!

iPALS
PARTNERS ASSISTING
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Deborah Fisher
Susan Tipper
Michael Whelton
info@PALS.com

**Help Make a
Difference!**



Simonds High School Unified Basketball Team



*Simonds High School Unified Basketball Team
(Photo: Lee-Ann McLeod-Wilson)*

***By Willow Briggs, Supplementary Position of Responsibility,
Simonds High School***

Simonds High School is proud to present its first-ever Unified Basketball Team. The team was created to give all high school students the opportunity to participate in basketball. It is made up of a diverse group of students ranging from grades 9 through 12. The students have been spending their lunch hours working hard to develop their basketball skills and unify the squad. Volunteer students paired through the Simonds High School Best Buddy Program have been assisting our strong team of coaches in leading our students. On December 20th the Simonds Unified Team took on Harbour View High School where the atmosphere in the gym was electric. Another opportunity to cheer on our Unified Seabees with the same energy came during the East versus West game at TD Station in February. It truly is heartwarming to see all our students have an opportunity to participate in an organized school activity.

Free Hip Hop dance program

By Rachel Murphy, BGC

The Studio Dance School has partnered up with us here at the South End Community Centre again this year to provide a free Hip Hop dance program for children ages 5 to 9.



This is a recreational dance program, so there are no competitions or recitals, but the kids get to go every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 and dance their hearts out. Many of our youth cannot wait for Monday nights, and spend their time in between showing off their dance moves at our other programs.

If your child, or a child you know, is interested in participating, please reach out to Rachel at 506-653-7368 or rachel.murphy@sjclub.ca for more information. We look forward to getting some more kids involved in this awesome program.

Above: some of our Hip Hop kids getting their stretches in (Photo: Alyssa Smith-Bonnar)

Forest Hills student wins national contest



Christy receiving her prize from Best Buy employees, who hold items with her winning design

***Story and photo by Jennifer McLaughlin,
Grade Four-Five Teacher, Forest Hills School***

Excitement buzzed among classrooms at Forest Hills School when hearing the news about our big contest winner! Grade 5 student, Christy Saad, entered a picture design contest last May for the Boys and Girls Club. She was allowed to use only four colors and had to have a winter theme. Little did she know that her picture would be the design chosen to decorate the Best Buy Holiday shopping bag across Canada!

That was not the only surprise Christy had. The contest winner was also to be awarded a prize from Best Buy. On December 23rd, in a school-wide assembly, Christy was presented with a framed picture of her design and a brand new iPad! Shock and joy covered Christy's face as the gymnasium filled with cheers from all of her peers - a moment she will definitely never forget.

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. You will receive an email from Ann Wilson with instructions approximately 15 minutes prior to the meeting. To find information on Al-Anon or more meetings in District 15, please go to:

al-anonmaritimes.ca



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Contest

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

We are happy to partner with Saint John Energy for the eighth year!

We offer two \$15 fresh fruit and produce orders for this February/March 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 14 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 506-651-3044 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 March 23rd and orders, if possible, will be delivered on March 24th (or you might be asked to pick up your order). We will also list the winners on the Human Development Council Facebook page.

Congratulations to the Issue 86 winners of a turkey, a gift card, and a teddy bear each, Frankie Anderson (below left) and Kathleen Hanna (right). (Photos: Mary LeSage)



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Join us at any of our free
Workshops for Job Seekers!

Résumé Writing Workshop

Every Monday at 10:00am

Interview Skills Workshop

Last Thursday of each month at 2:00pm

For more information or to reserve a space, come inside and speak with us or call (506) 658-5580.



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The Learning Exchange learner spotlight



James and two of his facilitators, Janelle Flanagan from BEST (left) and Stacey Doyle from WESLinks. (Photo: The Learning Exchange)

By James Byers

In 2021, I enrolled in the Basic Education and Skills Training (BEST) program at the Learning Exchange for support in completing my General Education Development (GED) and figuring out my next steps. I went through some hardships but stuck with the commitment to my goals, and my confidence began to increase. I successfully achieved my GED and have been unstoppable ever since. I went on to take the Workplace Essential Skills (WESLinks) program where I learned how to increase my employment skills, and started working with my original coach towards my college goals. In the span of a few days, I learned that I was accepted into the Electrical Construction course at New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), won the Judi Chisholm Financial Literacy Bursary, and passed my Driver's License. I am a dad to three young children and the first in my family to go to college. I am so motivated to improve my life and chances. My self-worth has dramatically increased. I am very grateful.

Help for veterans: Connections to Home

By Jason Green, Veteran Connections Lead, Human Development Council

The Veteran Connections to Home project is based out of the Human Development Council's office in Saint John – but covers the entire province. This project is looking to help identify veterans experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. Once they are identified, the goal is to help them navigate and obtain the benefits to which they are entitled. This will be the first of a series of facts, stories, and how-tos for and about Veterans!



What is a Veteran in Canada? According to Veterans Affairs Canada, a veteran includes any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces along with former members of an Allied Forces (ex., US/U.K veterans), former members of the RCMP, former Reservists, Veteran Civilians, and former Canadian Rangers.

So if you or someone you know has been in the reserves, completed basic training, or been in the RCMP – they are a veteran and may be entitled to services and support and not know it.

Email questions to jason@sjhdc.ca, and Jason Green will get back to you.

Above: Jason Green (Photo: Jordan Mattie)

Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Saint John

By Vincent Scully, Climate Change Communication Intern, ACAP Saint John

During my time as the Climate Change Communication intern, I have had the chance to do so many different activities including: native tree plantings and tree care, community cleanups, Saint John Harbour monitoring (i.e., water quality, fish, seals), and classroom education.

I am quite impressed with the different experiences I have had so far which have allowed me to develop new skills. The part of the internship that I've enjoyed the most has been presenting at local schools on the topic of climate change because I believe today's youth will have an important role to play in the future, to help our society adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Jamylynn McDonald
(Climate Change Coordinator, left) and
Vincent Scully
finishing an infiltration
trench during a project to
build resilience to flooding
at Glen Falls School
on October 13th, 2022
(Photo: ACAP Saint John)



Your neighbours since 1854

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



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Creating your financial future



**By Darlene Jones, Financial Literacy Coordinator,
Kaléidoscope Social Impact**

Welcome, 2023. The best way to plan for the future is to create it. I would encourage you to make a financial plan for the upcoming year. As an inspiration, let's take a look at the Judi Chisholm Memorial Bursary winners. November was Financial Literacy Month and we awarded the bursary as well as tipped our hats to an honourable mention. Drum roll, please ... the 2022 Judi Chisholm winner was James Byers!

James Byers attended Money Matters at the Learning Exchange and has been using his skills to start to save for a laptop. James, who lives in Waterloo Village, has been using the Black Book to track his weekly spending. Writing down his spending caused him to be much more conscious of what he was using his money for. The \$500 bursary plus his savings will allow him to purchase his laptop so he will be ready to enter New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in September. Congratulations, James! **[Editor's note: see James' story of his journey, page 10, left.]**

Honourable Mention goes to Zachary Atwell. One of the things stressed in our Money Matters program is that small steps lead to great success. Zachary attended Money Matters through our community partner, Hire Potential. His takeaway was that while it is important to pay your bills on time today it is also important to start saving and investing for your future. Zachary's goal is to open a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). Well done, Zachary!



Left to right, Zachary's mom, Zachary Atwell, and Darlene
(Photo: Kaléidoscope Social Impact)

James and Zachary decided to start working towards their financial futures. Financial success does not require fancy materials, equipment, or a lot of income. Being aware of how you are spending your money now leads to better saving habits. Starting a saving plan with your first job may mean early retirement. There is no elevator to financial success; we must take the stairs.

We are encouraged by all our clients who strive to make better financial decisions daily. If you need help with your budget or any other financial matters, please reach out to me.
Darlene@kaleidoscopeimpact.com or at 506-652-5626 Ext 4.

Remember—no matter how much or how little your income is, how you spend your money matters.

Getting closer to a guaranteed income?

**By Randy Hatfield, Executive Director,
Human Development Council**

Momentum is growing for a Guaranteed Livable Income. On January 9th Saint John's Common Council passed a unanimous resolution to send a letter to the provincial and federal governments calling on them to work towards implementing a Guaranteed Livable Basic income. Similar resolutions have been passed in Fredericton and Moncton.

A guaranteed income would provide individuals and families with enough income to lift them out of poverty. It would eliminate welfare and make it possible for people to cover their basic needs like shelter, food and transportation. Research shows that when people have a sufficient and secure income their mental health and physical health improves.



Photo: (c) Stylephotographs/Dreamstime.com from Create a Guaranteed Livable Income Program | The United Church of Canada (united-church.ca)

Poverty remains a serious issue in the City. Spoiler Alert: The HDC's annual Child Poverty Report will be released this month, and it will confirm that Saint John has higher rates of overall, child and senior poverty than Fredericton or Moncton. And Saint John's rate is much higher than that of its neighbouring towns.

Income supports reduce poverty. Seniors get Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS); families with children receive the Canada Child Benefit. A Guaranteed Livable Income would help the population between 18 and 64.

Too many workers earn less than a living wage (\$21.60 per hour in Saint John). A single person on social assistance in New Brunswick receives as little as \$593 a month. That's not enough to meet basic needs. Minimum wage workers, the unemployed, and the 30,000 New Brunswickers receiving welfare could be lifted out of poverty with a Guaranteed Livable income.

The federal government has a national poverty reduction strategy – Opportunity for All. The provincial government created the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation to develop, oversee, coordinate and implement initiatives to reduce poverty. The non-profit sector runs food banks, emergency shelters and harm reduction programs. Saint John's business community supports programs to break the cycle of poverty. That's a lot of effort to make sure that no one is left behind.

**The City has the right idea –
it's time for a Guaranteed Livable Income!**



Free STEAM programs in Saint John

Brilliant Creators

Free after school programs in Saint John

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robotics
3D design & printing
& more!

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Brilliant LABS LABOS Créatifs



By Brilliant Labs

Brilliant Labs' free after school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs continued in Saint John this winter at Carleton Community Centre and the Saint John Free Public Library in Market Square. Sessions were open to children (aged 7 to 12+) from all walks of life and technical abilities to learn how to create and innovate with technology and to develop their digital skills.

Digital literacy skills training for newcomer youth also continued with Brilliant Labs at ConnexionWorks in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Saint John's Newcomer Connections.

STEAM- and technology-based programs are provided free of charge, thanks to community partners Carleton Community Centre, Saint John Free Public Library, YMCA, and ConnexionWorks, with funding from the Government of Canada's CanCode program.

Thank you!

POP Centre news

Story and photo by Dr Sarah Gander

Drs. Gander and McKenna and clinic social worker, Maranda, have rung in the New Year at the POP (Pediatrics on Princess) Centre.

After a busy fall with our first Gala Fund and Friendraiser, we launched into the holiday season supporting families with holiday gifts, gift cards, and books. There have been many patients through the clinic, and we welcomed the community to the clinic for Uptown Sparkles. We made a gingerbread house and crafts and also indulged in a few cookies.



As we move into 2023, we are excited to announce our weekly programming that has started on Thursday afternoons where we offer academic support and a creative arts program aiming to support the social and emotional wellness of children and youth.

(Above: A gingerbread house at POP)

Stay tuned for our announcement for our next group in the spring: Cooking up Justice, a weekly cooking and life skills program for teens!

CMHANB upcoming programs

By Dawn O'Dell, Community Program Coordinator
Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick (CMHANB), Saint John office

Mindfulness - March 16th - April 20th, 2023

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Engaging Families in Recovery - March 16th - May 18th, 2023

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This 10-week program for family members, caregivers, and friends of someone living with mental illness. The goal of the program is for caregivers/loved ones to feel better equipped with various coping skills and knowledge of how best to be a supporter and caregiver in ways which are healthy and effective for all parties.



Canadian Mental Health Association
New Brunswick
Mental health for all

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

Bee Me Kidz update



By Kerri Brooks, Program Coordinator & Teacher, Bee Me Kidz

Happy New Year from your friendz at Bee Me Kidz! We hope you all had a wonderful winter break and are ready for more fun in 2023. As many of you might know, our Saturday location is now at Centennial School, 10 Constance Street, and we are so excited to announce that we are now offering a hot brunch sit-down buffet on Saturday mornings for children in grades 1-5 and their families. We have tons of fruit, veggies, hot breakfast items and.... chocolate milk! Each week the children learn about a new topic (ex., feelings, kindness, friendship), and will create their own activity to take home, all while having fun with friends! Wholesome delicious breakfast, learning, and fun ... what a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday. BEE sure to call or text Kerri (Bee Me Kidz Program Coordinator) @ 506-654-1395 to sign up or find out more. "Keep BEE-ing AmaZZZing!"

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

It's traditional...

There are many traditions surrounding funerals.

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



Brenan's
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

Castle Fallsview
FUNERAL HOME

Kennebecasis
COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME

Come to Spanish Storytime!



By Melissa Villarreal, Red Latin Southwest NB

Red Latin@ (Latin Network) is pleased to invite the Saint John region general public to our Spanish Storytime! Join us for a fun time with your little ones! We're back to the Bibliothèque publique de Saint John Free Public Library for Spanish Storytime on Saturdays. For further information please follow the library children's activity calendar or our Facebook, www.facebook.com/redlatinswnb, and website, www.redlatinswnb.ca



STANDING FOR YOU!



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

My story



Edris at the Saint John Newcomers Centre (Photo: Sochi Azuh)

By Edris Bernard

My name is Edris Bernard; I'm 42 and a mother of three. Life has not been so easy for me. I had a lot on my hands, singlehandedly raising my kids while my mother, who has passed on, had become very ill. For 13 years, I was not working and lived on income assistance. Through those years, I was involved with my community.

I facilitated many parenting classes. Some classes with the women's network like Power Up and Working for Change. I also volunteered at the school my kids were attending, cooking for the students so that they enjoyed hot meals. By being involved, I grew my network, which helped me when I was ready for the next step in my life. When my kids were older and my mom had gone into a nursing home (she has since passed, almost three years ago), I knew I was ready to be back in the workforce after 13 years. I was scared, but I knew I liked to help people, so I took the first step by volunteering at the Saint John Newcomers Centre in January 2019, and by May, I started working at the office as a permanent staff member. The Saint John Newcomers Centre has allowed me to grow in my role while doing what I love, engaging and helping my community.

I've been with the Centre for four years now. Though I started off by volunteering, now I'm the first person you see when you come to Saint John Newcomers Centre. I'm the person who answers the office phone. My title now is Newcomer Settlement Advisor Assistant (Bilingual). I'm the Language Coordinator and the Volunteer Coordinator for the office. Thank you, Saint John Newcomers Centre and all the newcomers, for allowing me to grow into the woman and mother I am today.

Cedar Hill - Greenwood Cemetery

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

Tết – the celebration of new beginnings



By Darcy Bui

Vietnamese Lunar New Year, or the Tết holiday, short for Tết Nguyên Đán holiday, is the biggest annual celebration of Vietnam. Following the Vietnamese zodiac, Tết 2023 is the year of the Cat.

The week before Tết is usually the busiest time when everyone spends days cleaning the house, shopping, and preparing Mâm ngũ quả (five-fruit trays). We also prepare a bounty of food for the celebrations, such as the famous traditional dessert – Bánh chưng or the Chung cake, chả nem (spring rolls), and hành muối (pickled onions).

One of the most distinctive features of Tết is decorations with the three popular plants in Northern Vietnam: Hoa Đào (peach blossom flower), hoa mai (ochona integerrima or yellow Mai flower) and cây quất (marumi kumquat).

On New Year's Eve, all family members gather for a big feast and watch the Táo Quân show, which summarizes all the events over the past year. We take some time after dinner to worship at the family altar and then go out to see the fireworks.

The first day of Tết is quiet and reserved for family. We have a tradition, where we invite a person we perceive would bring luck to our house to step in first thing the next morning. We get dressed in those beautiful traditional Áo dài and go to pagodas to pray for a wonderful year ahead. We greet each other with wishes, visit family and relatives and give kids lucky money (Lì xì). // Happy New Year from the YMCA Newcomer Connections family. Read more of the story on the YMCA of Greater Saint John website. Above: Darcy Bui (Photo: YMCA)

[Editor's note: Lunar New Year 2023 was on January 22nd.]

Une grosse fête de Noël pour clore 2022 A big Christmas party to end 2022

Par/By Jonathan Poirier, directeur des communications, ARCf de Saint-Jean

Pour la première fois depuis 2019, l'Association Régionale de la Communauté francophone (l'ARCf) a pu offrir son classique souper de Noël à son équipe. Comme le veut la tradition, les membres de l'équipe de gestion ont préparé un repas spécial composé de leurs spécialités culinaires. Après plus d'une vingtaine d'années au service de l'ARCf, Nicole Sluyter, notre directrice des Finances, a pris sa retraite à la fin du mois de décembre. Lors du souper des employés, l'équipe de l'ARCf lui a rendu un hommage mémorable!

L'ARCf de Saint-Jean tient aussi à remercier Ava Gallant, élève de 2e année, pour la réalisation de son dessin qui a été choisi pour illustrer les cartes de Noël pour les employés. Plusieurs membres de l'équipe ont dit que l'ours polaire sur les cartes était très beau! Pour son excellent travail, Ava a reçu une carte cadeau chez Toys "R" Us.



Plusieurs surprises étaient au rendez-vous pour souligner le départ à la retraite de Nicole, dont cette lithographie de l'artiste Brian Francis. There were several surprises to mark Nicole's retirement, including this lithograph by artist Brian Francis. Crédit/Photo: Jonathan Poirier

For the first time since 2019, the Association Régionale de la Communauté francophone (ARCf) was able to offer its classic Christmas supper to its team. In keeping with tradition, the members of the management team prepared a special meal consisting of their culinary specialties. After more than 20 years with the ARCf, Nicole Sluyter, our Director of Finance, retired at the end of December. At the employee supper, the ARCf team paid her a memorable tribute!

The ARCf Saint-Jean would also like to thank Ava Gallant, a Grade 2 student, for her drawing that was chosen to illustrate the Christmas cards for employees. Several team members said the polar bear on the cards was very beautiful! For her excellent work, Ava received a gift card for Toys "R" Us.






Hiring Fair




February 23 | 11 AM - 1 PM
at ConnexionWorks






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saintjohnnyymca.ca/events






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New events at Civic Tech Saint John

Story and photo by CTSJ Co-organizers

Civic Tech Saint John is pleased to announce an exciting new series of events for 2023 at our #HackNights on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in fostering connections, civic engagement, and using tech for social good in the community, you are sure to find an event for you. It's different every week! The new programming includes a Pitch YOU and Pizza Night, to showcase your talent! Come tell us about your skillset in two minutes, and enjoy the food and conversation. Those listening to your pitch of YOU can be Civic Tech project leads looking for volunteers with skills; community connectors who have links to a lot of events and programs; and potential employers who are looking for new talent. All skills welcome – tech, data, design, project management, marketing ... and more!

Other events include a Pitch Night that welcomes new project ideas and updates on existing ones; a regular Project Night to focus on working on existing projects; and special guest speaker and guest host nights. On January 17th we kicked off the new events series with a Pitch Night featuring students from the Idea Centre with their entrepreneurial ideas. The buzz in the room was palpable, and students got feedback and valuable connections.

You, too, can connect and engage with community at Civic Tech Saint John. Stay tuned by visiting Civic Tech Saint John: <https://civictechsaintjohn.ca/> and following us on Facebook to find out which event is happening on Tuesdays - then join us at ConnexionWorks.



*The Idea Centre students lit up Civic Tech on Pitch Night,
January 17th, 2023*

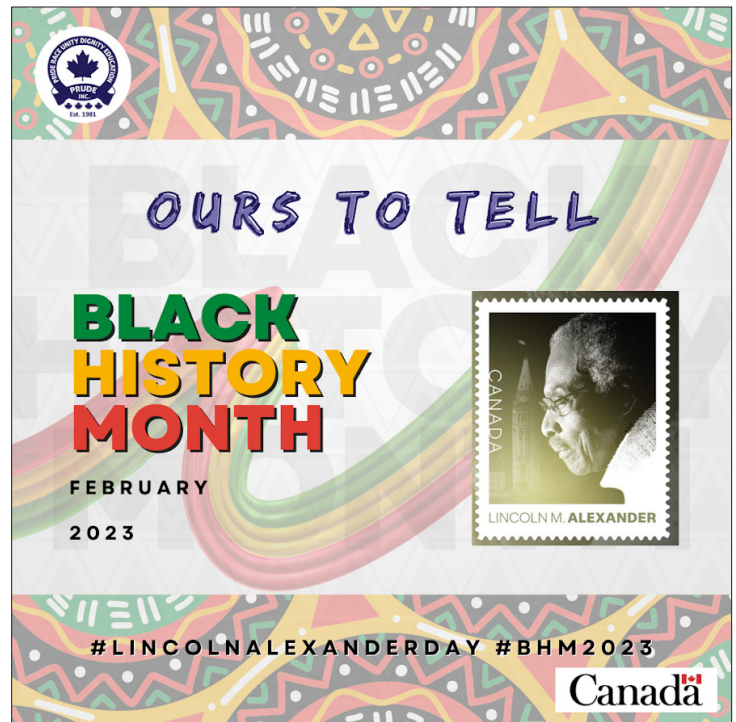


Around The Block Team (Issue 87)

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Black History Month events



By Christine Eruokwu, PRUDE

PRUDE Inc. (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education) is planning several events throughout February for its annual celebration of Black History Month. In line with Canadian Heritage's theme for this year of Ours to Tell, we will be honouring the many lived experiences and stories of Black Canadians from across the country through various thought-provoking and engaging events and activities, in partnership with the University of New Brunswick in Saint John (UNBSJ).

**To find out more, please visit the Events page of our website:
www.prudeinc.org.**

BBBS celebrates mentors



Left to right: Tanya Chapman, Roxanne Fairweather, and Matthew Martin with their awards (Photo: BBBS)

By Charlene Perry, Community Mentoring Coordinator, BBBS

On Thursday January 28th, 2023, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Saint John celebrated three very deserving recipients at our Spark: Celebrating Mentoring Luncheon. Congratulations to Tanya Chapman, Roxanne Fairweather, and Matthew Martin for the tremendous impact they have on their community. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Sarah Gander for speaking at our event, to David Hickey who emceed, and to everyone who came out to support our agency and the work we do despite the awful weather.

If you are interested in being a positive mentor to a child or youth in your community, call us at 506-635-1145 for more information.

SJNC officially opens its new offices



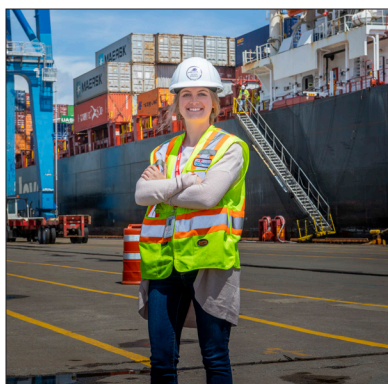
By Sochi Azuh, Communication Specialist, SJNC

The Saint John Newcomers Centre officially opened the doors to its new offices on Monday, December 12th. Many notable guests attended, including Provincial Ministers Trevor Holder, Arlene Dunn, and several community partners. The Newcomers Centre relocated to 75 Prince William Street from its previous Union Street office to better serve its clients, growing in size and diverse cultures. Guests were invited to tour its spacious workspace and sign a centerpiece graffiti canvas dedicated to newcomers. The Honourable Trevor Holder and Minister Arlene Dunn also reflected on the Centre's programs' impact on Saint John. The Ministers also complimented Mohamed Bagha, the Managing Director. Saint John Newcomers Centre, its leadership team, Samah El Maghlawy, Austin Johnson, Lina Gharbiya, Centre staff, and its many volunteers. In his closing remarks, Mohamed Bagha thanked community partners and friends of the Centre, saying, "The city will be more exposed to the different cultures and skills and many talents they bring from around the world." Above, left to right: Mohamed Bagha, Minister Arlene Dunn, Minister Trevor Holder, and Lina Gharbiya (Photo: SJNC).

A Canadian first for the Port!

Story and photo by Port Saint John

The Port is pleased to announce that we are the first Canadian port to obtain Occupational Health and Safety ISO Certification. What is ISO? The International Organization of Standardization is one of the most rigorous and well-regarded standards in the world. To receive certification, your systems must be externally vetted against global benchmarks of industry excellence. And not only did we receive OHS certification, but our Environmental Management System also received certification. Learn more at <http://www.sjport.com/category/news/> Above: Gillian Miller, Port SJ Workplace Health and Safety Committee



Out of the cold with The Salvation Army

By Nick Shepard, Shelter Manager

In December The Salvation Army opened the City's first Out of the Cold Shelter.

The old Belyea Arena in West Saint John initially housed 40 individuals of all genders ages 19+ living in homelessness, since expanded to 45 to meet a growing need. We offer hot showers, supper and breakfast, hygiene products, a change of clothes and more importantly the opportunity to work with a case manager to establish a plan towards permanent housing. Everyone's path is different. Some may struggle with mental health or substance use issues and others may not have the life skills to live independently. Our hope is that we can begin to build their path forward. We welcome donations of warm clothing, snacks, toiletries, towels, coffee and hot chocolate for our residents. Please contact me at 506-609-3999 to make arrangements for drop-offs.



Councillors' Corner

By Councillor Barry Ogden, 506-639-1334



On Monday January 9th, 2023, Common Council of The City of Saint John, NB, was asked to join a national coalition of other municipalities to raise incomes so that people can afford their basic needs.

Several weeks ago, I put forward two motions to send letters to the provincial and federal governments dealing with our very low incomes and food shortage and waste. Both of these motions passed unanimously.

After 35 years of organizing food drives and 25 years of organizing boot, book and sneaker drives, I think our system is not working. I have taught, coached, and organized a lot of children living in poverty, over an even longer period. (It's one of the reasons I am such an active supporter of sport as it aids in good mental/physical health, social supports and learning.)

When we started organizing food drives in the 1980s there were only a few food banks, shelters and soup kitchens. Today we have many, many more and they are all full to capacity and demand. Homelessness, mental health, drug, and alcohol issues have increased substantially in this same 40-year timeframe. Ask the police, health care workers, teachers, and social workers.

In this same 40-year period the purchasing power of our incomes has dropped. Fixed incomes for seniors and social assistance are not working, and we have many, many more children living in poverty. I have taught, researched, written, and acted on the fight to end poverty and increase empowerment for a long time. Things are not getting better nationally but especially not in Saint John.

We made Medicare a national and human right in Canada. Housing, food security, education for all, and livable incomes are human rights, too.

We have two specific causes of poverty in Saint John. We lost a major wealth factor in our community when several federal departments moved; the biggest was the federally funded Saint John Shipbuilding. This source of wealth was never replaced. We need a major federal department again, just as Moncton, Charlottetown, Miramichi and St. John's received when they lost a major component of their economy.

The growth, income, and benefit levels in Saint John are much lower than in Moncton, Dieppe, Riverview, Kennebecasis Valley, and Fredericton. In the city of Saint John we generate a lot of taxes, but the taxes do not stay here. For 57 years we have given the Province of New Brunswick a very large share of taxes that are generated in Saint John.

This loss of our taxes has made our city very poor, less educated with more run-down neighbourhoods and higher illiteracy rates. Today, our City of Saint John is lobbying the Province of New Brunswick to keep taxes generated in Saint John in our city - no results yet.

Saint John has far fewer post-secondary opportunities and students particularly in university than any other city in Atlantic Canada. To grow our economy, retain and attract youth, and solve many social issues we must increase the number of people and opportunities in post-secondary and keep our tax money. Many of our young people leave after high school. This has contributed to our population loss.

So we have two issues: a national issue where the purchasing power of most people can not buy the things they need; and a federal wealth loss/provincial tax issue combined with too few post-secondary opportunities in Saint John. These have also been part of the cause of intergenerational poverty in our city.

[Editor's note: See also "Getting closer to a guaranteed income?" on page 11]