

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **National Housing Day Celebrations**
- **Call for donations - Old North End**
- **Program Profile - John Howard Society**
- **NIMBY**
- **Donation to the TRC Oasis Room**

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Saint John Celebrates National Housing Day

The Greater Saint John Homelessness Steering Committee, along with community partners, celebrated National Housing Day (November 22nd) with a week's worth of activities from November 17th to the 22nd. The activities included launching a new video, [Saint John's Housing Story](#), created by [Hemmings House Pictures](#), profiling the five priority neighbourhoods, and hosting an outdoor awareness event organized by the youth at the Resource Centre for Youth.

The new video was created to tell Saint John's Housing Story from the perspective of the five priority neighbourhoods. It provided information



on the many positive projects and programs taking place across our community, but also created a visual reminder of the work that needs to be done. The video will help tell our story to those who may not know about what is taking place in our community. It, along with our first video, [The Faces and Voices of Homelessness](#), are available on the [HDC website](#).

The five priority neighbourhoods were profiled throughout the week at a booth that was set up in Brunswick Square. Individuals from the neighbourhoods were on hand to talk about their communities and to share information on the programs and services that are available. Each neighbourhood did a fantastic job at letting the broader community know

what was taking place. Neighbourhood profiles were also available from a report that was completed by Vibrant Communities Saint John, [Poverty & Plenty II: A Statistical Snapshot of the Quality of Life in Greater Saint John](#).

The outdoor awareness event, HELP (Homelessness/Housing Education Learning Party) was organized by the youth at the Resource Centre for Youth (TRC). The evening consisted of live entertainment, a BBQ, face painting, and a food and clothing drive. Three local high schools (Saint John High, St. Malachy's High, and Harbour View High) participated in the First Annual Tin Can Challenge. This Challenge involved the high schools gathering food donations and building sculptures out of what they had collected. In total the three schools collected over 4,000 items of food



which were donated to local food banks and organizations. St. Malachy's High School won the title for 2008! The event also raised \$84.67 for the Salvation Army Jack Frost program through donations at the BBQ, and collected several items of clothing which were donated to Romero House.

A big thank you goes out to all who organized and participated in the events. The sponsors for the week were: The City of Saint John, Human Development Council, Avide Developments, Saint John Co-op Food Market, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Saint John Real Estate Board, and Service Canada.



FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT: A Call for Proposals will be coming out in February for the next round of funding through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The call will be posted in the newspaper and details will be circulated once they are available.

NIMBY - Not in My Backyard by Belinda Allen

In October 2008, I attended a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) presentation on Strategies for Gaining Community Acceptance: A Workshop to Address Community Resistance to Affordable Housing and Homelessness Services. The objective of the workshop was to increase awareness of how to effectively address NIMBY and gain project support. I thought it would be beneficial to share some of my learnings.

NIMBY is, “the protectionist attitudes and exclusionary/oppositional tactics adopted by community groups facing an unwelcome development in their neighbourhood.” (Wolch and Dear, 1993). NIMBY opposition to a project can affect all stakeholders; local council and councilors, housing proponents (services providers, developers), residents and homeless clients, and federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

There are three types of NIMBY objections:

1. The first is presented through formal processes and forums. Objections are based on: planning principles, participation in the planning and decision making processes, and project design and management.
2. The second concerns the potential or perceived impacts of the project and concerns which relate to prior conditions in the neighbourhood
3. Finally objections can be clearly or implicitly aimed at the occupants of the housing proposal. This type of opposition is based on prejudice, fear and stereotyped notions of homeless people.

There are approaches to dealing with each type of NIMBY objections:

1. Ensure sound planning, ensure good project management, work with local councilors, and engage opponents in the process.
2. Provide factual information and build trust.

3. Raise awareness and educate.

If you would like more information on the workshop, do not hesitate to contact me.

We are working on the first Homelessness Report Card for Saint John and for the Province set to be released in March 2009. If there are any indicators or stories that you would like to have included please contact Belinda Allen at (506) 636-8541 or via email at belindaallen@rogers.com.

Needed: Diapers and Formula

It costs \$2,500 a year to purchase formula for a new baby. It also costs \$2,500 a year to purchase diapers. According to the 2006 Census, 39.0% of the residents in the Old North End were single mothers. The median family income for a female lone parent family in the Old North End is approximately \$1,500/month.....after paying for shelter, food and clothes, there isn't much left over.

ONE Change saw the demand in the community after completing a study in 2004. They decided to do something to help local residents. They accept donations of diapers and formula and provide

them to those in need. Unfortunately they cannot meet the demand within the community. One day they had 9 cans of formula donated and it was gone before the day was finished.

They are asking for individuals or organizations to donate diapers and formula. Size 5 and 6 diapers are in the largest demand. Basic formula is also required, such as Good Start or Similac. Donations of money to purchase items will also be accepted.

For more information or to make a donation please contact Tara Parlee, Neighbourhood Coordinator at (506) 635-2035 or taraparlee@gmail.com.





Saint John Sea Dogs Foundation Assists TRC Oasis Room

In the spirit of National Housing Day celebrations, three Saint John Sea Dogs, on behalf of the Saint John Sea Dogs Foundation, presented the Resource Centre for Youth (TRC) food supplies for the Oasis Room. The Oasis Room is a place for homeless youth to go and access shower and laundry facilities, have a quiet space to relax, and gain access to clothing, household items and quick, easy food.

The items donated included such things as granola bars, cheese and crackers and juice boxes. These items are great for those who are on the move.

Following the presentation, the Youth Council gave a tour of the facilities to the players. The youth also enjoyed a pizza party sponsored by the Foundation and gave the players some heavy competition playing Rock Band. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.



Australian Government Launches 12 Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness

The Australian government released a White Paper on Homelessness, [The Road Home](#), on December 21, 2008. The White Paper outlines a plan for reducing homelessness in Australia by 2020, with specific goals to:

- Halve overall homelessness; and
- Provide accommodation to all rough sleepers (those living on the street) who seek it.

There are currently 105,000 homeless people in Australia, of who around 16,000 sleep rough.



Youth Homelessness



In February 2007, the Human Development Council completed a homeless youth count. The study was conducted to estimate the number of young people, aged 16 to 24, in the city who were homeless, to strengthen the community's response.

Now, 2 years later, we are undertaking another count to determine if and how the situation has changed. This information will be useful in planning next steps around youth homelessness in our community.

We are asking for your assistance in collecting the data. Count sheets have gone out to organizations in the community. If your organization would like to participate and has not yet received the count sheets please contact Belinda Allen at belindaallen@rogers.com or 636-8541.

Skills Link Program - John Howard Society



The Skills Link "Career Placement" Program is designed to provide an environment whereby educational /

vocational opportunities become realized to clients who have experienced present and past barriers to employment success.

Many of the clients who participate in the program, from age 18 to 30, are in a state of homelessness, whether it be couch surfing, or coming out of incarceration without having a residence.

The clients exhibit talents and abilities as well as the drive, motivation and interest to become successful within the traditional and non-traditional trades. For the last year, clients have attended the Carpenters Training Centre for a one month term allowing them to receive the necessary safety training required for careers within the traditional trades. Many youth

become apprenticed in local businesses and since last year the John Howard Society is proud to have clients accepted into unions for their specific career interest areas.

The clients attending the program have multiple barriers to sustaining full-time employment including, but not limited to:

Criminal Record: 88%
Addictions: 78%
High-School Non-Completion: 67%
State of Homelessness: 56%
Poor Self Management: 44%
Low Literacy / Numeracy: 44%
Social Assistance: 89%
With Dependent Children: 33%
Single Parent: 11%
Physical Disability: 11%

The Skills Link Program is sponsored by Service Canada and partnered with the Carpenters Training Centre and Carpenters, Millwrights and Allied Workers Association.



"Many of the clients who participate in the program are in a state of homelessness."



Human Development Council

Send your comments, ideas and feedback to Belinda Allen, Research Project Coordinator

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Stay Tuned.....

February 2009 - Saint John Youth Homelessness Count

An update to the count first completed in 2007. Results will be released in March.

February 18-20, 2009, Calgary Alberta - National Homelessness Conference: Growing Home - Housing and Homelessness in Canada

For more information visit www.nhc2009.ca

March 2009 - Watch for the Release of the Saint John and Provincial Homelessness Report Cards

Other community report cards will also be released in Fredericton and Bathurst.

March 2009 - Youth Homelessness Symposium

Details to be confirmed early in the new year

April 2009 - The release of the 3rd Issue of Perspectives on Homelessness

May 19-22, 2009, Calgary Alberta - CCSD Canadian Social Forum

For more information visit www.ccsd.ca/csf/2009/