



SAINT JOHN

SAINT JOHN STORY SERIES

Saint John Story Series is a place to profile and highlight City of Saint John staff, service areas, and the positive impacts of City led initiatives within our community.

Staying connected as a community: Duck Cove neighbourhood continues annual community picnic tradition in an area of Saint John that is rich with beaches, parks, and views

September 29, 2022

For the past five years, residents of Saint John's Duck Cove neighbourhood have come together for an annual celebratory community picnic as a way of gathering as friends and neighbours and enjoying the place they call home.

"I'm never one to just sit around," says long-time resident and event organizer, Cathy Stringer. "Back in 2017, a group of residents from the neighbourhood got talking and decided that we should have a picnic in celebration of Canada Day. That's how the first one got started."

After hosting several picnics, they noticed many residents couldn't attend because of summer vacations, so they decided to move the date and hold it immediately after the return to school.

"We now have it one of the weekends in early September, usually just after Labour Day and we've had better attendance since making that change," says Cathy.



The Duck Cove neighbourhood is located on the west side of the City in a picturesque coastal area off of Sand Cove Road.

Cathy has called this neighbourhood home for the past 18 years and says she discovered her home by happy accident after searching for a place to buy on the outskirts of the City but not finding anything that fit the bill.

"We saw the outside of our house in very, very heavy fog and said, 'we'll come by and look again tomorrow morning' and the rest is history. We ended up buying it and just fell in love with it," she says.



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“We’ve never, ever regretted being on this street. It’s just a lovely neighbourhood; very comfortable is the best way of describing it.”

She says the day chosen for for this year’s picnic was perfect. “The weather was sunny and warm, and we installed one of those tall shelter tents so we could get the food tables in under some shade, people brought their own chairs and kids were playing games. We couldn’t have asked for better, it was a fantastic day,” says Cathy.

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The picnic is not just a way for the community to say so long to summer, but also a way to connect with neighbours, old and new.



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“We’re also noticing more and more that younger families are starting to move here and people who are newer to the neighborhood, which is lots of fun,” says Cathy. “Everybody is doing something to help and that’s one of the best feelings. It’s neighbours helping neighbours – it’s a community affair.”

Editor’s Note:

Saint John is a city of neighbourhoods that span from historic to recently built, each with its own unique geography, personality, and density. The incredibly diverse areas combine to form a city residents love. To learn more about living in Saint John and the variety of neighbourhoods, including Sand Cove, visit [Neighbourhoods | City of Saint John, New Brunswick](#).