



SAINT JOHN

What's Happening Saint John

December 14, 2022

The City of Saint John is pleased to provide the following summary of some of the great news, updates and important information about what's happening in the City.



News & Updates

National Housing Day Summit and Saint John Affordable Housing Action Plan highlighted National Housing Week

To mark National Housing Day (November 22) and National Housing Week (November 21-25), City staff participated in a National Housing Day Summit in Saint John. The event, which took place on Tuesday, November 22 at the Nick Nicolle Community Centre, provided an opportunity for leaders, stakeholders, and the community to come together and discuss the current state of housing and potential improvements in a workshop format.



The Saint John Affordable Housing Action Plan was also highlighted throughout the week on the City's social media channels and website. A brief video was created to help explain key information about the plan, along with a two-page summary. Both can be viewed on the City's website, [HERE](#).

City of Saint John now offering QR code parking payment options at 25 locations

After a successful trial of the QR code payment method at several parking spaces on King Street in March 2022, Saint John Parking is now offering the QR code payment option at 25 locations uptown. Parking meters that have typically required frequent maintenance have been removed and QR code signs have been installed near the standard paid parking meters so that drivers have multiple payment options available to them.

"We're pleased to see that the program was received well by the community and has been a success with positive uptake," says Jillian Good, Operations Manager of Parking. "We look forward to expanding the service to make parking easier and more accessible for residents and visitors to Saint John." The City continues to work towards modernizing parking infrastructure and reducing costs associated with maintenance, upgrades, and repairs.



"In order to ensure we are making payment options as user-friendly as possible, we will be tracking these new locations for frequency of use," adds Good. "This data will help determine if more QR code payment options should be added in the future."

To view a map indicating where the new QR code meters are located, click [HERE](#). A helpful FAQ has been created to help users understand the new payment method and can be found [HERE](#).

ACAP and City partnering on green infrastructure initiatives

Atlantic Coastal Action Plan Saint John (ACAP) and the City are partnering with communities to incorporate four unique green infrastructure (GI) solutions into the urban environment of Saint John.

The projects will help to reduce the impacts of increased rainfall, extreme weather and sea level rise predicted to impact the City of Saint John due to climate change. The first of four initiatives was completed last week with Public Works and Transportation staff helping to plant 25 trees at two locations in the City. The City received the following feedback from ACAP:



“I just wanted to thank you for organizing your crew’s help with our tree plantings at Montgomery Crescent and Seaside Park. Both crews were great to work with! They were very considerate about the sizing of the holes and were a fantastic support to get the work done. Please pass along the praise and I look forward to working with them again next season.” - Jamylynn McDonald, Climate Change Project Coordinator, ACAP Saint John

Saint John Council adopts new immigration strategy

The City of Saint John, in partnership with the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership (SJLIP), has received Council approval for a new immigration strategy that aims to attract, welcome and retain more newcomers to the community.

The Succeed and Stay Immigration Strategy aims to attract 12,000 newcomers to the City over the next 10 years by promoting the Saint John region as the destination of choice for newcomers and their families in New Brunswick.

“With this strategy, the City and community partners are focused on making Saint John and the broader region an even more welcoming, inclusive, and opportunity-filled community for newcomers arriving to our province,” says David Dobbelsteyn, co-chair of SJLIP and acting director of Growth and Community Services for the City. “The goals outlined in the plan are key to growing our population and economy and will help us build a more vibrant community for everyone to enjoy.”

The Immigration strategy was officially announced to the community as part of a special event hosted by the City and SJLIP on November 29.



Succeed and Stay: An important discussion on immigration in Saint John provided a forum for local leaders and community partners to present ideas and strategies and have thoughtful discussion around immigration in Saint John. Approximately 500 people attended the event to learn more about current and future immigration in the City.

For more information, click [HERE](#). To read the strategy, visit our website: www.saintjohn.ca/growthplans

Shediac Cape, Campbellton and Saint John to get new schools

On behalf of the Province of New Brunswick

The provincial government will invest \$110.24 million during the 2023-24 fiscal year to support its goal of building a world-class education system in public schools.

The two new schools announced for Saint John are as follows:

- A replacement for Hazen White-St. Francis and Centennial schools in Saint John
- A new kindergarten-to-Grade 8 school for Saint John's central peninsula

Both schools have proposed openings for fall of 2026.

Read full release [HERE](#).

Site announced for new school in Saint John's central peninsula

On behalf of the Province of New Brunswick

Land next to Rainbow Park has been selected as the site of the new kindergarten-to-Grade 8 school that will be built on Saint John's central peninsula.

"As we continue to work on building a world-class education system, it is important to invest in our schools to ensure students receive the proper education they need to succeed," said Aboriginal Affairs Minister Arlene Dunn. "I very much understand the importance of this project and the positive impact it will have on the city and the students in the area."

Dunn spoke on behalf of Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Bill Hogan.

The school will accommodate about 450 students, replacing the aging Prince Charles and St. John the Baptist/King Edward schools. The provincial government will invest more than \$2 million during the 2023-24 fiscal year to support the continued planning, design, and site preparation of this school.



Read the full release [HERE](#).

New disaster mitigation infrastructure to better protect residents of Saint John

On behalf of the Government of Canada

On December 2, Wayne Long, Member of Parliament for Saint John—Rothesay, and John MacKenzie, Deputy Mayor of the City of Saint John, announced more than \$30 million in joint funding for climate-resilient infrastructure projects in Saint John.

Funding will support raising the Courtenay Bay Causeway to prevent flooding during storm surges and rising sea levels as well as the construction of a new pumping station to allow for drainage of the forebay during high-tide conditions.

These projects will help protect critical infrastructure and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In addition, this investment will increase the flood resiliency of critical wastewater infrastructure across the city. The project includes rehabilitating and raising the berms to protect the Lancaster Wastewater Treatment Facility from flooding, replacing and raising the ultraviolet disinfection system at the Millidgeville Wastewater Treatment Facility and incorporating additional flood protection measures in the Lower Cove sewer system. The upgrades to these facilities are vital to mitigating the risk of damage from flooding, as well as reducing risk of sewer backup and the release of untreated wastewater into the environment.

Read the full release, [HERE](#).

Governments partner to prevent flooding along Retail Drive in Saint John

On behalf of the Government of Canada

On December 5, Wayne Long, Member of Parliament for Saint John—Rothesay, the Honourable Trevor Holder, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, and Her Worship Donna Noade Reardon, Mayor of the City of Saint John, announced more than \$8 million in joint funding to reconfigure a portion of Retail Drive in east Saint John.

This funding will support the future expansion of East Point, a major retail centre, by raising a section of Retail Drive and eliminating one of two immediately adjacent signalized intersections. The project also includes an upgraded stormwater sewer system and expansion of the sanitary sewer capacity to reduce the risk of flooding and sewer backups. Additional project benefits include upgraded pedestrian signals with sound, a countdown, and accessible ramps for improved pedestrian and motorist safety, as well as the addition of railway crossing gates and traffic signal pre-emption in the event of an approaching train.

Read the full release [HERE](#).

Out of the Cold shelter opened at Belyea Arena

The Salvation Army, Province of New Brunswick and City of Saint John partnered to open an Out of the Cold shelter at the Belyea Arena. The 40-bed facility is open between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., seven days a week and will remain operational until at least March 31, 2023. Saint John Transit is providing daily bus charters to ensure clients have free transportation to and from the facility. The shelter opened on December 5.

Common Council approves 2023 General Operating Budget

At its meeting on December 12, Common Council approved the City's 2023 General Operating Budget. The budget totals \$177,287,500, a 7.63 per cent increase year over year.

The budget was produced based on Council's strategic priorities, actions contained within the City's 10-year Strategic Plan as well as on the principles, policies and targets contained in the City's Long-term Financial Plan.

The budget includes a recommendation to reduce the property tax rate by nine cents, from \$1.71 to \$1.62 per \$100 of assessed value.

This is the lowest tax rate in over two decades and puts the City ahead of the Long-term Financial Plan tax rate target. The budget also includes a moving tax ratio for Non-Residential and Heavy Industry classes from 1.5 to 1.7, which aligns with the City's strategy on tax reform.

For more details, and to view the full Council report, visit www.saintjohn.ca

City accepting proposals for financial support through the Building Safer Communities Fund

The City of Saint John has issued a request for proposals (RFP) from local non-profit and community organizations for funding available through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) established by the Government of Canada's Department of Public Safety.

The BSCF provides municipalities the opportunity to enhance community-based prevention and intervention strategies related to gun and gang violence. The City is seeking interest from eligible organizations that focus on children, youth, and young adults, for funding support specific to the following:

- Enhancing community knowledge of existing and emerging factors related to gang and gun violence.
- Supporting the planning, development and implementation of associated prevention and intervention programs, practices, and initiatives.

For further information, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, the RFP can be viewed on the City of Saint John website [HERE](#).

The deadline to submit proposals is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

Learn more about the Building Safer Communities Fund [HERE](#).

Uptown Sparkles and annual Mayor and Council Tree Lighting attracts large crowds

The uptown area was sparkling with lights and holiday spirit during this year's Uptown Sparkles which took place on Friday, December 2. Large crowds explored the uptown area and supported local businesses. To kick off the evening the tree in City Hall Plaza was lit in partnership with our friends at Saint John Energy.

Saint John Transit continues to enhance service

Route 1 East extension beginning December 27

The Route 1 Rapid Line running between the City's East and West Sides will extend to serve the Irving Oil Field House East. Lancaster Mall West will be the last stop on Route 1. Riders travelling between Lancaster Mall and Fairville Plaza on the Golden Mile can transfer to Route 15.

Route 15 Harbour Bridge route change beginning December 27

Service on the Route 15 Harbour Bridge Community Line running between the West Side and Uptown via the Harbour Bridge will extend to serve Fairville Plaza. To accommodate this extension, Route 15 will now travel along Ludlow Street. Stops on Champlain, Charlotte, Duke Streets will close, and stops will be added on Ludlow Street. Temporary signage will be posted to announce closed stops.



FLEX on-demand service will replace **Routes 13 and 14** Churchill/Milford on **January 9, 2023**.

FLEX is an on-demand service that goes to stops where it's requested within a zone instead of following a fixed route. The new West FLEX zone will include all areas previously covered by Routes 13 and 14, will extend further west than the current bus service, and will offer longer hours of service.

Learn more about the Saint John Transit service enhancements [HERE](#).



Events & Activities

Events Calendar!

Looking for things to do? Saint John has you covered with events in arts, culture, heritage, community, comedy, culinary, sports, music & performing arts. Visit [Discover Saint John](#) and check back often!

Mayor and Council's Breakfast taking place December 16

A longstanding tradition is continuing this year with the Mayor and Council's Breakfast taking place at the City Market on Friday, December 16 from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Mayor Reardon and members of Council will be serving up breakfast at the Market as part of CBC's Christmas at the Market broadcast with all proceeds going towards the Harbour Lights Campaign in support of local food banks in southern New Brunswick.

To learn more about the Harbour Lights Campaign, click [HERE](#).



Growth At A Glance

So far in December, the One Stop Development Shop has received **5** building and development-related permit applications with a value of **\$1.2 million**.

Year-to-date, the One Stop Development Shop has received **639** permit applications with a value of **\$95.4 million**.

As of December 12, 2022, this is how current growth numbers compare year-over-year:



Stories To Share

Figures show New Brunswick landlords, developers having big year despite rent cap. Read [HERE](#).

Saint John projects \$2.2M year-end surplus. Read [HERE](#).

Inaugural InnovateNB Awards impress and inspire. Read [HERE](#)

Festive R.I.D.E programs returns with new partners. Read [HERE](#).

More than \$8M committed for flooding, safety issues at east Saint John intersection. Read [HERE](#).

Three new public schools to be built in New Brunswick. Read [HERE](#).

N.B. unveils \$1B capital budget. Read [HERE](#).

More flights coming to Saint John. Read [HERE](#).

Saint John welcomes 153K cruise passengers in 2022. Read [HERE](#).

Uptown restaurant reopens after flooding. Read [HERE](#).

Saint John to host top N.B. curlers this weekend. Read [HERE](#).

Third annual Lights of Hope Campaign underway. Read [HERE](#).

Holiday gift drive for seafarers in Saint John. Read [HERE](#).



Don't Forget!

Temporary parking restrictions – electrical infrastructure upgrades

Saint John Water and Saint John Energy crews will be updating the electrical infrastructure along Douglas Avenue over the coming months. More information is available on the City's website, [HERE](#).

Harbour Bridge construction

Work continues on the Harbour Bridge rehabilitation project. For information and updates visit the Government of New Brunswick website [HERE](#).

Traffic advisory updates

Traffic advisories for road closures due to construction, maintenance or events are updated regularly and can be found on the community dashboard on the City's website [HERE](#).

**HERE
TO HELP!**

For inquiries related to municipal services, contact the City of Saint John Customer Service Centre at (506) 658-4455, email service@saintjohn.ca or visit us in person on the Ground Floor of City Hall, 15 Market Square, Monday to Thursday (excluding holidays), 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

