

SUMMER RECREATION IN SAINT JOHN 2025

Sunshine Program Shines Brighter Than Ever

Over **900 children** from across the city registered for the City of Saint John's 8-week summer playground program. This represents a whopping **increase of 40 percent** over last year's registration numbers.

A free, drop-in recreation program for children ages 5-12, the program focuses on outdoor recreation to keep children physically active and socially engaged. The summer is jam-packed with fun and creative activities including sports, games, arts & crafts and special events and outings.



966

Registrants



28

Summer Students
Employed



8

Sites



Evaluation in East Saint John

A comprehensive evaluation of East Saint John's community services and programs was launched in January. The evaluation brings together input from residents, schools, and service providers to better understand strengths, gaps, and opportunities.

Over the summer, staff participated in a number of community engagement activities to hear directly from residents and ensure future services reflect the needs and priorities of the community.

Evaluation findings will be presented in a report to the City's Growth Committee in the fall.



SAINT JOHN

Parks: A Preferred Place to Gather...Naturally

Despite a wet spring and a dry summer, city parks were busy with activity. From weekly Sunday farmers' markets at Queen Square to various runs, rides and picnics in Rockwood Park, Community Services staff coordinated over two hundred reservations for activities held within our city park sites.



Popular Community Block Party Trailer

The Community Block Party Trailer made several appearances this summer to enhance community events and neighbourhood gatherings. Launched in July 2023, the trailer is free to groups hosting events that bring residents together to celebrate community. It's equipped with a barbecue, sound system, tables, chairs, and an abundant supply of games and activities for all ages to enjoy.

New Memorial Benches Honour Loved Ones

Thirteen new benches have been installed at Rockwood Park and one at Dominion Park this summer. The benches are the result of the Memorial Bench Program that was reinstated this year. The program allows citizens to purchase a bench and plaque in memory of a loved one.

Benches serve as an important part of a park's landscape, providing a place for rest and reflection in nature.



36
Events

Get Active at your Local Library

Community Services recently partnered with four local public libraries to expand their lending collections to include recreational equipment. Any citizen with a library card can try a new sport, revisit an old hobby, or simply find an active way to spend time with family and friends. This program makes it easier than ever to stay active and engaged.



RESERVE



People were packing the parks this year for events and gatherings. Staff approved **203 park reservations** between May and August. The online tool for parks reservations was launched last May and is available at www.playsj.ca.



SAINT JOHN

203
Park Reservations



27
community
clean-ups

Green Machine

This past summer marked the 10th anniversary since the City of Saint

John introduced the Green Machine! Since 2015, the 14-ft trailer has assisted in dozens of community-led clean up initiatives. Despite this year's wet spring, the Green Machine appeared at **27 community clean up events** collecting well over 320 bags of garbage from our neighbourhood streets, parks and public spaces.

Sport Facilities

16,851 hours booked at

- 14 baseball/softball fields
- 11 multi-purpose fields
- 8 tennis courts
- 8 pickle ball courts
- 3 arenas
- 1 outdoor ball hockey arena
- 1 disc golf course



Saputo Steps Up to the Plate

Thanks to an incredible **\$25,000** sponsorship, four brand-new dugouts have been built at Allison Grounds, providing much-needed shade for players.

Senior Friendship Games

Friendly competition is the name of the game at the annual **50+ Friendship Games**. Held in early June each year, the week-long event offers a variety of sports and games for older adults. Over one hundred local seniors from across Greater Saint John compete in activities including darts, shuffleboard, bowling, washer toss, timed walking, and much more. The Games end with an awards banquet. Organized by an independent volunteer committee, the Games are supported by the City of Saint John, the Town of Rothesay, the Town of Quispamsis and the Seniors' Resource Centre.



A New Ace in Youth Baseball

A new portable pitching mound debuted its first full season at the Harry Stephenson Ballfield in the Forest Hills Complex. The mound allows leagues to easily transition from an adult slow-pitch field to meet the needs of youth minor baseball.



28
Senior Events

Summer Socials for Seniors

There were plenty of activities throughout the summer for seniors to enjoy. Two popular programs included Music in the Park at Chown Park and Seniors in the Park at Tucker Park. These events provide seniors in both independent and long-term care residences an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, engage in activities, enjoy entertainment, and socialize with friends and neighbours. Community Services supports twenty-eight seniors' events year-round.



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