



# Newcomers contribute to spike in school enrolment

FALLON HEWITT  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • The Anglophone South School District is reporting its highest enrolment numbers in two years, according to the most recent data from the province.

As of September 2019, the district had 23,163 students attending its 70 schools across the region, spanning from St. Stephen to Sussex.

That's an increase of 260 students from 2018, according to superintendent Zoë Watson.

"We are pleased to see the increase this year," said Watson. "This is our highest population for the last few years."

The last time the district had more than 23,000 students was in 2017, when finalized numbers totalled 23,070, according to stats provided to the District Education Council at their Wednesday night meeting last week.

The lowest in the past four years was in 2018, with 22,903 students registered.

According to Watson, broken down by the district's three education centres, Saint John added 140 students, Hampton added 17 and St. Stephen brought in an additional 103 pupils.

The largest school in the district, Kennebecasis Valley High School in Quispamsis, had 1,026 students. The smallest school is Whitehead Elementary School, with three students in



Anglophone South School District superintendent Zoë Watson is pictured in this file photo. PHOTO: FALLON HEWITT/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Kindergarten to Grade 4, said Watson.

Watson also pointed out the increase in the number of newcomers and international students, which has led to growth in the district. She said 450 students have been registered since April of the last school year.

"These students represent 48 countries - the largest numbers are newcomers from China with 49 and many international students are coming from Germany with 58," said Watson.

She said 25 or more students have also come from Syria, India, Nigeria, Philippines and Somalia.

To assist those students, the district provides a Welcome Centre that offers additional teachers to support schools, as well as mentors that provide language tutoring services, said Watson.

# Targeted Holiday Fundraiser A Big Success

Saint John, NB, Canada / The Wave

Tamara Steele

January 16, 2020 09:00 am

A unique holiday event bringing in a large haul for an east side food bank.

Loch Lomond School, a kindergarten to Grade 5 school, aimed to collect donations of canned tuna for the Lakewood Headstart community support center, a local food bank.

Principal Greg Norton says the initiative was called "The Big Catch" and it brought in 1147 cans.

"We supported that initiative as faculty and staff. Tuna fish was one of those frequently sought [after] items that their clients were looking for," Norton said.

Norton says being really specific on what was needed really helped engage their students.

"When you have you have a goal and know exactly what you are going for and put some fun into it. Sometimes knowing what the goal is allows us to hit the target a little bit better."

Norton says it could become a yearly event.

"We will work with them again and maybe we'll come up with another top food item that they are looking for and maybe come up with another creative name to inspire our students and school to help support those in need in our community."



*This large haul resulted from a Loch Lomond School holiday fundraiser, "The Big Catch". Nearly 1200 cans of tuna were collected by the students, staff and the community. (Facebook)*



Ries Van Beek and Colby Wallace at the ConnexionWorks headquarters at 1 Germain St uptown. Van Beek is a teacher in the IDEA Centre program, and Wallace is a student who is working on a carbon dioxide filter idea. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

# Teen reaches for the stars

Grade 11 student Colby Wallace says he has talked with NASA about carbon dioxide filter he wants to develop

JOSHUA FISCHLIN  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN • Colby Wallace says he has talked with NASA.

The Grade 11 Saint John High School student says he's been in contact with the space agency regarding a carbon dioxide filter he wants to develop.

Wallace credits the IDEA Centre with helping him pursue this opportunity. The IDEA Centre is an entrepreneurship program for high school students that has seven locations across the province, including the one in Saint John located at 1 Germain St.

Wallace, 17, describes the program as "fantastic," and a "great opportunity" for young people to get entrepreneurial experience outside the classroom.

His idea, which he's been working on since he began with the program in September, is to create a carbon dioxide filter that can be applied to several different technologies that emit the

PLEASE SEE → TEEN, B5

## Teen reaches for the stars through entrepreneurial program

TEEN → B1

greenhouse gas. He would also like anyone who uses the product to get an environmental tax credit, he said.

To that end, he has established connections with various people and groups, including Mayor Don Darling, Saint John-Rothesay MP Wayne Long, as well as N.B. industry.

"It's a really big project, but if it wasn't for the support from the IDEA Centre, and [Economic Development Greater Saint John], I don't think I would have got the connections that I have."

Wallace, in his networking efforts, also decided to reach for the stars, and made a phone call to NASA. At first, he was speaking to an automated machine. But, with persistence, he was able to pitch his filtration idea to a NASA

representative.

"I think it was that Saturday, I got a call, and I was shocked. It was the head of the [Kennedy Space Centre] in Florida. His name is Robert Cabana," Wallace said.

The Telegraph-Journal reached out to NASA for comment but could not provide any prior to publication.

Wallace said they spoke about the idea, and how it might be made feasible. Wallace said Cabana seemed shocked that such a big idea could come from a 17-year-old.

"He's really supportive of it," Wallace said.

Next semester, he will be heading to New Brunswick Community College, and said he's been in touch with department heads about potentially building a prototype when he's there.

The IDEA Centre, which acted as the launching pad for his entrepreneurial initiative, brings in two cohorts of high school students a day for two-hour sessions, according to Ries Van Beek, who teaches at the Saint John location and helped bring the for-credit program to fruition in the 2017-2018 year.

The students leave the traditional classroom for two periods a day and enter a Silicon Valley-style co-working space, in a building filled with adult entrepreneurs working on their own projects.

"It's a very professional, high energy and innovative setting for them to work on their ideas," Van Beek said.

The program is situated in the ConnexionWorks space, whose co-founder Heather Acker said has a good feeling to it.

"You sense that there's something positive and uplifting, and moving," she said.

Acker, along with Van Beek and Michele Lodge of Economic Development Greater Saint John, brought IDEA Centre to fruition with the support of the Anglophone South School District, Acker said.

According to Van Beek, a few other ideas bubbling up from the minds of the young students there include: a campaign to end non-biodegradable cups in the city; an art commission business for unique designs; an attempt to bring an old park back to Millidgeville in the north end; and an indoor dog park.

Van Beek said he also recently saw a student of his, Erin Cusack, present to the Saint John Common Council about the potential revision of uptown

parking regulations, which he said are important for high school students. He said it was the highlight of his 25-year teaching career, and that "she rocked."

Van Beek said the program is helping to instill hope in participants that opportunities for work exist in the province. The only criteria they have to abide by when coming up with an idea, he said, is that it will have a positive impact on the community.

The IDEA Centre program is free. This semester in Saint John there are 15 students, with 22 signed up for the next.

Those interested can get more information by logging on to [ideacentre.nb.ca](http://ideacentre.nb.ca).

Students interested in NASA can visit [nasa.gov/stem](http://nasa.gov/stem), said Stephanie Schierholz, spokesperson for NASA Human Space Flight.

# Varsity hoop star hits 2,000-point milestone

**JOSHUA FISCHLIN**  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

**SAINT JOHN** • After years of hard work on the basketball court, Luke Stewart has earned a record-breaking accolade.

During a game on Tuesday against the rival Saint John High School Greyhounds, the Simonds High School Seabees star racked up his 2,000th point playing for the varsity boys team with a step-back, three-point swish.

"It's a crazy accolade. It just shows all the hard work I've put in, and feels good to finally be recognized by something like that," the 17-year-old said.

His coach, and the athletics director of Simonds High School, Doug Deering, said as far as he knows, nobody else in the school's history has hit the milestone at the varsity boys level. He also said he thinks Stewart is one of the best players to ever wear the Simonds High School jersey.

"Not too many people have done what he has done... For people to hit that plateau is unbelievable," Deering said.

Stewart began with the team in Grade 9. Deering said he'd been watching him play prior to high school. When the young player decided to attend Simonds High School, he was brought into the fold.

Stewart said when he first began, there weren't many people in the stands for games, mostly just parents. Now, there are people he's never seen before, cheering the team on.

He said he trains all the time, and has played summers for Team N.B. since the U14 level.

"It's all paid off."

Deering said that, over his career with the team, Stewart has averaged about 20 points per game in about a 36-game season, including playoffs.

In his first year, he got about 400 points. In his second, he reached almost 600. And, last season, he surpassed 900 points. This year, he had some time off due to a rolled ankle, and has racked up about 200 points so far, Deering said.

Tuesday's game put him at a total of 2012 points.

Deering said he's proud of Stewart's achievement, but he's most proud of the young player's 1,000 assists.

"Everybody thinks he's just a scorer," he said, adding that in going through game footage, he's noticed Stewart's assists are "unbelievable."

"He's been an exceptional leader for our team."

Deering has been in touch with a few universities about Stewart, but the young player is still unsure exactly where he will end up in the future. What he does know, however, is that wherever he goes, he will be playing basketball.

His career so far has had its ups-and-downs. Stewart described it as "quite the roller coaster." But he also said that, in basketball, he's found "a love for it and a passion" he didn't think he would.

"I've accomplished a lot. You get a sense of accomplishment, and once everyone is around you telling you how well you did, but for a while you don't see it yourself, until it's actually all right in front of you," Stewart said.

"And an accolade like this just makes you realize."



Luke Stewart hit a 2,000-point milestone Tuesday while playing for Simonds High School against Saint John High School. He has been playing for the team since Grade 9. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

# 'Making a difference': Student developing way to calculate your carbon footprint



New app by high school student keeps track of carbon emissions and suggests how to reduce them

[Vanessa Blanch](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jan 06, 2020 1:20 PM AT | Last Updated: January 6



Simon Clarke, a Grade 12 student at Sir James Dunn Academy in Saint Andrews, is developing an app that will track individual carbon emissions and offer suggestions to reduce them. (Submitted by Simon Clarke)

[14 comments](#)

A Grade 12 student from Sir James Dunn Academy in Saint Andrews is hoping an app he is developing will help solve the climate change crisis.

Simon Clarke has spent the past few months looking for a simple and effective way to show people their personal impact on the environment.

"I'm working on a carbon counter app that will track a person's carbon emissions and then show them what those emissions are meaning for our world and our future," he said.

## Teen proposes parking changes in Saint John



BY TRAVIS FORTNUM · GLOBAL NEWS

Posted January 16, 2020 7:58 pm

Updated January 17, 2020 12:32 pm

To the average citizen, city council meetings can seem especially administrative or even dull.

Hardly the place you'd expect to find a teenager.

But Saint John's city council chambers is exactly where 18-year-old Erin Cusack could be found on Jan. 13, presenting ideas that might save local high school students from a few parking tickets.

"It was easy because I was presenting on something that I really care about," she says.



— 19-year-old Erin Cusack has ideas for how the city can make parking "more fair" for students. *Travis Fortnum*

The City of Saint John imposes a two-hour parking limit on most streets in the South/Central Peninsula, which includes the areas around both Saint John High School and St. Malachy's Memorial High School.

New Brunswick

## Saint John teen aims big for 1st invention: filtering CO2 from vehicle exhaust



With tips from NASA, Colby Wallace works on something that has eluded top scientists

CBC News - Posted: Jan 14, 2020 3:15 PM AT | Last Updated: January 14



Colby Wallace describes the carbon dioxide filter he is designing in his Ideas Centre class at Saint John High. (Submitted )

A Grade 11 student at Saint John High School is working on an invention that he believes could drastically reduce the amount of carbon dioxide given off by vehicles that burn gas.

"It's a major issue in climate change at the moment," said Colby Wallace, 17.

Most people don't realize a car produces 4.6 metric tonnes or 9,200 pounds of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide every year, said Wallace.

"I really want to ... reduce it as much as possible."

### Expects big emissions drop

Wallace has designed a CO2 filter that he thinks could cut emissions by 50 per cent.

"I believe that in the next 10 years we may be full electric but using my product will fill between that gap."

Colby said he was inspired by calls from political leaders to address the climate crisis.

"I used to think it wasn't a big deal. I thought it was just like one of those things that people just complained about."

But Colby became more concerned when heat records were broken last summer.

"It melted one third of the Arctic and it just shocked me. ... If sea levels are rising it's not all going to refreeze."

Colby turned that preoccupation into a school project as part of the Anglophone South School District's Ideas Centre program.



# Teacher, Big Brother contestant speaks at tournament

AARON SOUSA  
KINGS COUNTY RECORD

**SUSSEX** • When the Dairy Town Classic approached Cory Kennedy about being the guest speaker for this year's tournament, she remembered taking part in the basketball tournament as a player.

"When I was growing up, I remember thinking about that top moment of the first time you walk on the court as a Dairy Town Classic player," she said.

"Parents and fans still partake in the [tournament] even after they've left school, so I knew that being asked to do something like this, it would be something that I would not take lightly."

Kennedy, who teaches math to grade six French immersion students at Sussex Middle School, hopes to make her speech relatable to the tournament's younger audience.

"I was in their shoes like 12 years ago, but the feeling you get when you walk



Cory Kennedy, of Sussex, will be the guest speaker for the 33rd annual Dairy Town Classic. She has participated in past

## Teacher, Big Brother contestant speaks

### CONTESTANT →B1

on the court and the responsibility of being a student-athlete is the same," she said.

"If I can pass on a few words of wisdom as they make the transition from high school athletics into post-secondary life, then I'll be happy."

Kennedy started playing basketball in Grade 3 and continued through high school. When she graduated from Sussex Regional High School, she was recruited by the University of New Brunswick in Saint John to play volleyball. She played for the first two years of her Marine Biology degree before going back to her basketball roots.

Kennedy said her inspiration to play stems from her intense love of competition, and she believes that people should have a competitive side.

"A lot of individual growth comes from being competitive," she said. "You learn a lot about yourself, you learn about your limits, and sometimes you

can surprise yourself"

Kennedy believes growing up in a supportive community like Sussex helped shape her character.

"Being from Sussex and a part of that basketball family, that environment is something that helped my motivation and drive and my independence," she said. "There's a lot of different elements that shaped me to be the motivational person that I am."

When she isn't teaching, Kennedy coaches volleyball, using her experience in sports to keep players motivated whenever they might feel discouraged.

"I like to remind them of times where they had success and to remember that feeling and that it's not impossible because obviously, they've been there before," she said.

"I remind them that these feelings of being down or unmotivated are part of the experience of being an athlete."

Kennedy celebrated her 30th birthday in August and said she's proud of

her diverse set of accomplishments. She has received two university degrees, worked as a biologist, and even appeared on the reality TV series, Big Brother Canada.

"I attribute a lot of my success to who I was in high school and what prepared me for that next step to accomplish these things," she said.

"I attribute a lot of it to being a student athlete."

David Baxendale, president of the Dairy Town Classic, said they saw Kennedy as someone with a lot of credibility.

"Cory went through our entire minor basketball system, which is ... what we're trying to promote," he said.

"We thought that she would be a great fit because she is someone who has experienced all that there is with our basketball community."

Kennedy will speak at the Dairy Town Classic banquet on Friday, Jan. 17. The event starts at 1 p.m. at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

## High school's green efforts internationally recognized

NEWS

### High school gets international accreditation for sustainability



Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

Hampton High School is fully accredited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization due to its efforts to improve the school's sustainable development.

Teacher Laura Myers said after schools apply, there is usually a one-year probation period, but not for Hampton. Its probation period was waived by the organization.

"They were convinced we deserved membership by our application, which we made early in the 2018-2019 school year," she said.

She said the school had already fulfilled its requirements. It held a climate-change protest as part of Fridays For Future in October. The student-led protest was inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg's movement.

The school has a greenhouse and a food forest. The food from those projects feed the school's breakfast and lunch programs and serves the community garden when school is not in session.

"Being a UNESCO school gives us access to a members-only website and access to contact information with other UNESCO schools," she said. "You can contact UNESCO schools from around the world, which is something I'd like us to do more."

Students connected with a school in Haiti about climate change, she said.

"It's kind of neat to see other schools doing similar stuff to us," she said. "We were already doing a lot of things as a school, but we have more opportunities as a UNESCO school."

Each school, she said, goes under a review every year. The accreditation can be stripped if it doesn't meet the standards of the organization.

Meanwhile, Hampton High student Abigail Middleton said she believes sustainability projects are important. She was involved in the greenhouse and the food forest. Middleton did the planning, construction and even ran the greenhouse.

"This education and experience can be seen spreading throughout the entire community as students and teachers share the projects with others, or when students take the empowering initiative to begin projects within the greater community themselves," she said.

Middleton is in her last year of high school and is planning to attend Mount Allison University in Sackville next year. She said she still believes these projects will continue for the foreseeable future.

"As it is my last year of high school, I, unfortunately, will not be able to partake in many school projects for the following few years, but I hope that the students following us will continue to strive towards the goals we have set in place, such as creating a sustainable cafeteria environment, or re-thinking or changing energy consumption in the school," she said.

# Featured Teacher: Laura Myers

New Brunswick teacher helps foster sustainable living among her students through extracurricular initiatives



Laura Myers stands in front of the greenhouse that her students designed and built as part of an effort to reduce their environmental footprint at school. (Photo: Ray Lacenaire)

By [Tanya Kirnishni](#)

February 3, 2020

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Laura Myers believes you don't need to be a geography or social studies teacher to explore geographical concepts such as climate change or sustainability in the classroom. Myers teaches Grades 9 to 12 math and French immersion at Hampton High School in Hampton, N.B., and makes a point of incorporating these issues in her classes as well as in the extracurricular initiatives she helps run. Hampton High School became a UNESCO school in 2018 and Myers is responsible for helping to integrate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Global Competencies at her school.

## SPORTS

# Long-time coach gets dedication of a lifetime

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Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

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The gymnasium at Sussex Regional High School now has a name – the Peter McAleenan gymnasium.

It was dedicated to McAleenan, a long-time coach and community member, at the opening ceremonies of the 33rd Dairy Town Classic on Jan. 30.

McAleenan has coached six teams to provincial titles, and still coaches to this day. It was a closely guarded secret, which brought McAleenan to tears.

“I’m so connected with the people in this town,” he said in an interview. “When I first came here, I didn’t know anybody, and now I’m a really big part of it I can see.”

“I’m amazed really.”

McAleenan was tearful as he looked out to a standing ovation, he raised a fist to the sky in appreciation, his family standing next to him.

A plaque will be placed near the entrance of the gymnasium explaining McAleenan’s contribution to the Sonics’ legacy.

The Classic’s president David Baxendale and corporate sponsorship co-ordinator Rebecca Richardson also presented awards to the gold, silver and bronze sponsors.

Mayor Marc Thorne spoke at the opening ceremonies and said the longevity of the tournament speaks to the quality leadership behind it.

Anglophone South Director of Schools Allan Davis spoke as well, cheering on the many volunteers and athletes who are competing.

“Although once upon a time I was a Black Kat [Fredericton], I proudly say go Sonics [Sussex],” he said.

The tournament continues until Feb. 1.

## 'It's your turn this time': Belleisle woman honoured for volunteerism



Kim Giddens was recognized for her dedication to the community of Belleisle, it's the volunteer fire department, and the school she teaches at.

Photo: Submitted/Bill Oliver

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### Nathalie Sturgeon | Kings County Record

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Kim Giddens has been serving her community for more than two decades, and now she's been recognized for her commitment.

At the State of the Province address in Fredericton on Jan. 30, Giddens was given a plaque by Premier Blaine Higgs for her dedication and service to the local volunteer fire department and her work at Belleisle Regional High School.

Giddens said at the beginning of the week, Kings Centre MLA Bill Oliver came to her and asked what she'd be doing on Jan. 30.

"I said 'nothing, why?'" she said.

Oliver told her the government wanted to recognize her volunteerism. Giddens not only fights fires, but she also trains fellow firefighters and volunteers with St. John Ambulance. She is a teacher by day and also coaches several sports teams, she also works with a Special Olympics basketball team and bowling team.

Giddens spoke with Oliver before the State of the Province, and he told her why she was being recognized.

"I said "(there) are a lot more people that probably deserve moreso than me," she said. "His response was 'well that may be, but it's your turn this time.'"

Giddens said it was an honour.

"It was quite a gathering of the minds," she said.

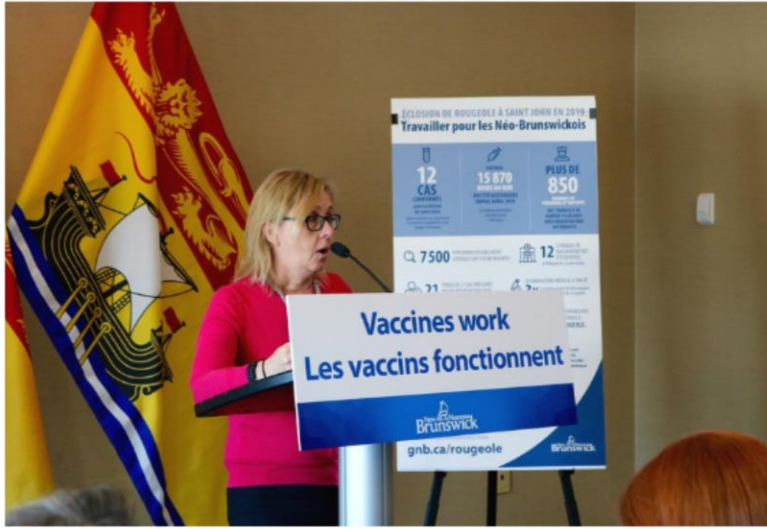
When asked why she continues to serve, and why it's important to her, her answer was easy.

"To serve my community when needed," she said.

Giddens said the Belleisle Valley Fire Department is like an extended family.

"We train together, when you go to calls you have to trust each other, you have to work together as a team no matter what the situation is," she said. "We have an amazing group of young men and women that are part of our fire department."

## School district to host coronavirus information session



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### Telegraph-Journal

SAINT JOHN • The Anglophone South School District will be hosting a question-and-answer session on the coronavirus.

Hosted by the "It Takes a Village" committee – which is made up of the four Saint John Area High School PSSCs – Dr. Kimberley Barker, Medical Officer of Health for the south region, will be hosting an information session and Q&A about the virus.

"There have been many media reports on the coronavirus and some misinformation and myths around this contagious virus which affects the respiratory system," states the event description. "In Dr. Barker's session, she will help dispel these myths and answer questions from the public about the virus."

All are welcome to attend the event, which will take place on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Saint John High School's Dennis Knibb Auditorium.