



## NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2010

### The Fundy Region Solid Waste Commission Creates a New Garden in the City's South End



It is planting time in Saint John.

With finished compost the Fundy Region Solid Waste Commission is transforming a vacant lot in Saint John's South End into a vegetable garden for the Salvation Army Booth Residential Services.

On Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> the Commission and the Salvation Army will begin planting a new garden at the corner of St James and Germain Street. The fruits of their labour will help supply fresh vegetables for Salvation Army residents and help reduce costs.

This initiative is sponsored by the Fundy Region Solid Waste Commission. The Salvation Army will maintain the garden, Halifax Seed donated seeds and a fence has been erected with the support of Fundy Fencing.

"This urban renewal partnership is a perfect example of sustainability. Finished compost will nourish vegetables that will feed people in need, and add new growth to the City's South End" said Saint John Councillor Chris Titus. Titus also serves on the Commission. "Using compost collected from homes and business, we have all helped to turn an unused vacant lot into a productive green garden, a great initiative for our community."

For the Salvation Army Booth Residential Services the garden will provide food and an example of healthy living.

"We are looking forward to working with our residents and demonstrating good eating and living habits," said Karen Powell, Support Services Co-ordinator of the Salvation Army Booth Residential Services. "This garden will not only help to off-set food costs, but will help nourish self sufficiency among our residents."

In 2009, over 8500 tonnes of compost was collected through the Green Cart Program. The compost program began in 2001, and has diverted more than 64,000 tonnes of material from the landfill. Last year the Commission produced more than 300 lbs of vegetables that were donated to Romero House.

All finished compost is tested by an independent lab and graded by the Department of Environment based on the CCME criteria for Grade A compost and is suitable for use on all gardens.

*The Fundy Region Solid Waste Commission is responsible for solid waste disposal and diversion in the Greater Saint John area, including Crane Mountain Landfill and the recycling and compost programs. The Commission is a non-profit organization governed by representatives of the municipalities and local service districts, and it is funded solely through the various tipping fees at the landfill.*

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