

SHYFTING TIMES

Special points of interest:

- The Minister of Community Services visits SHYFT House
- New Project Manager: Helen Paquette
- Who Uses SHYFT?
- SHYFT Garden Blooms

SHYFT Youth Services Society

Volume 1, Issue 3

Minister Visits SHYFT

Wednesday August 10 was a special day at the SHYFT house when Denise Petersen-Rafuse, the Minister of Community Services, visited along with members of her staff and Zach Churchill, local M.L.A.

The purpose of the visit was for her to become personally acquainted with the services we offer for homeless and at risk youth. Project manager, Helen Paquette, provided a tour of the whole house and presented the minister with an information package with background details and current statistics.



The minister took the time to meet with two residents and to hear their own stories of the benefits of coming to SHYFT. During the visit, the Minister announced a meeting date for SHYFT

LEFT

(from the bottom)
Helen Paquette (Project Manager), Denise Petersen-Rafuse (Minister of Community Services), Cyndi Hall (Executive Assistant), Zach Churchill (M.L.A.)

representatives to meet with her to discuss our desperate need for funding: September 20, in Halifax. We look forward to this opportunity.

New Project Manager: Helen Paquette

You might know Helen already because she grew up in Rockville and graduated from Yarmouth High School. From there, she enrolled in the Human Services Counseling Program with the Nova Scotia Community College and after graduation moved to Boston for a job as Residential Counselor for emotionally disturbed girls.

Next, she was hired by the Acadia First Nation as the Child/Youth Coordinator and Director of the

Aboriginal Head Start Program. In addition to this full-time position she enrolled in the distance education program through University College of Cape Breton where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies.

Helen is enthusiastic about SHYFT: "I have been employed with SHYFT Youth Services for a short time and have seen first hand the significant impact the services we provide has had on each of the

youth that has come to us. The reality is, the need for supportive housing in the tri-counties and across the region is essential. My experience here thus far has been more than a positive one. I enjoy coming to work every day and seeing the difference you can make in one's life just by being who you are and providing a supportive, caring and nurturing environment."

WHO USES SHYFT?

Since January of 2011 we have provided these services to the following number of youth:

Residential Housing – 22	Laundry Outreach— 8	Food Outreach— 9
Clothing Outreach— 7	Supportive Counselling Outreach — 22	Hygiene Outreach— 5
Enquiries of Services <u>not</u> including duplicates— 21		

Individuals are struggling with various challenges, including: mental illness, depression, schizophrenia, addictions (heavy drugs/alcohol), prostitution & its psychological affects, probation, youth/adult detention discharge, unsafe living conditions, family illness, domestic violence, broken families, pregnancy and parenting, relationship break-up, aggression.

Community Support

Donations of groceries and personal items will be gratefully received at the SHYFT House at 6, Trinity Place, (corner with Argyle Street), Yarmouth. Tel 881-3111.

Financial donations are also welcome. Please make your cheque payable to The Tri-County Women's Centre who will issue tax receipts for amounts of \$ 20 or more. Call 742-0085 for details.

SHYFT Garden Blooming

On May 31, the garden was started by a voluntary working party and, thanks to some dedicated individuals, we now have a garden to be proud of. Wonderful beets, carrots, tomatoes, green beans, peas, swiss chard, rhubarb, potatoes, cucumbers, onions, zucchini and pumpkins. Much of the ongoing care of the plot is done in partnership with the South End Kids Community Garden, under the leadership of Chuck Smith.

Produce is much appreciated

in the SHYFT kitchen, by the families of the gardening kids and by customers at the Yarmouth Farmers' Market and Red and White store. We express our thanks to Chuck

and to Aaron Allen (SHYFT staff) who has kept the lawns in shape. Vegetables straight from the ground and into the kitchen: no fresher food than that.



ABOVE: Local youth work in the SHYFT community garden to help put food on the table.

SHYFT Youth Services Society

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**Please visit our
website at
www.SHYFT.ca**

Editor's Note

Thank you so much for your community spirit and your willingness to get involved in supporting the youth of Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby.

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(Garden).