



# 2022 LEVEE

*giving voice to your passion*

**13 amazing women share with us their year of success in leadership and motivate us to take our dreams and passions to reality**





# AGENDA

*your host*

*Kathleen Vaughan Zwicker*

1. **THE HONOURABLE BRENDA MURPHY, ONB**  
The Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick

2. **THE HONOURABLE JENICA ATWIN, MP**  
Member of Parliament for Fredericton

3. **THE HONOURABLE JILL GREEN, MLA**  
Member of the Legislature for Fredericton North  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

4. **HER WORSHIP KATE ROGERS**  
Mayor of Fredericton

5. **HER WORSHIP BRITTANY MERRIFIELD**  
Mayor of Grand Bay - Westfield

6. **SUNYATA CHOYCE**  
Director of Project COLORS International

7. **SANDRA SAVAGE**  
International Motivational Speaker

## **BREAK**

8. **CHRISSY GUITARD**  
Program Coordinator SheBuilds

9. **EMMA HASSENCAHL-PERLEY**  
Visual Artist

10. **JUDITH SWEENEY**  
Entrepreneur Bubbles & Balms

11. **JENNY KIERSTEAD**  
Founder, Breathing Space Yoga, Girl on Fire Empowerment Program

12. **KRISTA ROSS**  
CEO Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

13. **NADINE DUGUAY-LEMAY**  
President and CEO, Dialogue New Brunswick

14. **SUSAN HARTLEY**  
Rotary Peace Activator

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Anthea Plummer, Donna Gardiner Thompson, Kathleen Vaughan Zwicker

*The honourable*

**BRENDA MURPHY, ONB**



The Honourable Brenda Murphy is the former Executive Director of the Saint John Women's Empowerment Network, an organization she led for more than twenty years.

Ms. Murphy is committed to ending poverty and family violence, and to advancing women's equality. She was nominated as a member of the Gender Equality Network Canada – a network of diverse women leaders from across the country. She was also a member of the National Advisory Council on Poverty and the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Ms. Murphy served three terms as a municipal councillor for the town of Grand Bay-Westfield, New Brunswick.

In addition, Ms. Murphy has volunteered with a variety of organizations, including the Hestia House shelter for women, the Saint John Legal Centre, the Coverdale Centre for Women, and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation of New Brunswick.

Ms. Murphy lives at Government House in Fredericton with her partner Linda Boyle.

L'Honourable Brenda Murphy est l'ancienne directrice générale du Saint John Women's Empowerment Network, une organisation qu'elle a dirigée pendant plus de 20 ans.

Mme Murphy se consacre à l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la violence familiale ainsi qu'à l'avancement de l'égalité des sexes. Elle a été membre du Réseau de l'égalité des genres Canada, qui réunit une diversité de dirigeantes de partout au pays, ainsi que du Conseil consultatif national sur la pauvreté et du Conseil consultatif sur la condition de la femme au Nouveau-Brunswick.

Mme Murphy a exercé trois mandats en tant que conseillère municipale de la ville de Grand Bay-Westfield, au Nouveau-Brunswick.

De plus, Mme Murphy a travaillé comme bénévole dans une variété d'organisations, notamment la maison de refuge pour femmes Hestia House, le Saint John Legal Centre, le Coverdale Centre for Women et la Société d'inclusion économique et sociale du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Mme Murphy vit à la Résidence de la gouverneure à Fredericton avec sa partenaire Linda Boyle.

*The honourable*

# JENICA ATWIN, MP

Jenica Atwin was elected to represent the riding of Fredericton in the House of Commons of Canada in the 2019 Canadian federal election. She was the first Member of Parliament of the Green Party of Canada to be elected outside of British Columbia, the first third-party candidate to win the electoral district of Fredericton or its predecessor districts, which have traditionally alternated between Conservative and Liberal Members of Parliament (MPs), and the first woman to be elected in the riding of Fredericton. Along with fellow Green MPs Paul Manly and leader Elizabeth May, Atwin's election created the largest Green caucus.



Before politics, Atwin was an education consultant and researcher at a First Nations Education Centre.

In April 2021, Atwin introduced her first private members' bill, Bill C-285, which would impose a nationwide ban on the use of glyphosate on forests and fields across Canada, stating that the use of glyphosate is a menace to human health, and plant and wildlife diversity.

She is married to Oromocto First Nation band councillor Chris Atwin and has two sons.

# *the honourable* **JILL GREEN, MLA**



Jill Green graduated from UNB with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1995. She has had a wide variety of professional experience over the last couple of decades working in both the public and private sectors. Through her career, Jill has had many opportunities in different areas including managing a Public Utility responsible for 23 communities, was a partner in a mid-sized engineering firm and owned her own consulting business. Much of Jill's experience was gained in the USA but in 2006, she returned to Atlantic Canada to start Green Imaging Technologies and commercialize technologies developed at the

UNB MRI Research Centre. Green Imaging Technologies (GIT) provides innovative software solutions to the oil and gas industry. H2 Laboratories was spun out of GIT and their in-house lab provides access to some of the top MRI experts in the oil and gas sector. GIT is an export driven company with clients spanning the globe.

Prior to her successful campaign in 2020 to become Fredericton Norths MLA Jill was the CEO of Green Imaging Technologies. In 2017, 2019 and 2020, Jill was recognized as one of the top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Business Magazine and received the 2017 BMO Innovation and Global Growth Award. Jill was named a Fellow in the prestigious Canadian Academy of Engineers in 2018.

As an active member of the community Jill also sat on the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation and Fredericton Sports Investment Inc and has volunteered on several industry focused boards Jill also volunteered her time assisting several youth athletic programs in various capacities including as a Director of the Hockey New Brunswick Elite Western Hockey Zone.

Following her election in September 2020, Jill became the second female and the first engineer to hold the position of Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

*her worship*

# KATE ROGERS

Kate Rogers was elected as Mayor of Fredericton in May 2021 and is the first women to serve in that role.

She is a graduate of UNB's Masters program in Political Science and has built her career since then through leadership roles in the non-profit sector, arts administration, and policy research and development. She is a past Executive Director for the Fredericton Community Foundation, Inc., the Charlotte Street Arts Centre, and the New Brunswick Crafts Council, as well as Managing Director of the NB Social Policy Research Network.



Rogers was first elected to City Council in May 2012 and again in May 2016. This will be her third term on City Council. She served as Deputy Mayor for the City of Fredericton for a two-year term in May 2016.

In her first term on City Council, she served as Chair of the Community Services Committee, Chair of the Arts & Culture Committee, member of Development Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, and Council Representative for the Planning Advisory Committee, the Preservation Review Board and Downtown Fredericton Inc.

In her second term, while serving as Deputy Mayor, she Chaired the Governance & Civic Engagement Committee and served as the City's representative on RSC 11. She was Vice Chair of the Mobility Committee, a member of the Livable Community Committee, and Economic Vitality Committee. She also chaired the City's Affordable Housing Committee and the City's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

A life-long resident of Fredericton, Rogers and her husband, Mike Wolfe, have lived in Ward 11 for over 20 years with their two daughters, Eliza and Iris.



*her worship*

# BRITTANY MERRIFIELD



Brittany Merrifield, the second Mayor of Grand Bay-Westfield, is proud to have the privilege of living in and serving such a vibrant, abundant and beautiful community. Brittany is energetic, results-driven, and visionary. Her desire to make a difference is what motivates her to tackle issues that she believes will enhance the quality of life for all Grand Bay-Westfield residents; bring balanced growth, stability, and business development in the community; are fiscally responsible and ensure effective use of our taxes, and provide Infrastructure growth and investment in the area. She gives a tireless voice on issues such as social inclusion,

transportation, and poverty reduction.

Brittany has played a key role in fostering community relationships. During the historic floods of 2018 and 2019, her community commitment resulted in coordinating, filling, and delivering tens of thousands of sandbags to houses. Her outspoken advocacy on the costs associated with the choice to vaccinate boys against HPV garnered national attention. The belief that collaboration leads to better outcomes has enabled her to build relationships and cooperation across community organizations. She has served as the Vice Chair, Grand Bay-Westfield Planning Advisory Committee; Vice President, River Valley Community Centre Board of Directors; Co-Chair, River Valley Community Centre Recreation Committee; Member, Grand Bay Age Friendly Committee; Director, New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation; a Leadership Committee Member, Living Saint John and is Co-founder of See Jane Run, which supports and promotes women and diverse folk across gender and sexuality spectrums who are interested in running for municipal office.

Brittany has a psychology degree from the University of New Brunswick. An award-winning photographer, she works within that industry. Brittany counts her family to be among her accomplishments. She is a dedicated single mother to her four children. She also is a pet mom to Rio, Honey Bee, Big Tex and Sugar Pie, who are also valued members of the family.

# SUNYATA CHOYCE

Ms. Choyce has worked for over 20 years in the humanitarian international field. She is currently the sole proprietor of CHOYCE Humanitarian Consulting and the Director of Project COLORS International leading programs in international aid.

She is a presenter and stakeholder in international conferences and a dedicated voice for women and girls globally who lack the opportunity to speak up for themselves.

Her educational background is in International Development and Yale's Advanced Health Care Management program. Received the Red Cross 1st Young Humanitarian Award, the Women of Excellence in Philanthropy Award and worked with agencies such as the United Nations, Canada's youth leadership program Katimavick, Bethesda Children's Home in South Africa and YMCA School Settlement in Halifax.

Active mentor with youth at various children's homes throughout the world and as well as creating and leading programs for new immigrant youth in Canada.

Ms. Choyce has motivated educational sponsorships, training and mentorship opportunities for youth all over the globe as she believes all these youth are able to become powerful agents of change.



# SANDRA SAVAGE



Sandra has traveled the world as a speaker in high-technology, culinary arts, and is an international keynote and motivational speaker. In addition, she is a published author on typography and two cookbooks.

She is currently a member of a number of specialty clubs including “Treasure Valley Advanced (Evaluation) Club,” PROmotED the Possibilities (a PR and marketing club), “Storytellers Toastmasters (for creative writers),” a charter member of “Multimedia Magicians” (an advanced A/V masters club), and “Toastmasters United,” a 17-country advanced club based in India.

In addition, she is Area Director for clubs in Boise, Idaho (where she resides). She is also a club sponsor for “Changemakers” in New Brunswick, Canada. Previously, she served as a Toastmasters club president, vice president of marketing, vice president of membership, and treasurer.

When Toastmasters premiered the new educational program, “Pathways,” in 2017, she was one of the world’s first Pathways Ambassadors and Guides. Throughout all her various careers and endeavors, Sandra has found it a constant asset to speak comfortably and professionally wherever she goes.

# CHRISSY GUITARD

When business owner and entrepreneur, Chrissy Guitard, and her sister and business partner, Donna Feguson launched SheBuild Communities for Life they had a number of goals in mind. They wanted to address the affordable housing shortage, respond to the lack of skilled trades people, help women have rewarding careers that they enjoyed and to make a difference in their community. They have been successful on all counts.

With two decades of experience in home design, interior design, and managing crews of trades people all over the Maritime provinces, Chrissy's talent and instinct for construction serves her well in her capacity as the Program Coordinator for SheBuilds.



SheBuilds worked with the New Brunswick Community College to offer the initial StepW SheBuilds Course, a 14-week foundational carpentry course for women in February of 2021. They have successfully graduated their first class and will be offering a second level in 2022. Following the course, the participants apprentice with SheBuilds.

They are an all-women construction company intent on building with purpose. They partner with local nonprofit organizations, assisting them with their affordable housing plans. Last year 4 new homes were built, and 11 affordable housing units created. They have 37 affordable units in process.

A mother herself, Chrissy is an ardent promoter of careers of women in the trades: "Expose all the girls to their options. Trades is an excellent career that can keep them in the province and earn a top wage."

# EMMA HASSENCAHL-PERLEY



Emma Hassencahl-Perley is Wolastoqew from Neqotkuk (Tobique First Nation), NB. She currently resides in Fredericton, NB, and is pursuing a Master's in Art History from Concordia University.

Emma works as a visual artist, emerging curator, and as instructor at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. Emma graduated from Mount Allison University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, specializing in painting and printmaking. Her visual work explores the term "Legislative Identity" (how the Indian Act has an impact on the identities of Indigenous peoples in Canada) as well as her identity as a

Wabanaki citizen through material and visual culture. Emma's painting and beadwork often utilize Wabanaki double-curve iconography found on beaded textiles. Her research while in graduate school aims to build upon an archive for respect Wolastoqey artist, Shirley Bear.

# JUDITH SWEENEY

Judith Sweeney is a young entrepreneur and co-founder of Bubbles & Balms. In 2014 she turned her love for comforting others into tactile, zero-waste bathing products. A motto that has helped guide her, is to reach for 1% better each day, believing that small movements can make big impact; socially, environmentally, and personally.

Judith was a Palliative care nurse for 5 years prior to pursuing business full time. Marriage, two children and a cross country adventure saw her from NB to AB and back again. She and her partner have continued to pivot through what has been an unexpected and challenging few years since the pandemic. Determined to reach for a little bit better each day.



# JENNY KIERSTEAD



Jenny Kierstead is an educator, well-being expert and visionary in the yoga and mindfulness industry. She is the co-founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios, Yoga in Schools, Mindfulness in Schools and Girl on Fire Empowerment Program. Having worked intimately with the Department of Ed in Nova Scotia, she's written and developed ten Yoga in School programs.

Jenny and her husband, Blair Abbass, have trained thousands of educators and health professionals in yoga, mindfulness and trauma-informed practices. In her 20-year entrepreneurial life, she's received numerous national business awards, including the RBC

Women of Influence award. Her greatest achievement, however, is raising two incredibly wonderful daughters, Sophia and Bella.

Jenny has dedicated her life to health and healing and the last few years have been no exception, as she continues to move through the traumatic experience of losing her sister, Lisa McCully, in the NS massacre in April of 2020.

- [www.JennyKierstead.ca](http://www.JennyKierstead.ca)
- [www.GirlonFire.ca](http://www.GirlonFire.ca)
- [www.BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca](http://www.BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca)
- [www.YogainSchools.ca](http://www.YogainSchools.ca)

# KRISTA ROSS

Krista Ross joined the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce as CEO in September of 2011. In 2017 she was chosen Chamber Executive of the Year by Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada and in 2020 she was selected as one of the top 50 CEO's in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Business Magazine. Krista was also GM of the Fredericton Chamber from 1989 to 1997 followed by 14 years as an award-winning private business owner. With more than 30 years of leadership and results-driven experience ranging from association management to printing and communications, to real estate, Krista is passionate about supporting businesses through the work of the Chamber, being a community leader, builder and economic development driver for Fredericton. Krista lives on Fredericton's north side with her daughter, Rachel.





# NADINE DUGUAY-LEMAY



Nadine has dedicated the last four years as the Chief Executive Officer of Dialogue NB. Her personal and professional background is characterized by her strong community and social involvement, as well as her desire to create a more inclusive and tolerant society.

A tireless volunteer, Nadine was a delegate of the 2015 Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference and current chair of the New Brunswick Committee for the Conference. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee of Imagine Canada, she is also the Chair of the Governance and HR Committee.

She is known for having established numerous community networks, including the Women of Miramichi Entrepreneurial Network, Miramichi Young Professional & Involved Entrepreneurs Network (MYPIE), and Rotary Resurgo, of which she remains an active member.

A skilled communicator, she can speak French, English, and Spanish. She is known for her visionary spirit and her remarkable skills as a leader, unifier, and strategist. Nadine's career has taken an atypical course through language instruction, entrepreneurship, management, and leadership development. She loves sharing her expertise by serving as a mentor in different programs.

# SUSAN HARTLEY

Susan Hartley has spent a lifetime working as a clinical psychologist, an educator and human rights advocate. She has served in leadership roles in the professional, political, and not-for-profit sectors locally, nationally and globally. Through her paid and unpaid work, Susan has been exposed to a wide range of human experience and has developed a strong sense of social justice that has led her into activism, humanitarianism, and politics. She was a long-standing director of the non-governmental organization, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan), and led the Atlantic Chapter of that organization for seven years. Given the recent humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, Susan, along with other concerned Maritimers, resurrected the Chapter.



Susan has a certification in Global Peace and Conflict Studies from the Rotary Peace Centre at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and is a Rotary Peace Activator. In 2016, she co-ordinated the Women's Peace Table worldwide engaging 121 groups in over 40 countries with the goal of bringing women's voices to decision making tables.

Locally, in addition to co-leading the Atlantic Chapter of CW4WAfghan, Susan is a member of the Working Group for a Livable Income, The Atlantic Summer Institute for Healthy Communities, the Atlantic Brain Builders, The Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Coalition, the Public Health Association of New Brunswick and PEI, and The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation. She served as the Green Party of PEI's Shadow Critic for Health & Wellness from 2016 to 2019 and was elected to the Green Party of PEI Provincial Council as Vice-President in 2018 and as President in 2020.

# YOUR HOSTS



**KATHLEEN VAUGHAN ZWICKER** retired to her home town of Fredericton to study at UNB for a MEd in Adult Education. She is the sponsor for Changemakers Toastmasters, a member of Saint John Toastmasters, and serves as Area 4 Director. A member of Fredericton North Rotary, Kathi chairs their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Kathi serves as the lead for the District 45 Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Action Team. She is involved in St. Mary's Ferry Landing Neighbourhood Association, and is the CoLead for Women in Politics Fredericton.



**ANTHEA PLUMMER** is the Executive Director for Fredericton Heritage Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving natural, historical, and architectural heritage. She is the CEO for the local Green Party of Canada EDA here in Fredericton and was the Campaign Manager for Nicole O'Byrne during the 2021 federal election. Anthea is Chair of the Park Street School PSSC.



**DONNA GARDINER THOMPSON** is an enthusiastic supporter of women endeavors, and did not hesitate when asked to lend a hand with this event.

Donna is the proud owner of Gardiner Realty (as of 2022-Royal LePage Atlantic) and Gardiner Properties. Headquartered in Fredericton, the company is committed to developing residential, industrial and commercial real estate interests in NB, NS and PEI. She is co-founder of Fredericton's One Hundred Women Who Care, and a member of Fredericton North Rotary.

*january 12, 2022*  
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