



Photographer: Lars Woodhouse

## BUNKED!

A high-end hostel opens in Uptown Saint John

There's nothing to be hostile about at BunkHaus, the first boutique hostel in Saint John, N.B. which opened the first week of July with hopes of attracting guests of all ages. Owner Ingrid Woodhouse grew up in Quispamsis and has a background in mechanical engineering. "I spent the last four and a half years working at the Irving Oil Refinery in various roles so of course owning a hostel seemed like the obvious next step," she recalled.

While owning a hostel wasn't a lifelong dream for Woodhouse, she recognized the need for more affordable accommodations in Saint John. Their ideal location on Water Street in Uptown Saint John puts them in the centre of restaurants, breweries and tourist attractions. The historic building has 12 ft. ceilings and exposed brick making for unique and hip lodging. Amenities at the hostel include a self-serve kitchen where guests can prepare their own food and dine at the communal table set for 16. There are three shared bathrooms with showers that service the 22 bunks and mixture of private and semi-private rooms.

Woodhouse is emphatic that people of any age can stay in hostels and enjoy themselves. Their first guest was an 82-year-old woman who has seen more than 88 countries in the last 15 years. "Hostels are really for everyone and are a great way to meet people when you're travelling. Or even just coming into town for a wedding or show!"

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