

FRANKLIN O. LEGER, Q.C. TO BE HONOURED WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

By Jane Barry

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

Some community volunteers never lose their enthusiasm and energy and manage a full-time working career along with giving back to their community in a "behind the scenes" kind of way. So it is with a true gentleman who is about to be recognized for all he has done and continues to do. The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is announcing that Franklin O. Leger, Q.C. will be awarded their 2011 Community Service Award at a ceremony marking the Community Foundation's 35th Anniversary at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal on June 9 at 11:45 am.

Dr. Stephen Willis, Foundation Board Chairman, will be present to recognize the significant contributions of Mr. Leger's community leadership and service for almost six decades. "Our Community Foundation was established in 1976 to improve the quality of life for our citizens and this year's recipient has certainly contributed to it in an outstanding manner as an individual" Dr. Willis stated. "We are indebted to people like Frank Leger, who never sought personal gain for their dedicated community service. He quietly and effectively gives his expertise, knowledge and experience to his professional colleagues, charitable groups, religious, health and educational communities not only in Greater Saint John but across New Brunswick" he added. "Mr. Leger's commitment to so many community organizations make him an ideal candidate for recognition and appreciation" he concluded.

The son of the late Dr. and Mrs. L. Oswald Leger and a native of Saint John, he graduated from St. Vincent's Boys High School, St. Francis Xavier University, the University of New Brunswick and the London School of Economics, University of London. Being active and playing leading roles over his lifetime, Mr. Leger has contributed significantly to numerous organizations at the community, religious, university and legal levels: the Children's Aid Society, the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative, Family Services, Saint John, Inc., the Canadian Mental Health Association, Saint John; the NB Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society, St. Joseph's Hospital Board and Foundation, Rocmaura Foundation, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception Foundation; Finance Council of the Diocese of Saint John; New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music, Knights of Columbus #937 and the Board of Governors of St. Thomas University.

A senior partner in the Saint John office of Cox & Palmer he took on leadership roles in his legal profession, introduced services and educational programs and authored numerous articles for his fellow lawyers with the Canadian Bar Association, Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association, the Saint John Law Society and the Barristers' Society of New Brunswick and is still an active practitioner. He was named Queens Counsel in 1973 and has been honoured by St. Thomas and UNB Law School. He and his wife, Priscilla, have always made family a priority with their four children, Jennifer, Mark, Alexandra and Rebecca, and eight grandchildren. They recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

In recognition of his contributions to the community, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation will express their appreciation by making a grant of \$5,000 to The Sophia Recovery Centre in support of women with addictions, a community charity which is of particular significance to Mr. Leger. Sister Arleen Brawley, Executive Director of the Centre, will be present to receive the cheque from him at the Anniversary Event.

Mrs. Jean Irving, Thomas L. McGloan, Q.C., The Sisters of Charity of The Immaculate Conception, Captain Harold Mayes and Mrs. Connie Erb have been honoured with the Community Service Award in the past.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as a trustee for charitable, educational and cultural purposes. It administers funds, large and small, donated by public-spirited citizens for the benefit of the people of Greater Saint John. Earnings from permanent endowment funds are donated to local charities for many worthy causes - youth,

seniors, health & medicine, education, the arts, environment and social services. It is a member of Community Foundations of Canada, over 160 independent Community Foundations working together to help improve the quality of life in communities across Canada. Since 1976, the foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$8.6 M. In 2010, it donated in excess of \$233,000.00 to over 50 local charities.



Community Profile is a weekly column highlighting community causes and work done by non-profit organizations in the Greater Saint John area. It is contributed by Jane Barry, executive director of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Contact the foundation at 506-672-8880. sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com To view other Community Profiles go to www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca