

# “Rachael’s Music by the Bay”

Scholarship Fundraiser Held July 11, Bates Barn, Belleisle Bay, Kings Co.

by Jane Barry

On July 11, family and friends of the late Rachael Duffley successfully organized an afternoon benefit concert, “Rachael’s Music by the Bay”, on Belleisle Bay, adjacent to the Bates ferry landing. It featured Darren McGinnis, The Cool Chicks and Ugly Doc-lings and Shanklin Road. The funds raised will augment the Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund, entrusted with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation to benefit a graduate of Belleisle Regional High annually.

Many individuals, community groups and the musicians donated time, talent, goods and services to the cause, even David Baskin, who installed a new driveway and culverts at the last minute to accommodate the stage and trailers. The musical afternoon was planned on the anniversary week of the tragic accident which claimed the promising young university student and athlete who loved music.



Rachael Dawn Duffley grew up in Kiersteadville, on Belleisle Bay, the oldest daughter of Mark and Lynn Ann (Jennings) Duffley. The High Honours graduate from Belleisle Regional High was frequently recognized for her contributions to the school community through her involvement in sports, student activities, fund-raising events, student council, and tutoring. Rachael’s abilities as a leader and talented athlete won her the admiration of her large extended family, friends and teammates.

St. Francis Xavier University, where she had completed her Freshman year, recognized Rachael’s scholarly success with an entrance scholarship and Award of Merit. Her talent for rugby won her the respect and interest of fans and players. She was a member of the Belleisle Rugby Club, the St. Francis Xavier University Women’s Rugby team, the NB U-19 and Black Caps women’s programs, and the Saint John Trojans.

On July 6, 2008, Rachael’s life was taken away in a tragic car accident. The loss was strongly felt not only by her family, but by her community, local sports associations and the Atlantic Canadian rugby communities. Rachael’s family has established the Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation as a lasting memorial to her commitment to family, youth, education, sport and the Greater Saint John area. Graduates of Belleisle Regional High School, entering post-secondary education institutions and demonstrating academic success, leadership qualities, extracurricular/community/athletic involvement, and financial need are eligible for the scholarship.

Family members were present this June for the first award of \$1,000, which went to Kirby Lynn Morrill, a graduate of Belleisle Regional High, who coincidentally, played rugby with Rachael Duffley. Kirby will be pursuing studies in Science at UNB this fall.

An estimated crowd of approximately three hundred, including her four grandparents, attended the three hour, outdoor, afternoon benefit concert. They arrived in all manner of conveyance including on foot, by boat, ATV and motorcycle. Gordon Jennings, Rachael’s uncle, commented that she was a positive influence in the beautiful sunny weather which smiled down on the Bates’ Farm hillside, covered in portable chairs. He thanked all involved on behalf of the Duffley Family. Volunteers manned the barbecues for hours and family members distributed fresh lilies in bloom, a favourite of Rachael’s, to the crowd. Family hopes to organize an encore event in 2010.