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News Release

Community Foundation Simplifies Grants Process

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is announcing that there will be changes in the process whereby they receive, evaluate and process applications for grants. “We hope that this will ensure the process continues to be fair, objective and directed to the areas which will have the maximum positive impact on our community’s quality of life” said Cheryl M.G. Robertson, Foundation Chair. For more than a year, an enlarged Grants Committee has been in place, with additional community representation. It has based the new process on what they consider to be the best practices of colleague foundations across Canada and after consultation with local funding bodies. The revised application form has been posted on the Foundation website and can be downloaded from it.

“Although spring grants had to be deferred, our board is pleased we will be making grants this fall before the end of our fiscal year. We continue to carefully monitor the economic situation and the investment performance of our permanent endowments” concluded Cheryl Robertson. The fall grants application deadline has not changed and is September 30 but applications are encouraged before the deadline if possible, to help facilitate the revised process. It is anticipated the results will be made known before the end of October. The Foundation is encouraging registered charities within a fifty km. radius of Greater Saint John to contact their office if they have questions.

Maria Henheffer, Chair of the Grants Committee, hopes community charitable groups will find the new process simple and clear to follow. Input from the charitable sector is welcome. The Grants Committee will be reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Foundation Board, which has the final decision making authority. The Anniversary Grant of up to \$15,000 will also be awarded this fall to a charitable group seeking funding for a unique initiative with significant community impact, which will address a priority community need, as identified in the Foundation’s Vital Signs Reports on the quality of life in Greater Saint John. All applicants will be expected to relate their project to Vital Signs data and community priorities and will be submitting a post-grant evaluation.

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 \$7.6 M. In 2008, it donated in excess of \$271,000.00 to over 75 local charities. It will be receiving grant applications, due September 30, for grants this year.

“Grants of \$5.02 Million to over 275 Saint John area charities for youth, seniors, social services, health, education, heritage, the arts and the environment since 1976”

For further information or to contribute contact:

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