

Constable Royce Isenor Memorial **Scholarship Fund Makes First Award**

By Jane Barry

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

A ceremony on February 1 will bring back memories of an admired colleague and member of the Saint John Police Force, Constable Royce Isenor. Their Board of Police Commissioners will host an inaugural ceremony marking the first awarding of an annual scholarship in his memory to Celina Stubbs.

In 2000, the Saint John Police Force organized and hosted a national gathering of Police Chiefs from across Canada which generated surplus funds. The Saint John Police Force and the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners, being strong supporters of the young people of Greater Saint John, decided to use these surplus funds to establish with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, a permanent endowment fund in memory of the late Constable Isenor. Both former Chief Al Bodechon and his successor Chief Bill Reid, agree Constable Isenor's contributions to his profession and his commitment to the young people of the Greater Saint John area made the establishment of a permanently endowed scholarship fund the right thing to do. The Chiefs were aware of a number of other scholarship and bursary funds entrusted to the Foundation from which earnings are contributed to annual awards in perpetuity.

The Constable Royce Isenor Memorial Scholarship Fund has just made its first award to Stubbs, a nursing student at UNB-Saint John. A graduate of Harbour View High, she has been active in student life and involved in sports as a member of their soccer, rugby and hockey squads. Last year, she was one of those chosen to carry the Olympic torch in the national relay as it passed through our community. Her parents, Phillip and Deborah, are proud of her achievements and delighted at the honour of her being the first winner. Representatives of UNB and the Community Foundation will be on hand for the presentation. "The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is honoured to have been entrusted with this memorial scholarship fund" stated Dr. Stephen Willis, Chairman of the Foundation. "We now hold fifteen different bursary and scholarship funds, all of great benefit to local students as they face the high costs of post-secondary education" he concluded. Details on the funds are featured on their website.

Constable Isenor, was a native of Enfield, Nova Scotia, where he grew up with his eight siblings. His mother Mae, is still living in the area. He was well-respected by his peers on the Saint John Force, never losing his enthusiasm or his passion for his chosen profession over his twenty-one year career. A 1975 graduate of the Atlantic Police Academy in P.E.I. he dreamed of a policing career from childhood. In 1975 he joined the Saint John Police Force, becoming one of the forces most well liked and respected officers. He passed away in 1996, leaving his wife Margaret and two young sons, Curtis and Kyle.

Throughout his career, he took every opportunity to develop and share skills. One of Constable Isenor's fields of expertise was in firearms. He completed courses at the FBI Academy, Smith & Wesson and Ruger, passing on his knowledge to fellow officers and Atlantic Police Academy cadets. He developed and taught programs in self defense, handcuff and baton use. A colleague remembers "He was a superb shot, probably the best on the Force." In 1993 he was selected as a member of the tactical unit.

At the family and community level, Constable Isenor was just as dedicated. He could be seen often riding his bike around Quinton Heights, talking to neighbours or in the winter building a rink at the park. He was also an avid hunter. He passed on his love of hockey to his sons, Curtis and Kyle, as well as his legendary passion for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

His wife Margaret, who plans to attend the ceremony, says "Royce had an enormous zest for life and enjoyed every minute along the way. He was proud of his accomplishments both professionally and personally. He is still missed greatly by his family, friends and colleagues."

Earnings fund the annual scholarship for high school graduates from the Greater Saint John area entering UNB-Saint John the following fall. The selections are made based on a combination of academic success, community leadership and financial need in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) scholarship. Contributions to the Constable Royce Isenor Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcome at any time.



Photo: The Greater Saint John Community Foundation's Constable Royce Isenor Memorial Scholarship Fund has just made its first award to Celina Stubbs, a nursing student at UNB-Saint John. Pictured are John Travis, Foundation board member, Saint John Police Chief Bill Reid, Celina Stubbs, Curtis Isenor, Constable Isenor's son and Dr. Stephen Willis, Foundation Chair.

Photo by Jane Barry



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