

Knights of Columbus Rally for Lund Fund

By Jane Barry of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

In a caring community like Greater Saint John, when a large, well-known and respected family needs support, it isn't long until many rally behind them. So it is that the family and friends of the late Brian Lund are again pulling together to honour his memory and help young people, one of his special interests. The Knights of Columbus of Southern New Brunswick are also key partners in the second annual Brian Lund Memorial Casino. Last year's event was such a rousing success, raising over \$18,000 for the permanently endowed Brian Lund Memorial Fund for P.R.O. (positive recreational opportunities) Kids, that it is moving to a more spacious venue at the beautiful, new Marco Polo Cruise Terminal on Saint John Harbour on Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m.

The K of C are seasoned pros at fundraising. Locally, they run casinos for charitable causes as a way to both help the groups who engage their services and the numerous K of C charities they annually support. These Catholic men are committed to making their community a better place. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with their community and church, while protecting and enhancing family life.

Since 1882, founded by a Connecticut priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, the K of C have been active as a fraternal benefit society, true to its founding principles of charity, unity, patriotism and fraternity. They render financial aid to members and their families, the sick, disabled and needy, promoting social and intellectual fellowship through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works, contributing time and energy worldwide to service in communities.

The K of C has grown to more than 13,000 councils and 1.7 million members around the globe. In Southern New Brunswick, 12 councils are active. The K of C is well known for their extensive community service through such councils as 6581 - Saint John North; 8364 - Father Henry G. Ramage; 937 - Bishop Lawrence S. McMahon; 8094 - Father Thomas Beck; 11201 - Father Joseph A. Henneberry; 6766 - Father M. A. Harris and 6595 - Father Eugene O'Leary.

East Saint John's Council 6595 is proud of the primary school they helped build in Bangladesh which opened last year. Their current project is immense at \$4 million. It involves assembling land, preparing design plans, arranging government support and approval for an affordable living seniors housing complex near St. Joachim's Church on Loch Lomond Road. The council identified a community need and are rising to the occasion with the many man hours of free labour needed to bring such a project to fruition. Kevin McDonald is the past Grand Knight and chairs the southern N.B. Councils. The retired member of the Saint John Police Force applies his boundless energy and organizational skills to many community causes such as the coronary unit of the Saint John Regional Hospital, Divine Mercy School and Camp Sheldrake, along with such key volunteers as Grand Knight John McNamee, David Harris, Peter Heffernan and Don Adams.

The family and friends of the late Brian Lund were impressed by the program PRO Kids offers and in recognition of his interests in youth and their recreational opportunities, chose it as the beneficiary of the permanently endowed fund they have established in his memory with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, a multi-year supporter of PRO Kids. PRO Kids is an eight-year-old charity and community partnership with a vision to offer all children and youth in Greater Saint John the opportunity to participate in the arts, cultural, recreation, and sport activity of their choice, regardless of financial means. They learn, grow, develop positive self-esteem, make friends and gain skills which impact them for a lifetime.

The Lund family and friends and K of C are inviting the public to the second annual casino night to grow the fund. They plan an exciting array of games of chance such as roulette, black jack, loonie toss and crown and anchor, music by Dan Maloney, along with live and silent auctions, which include a chance to tool around in a Mercedes for a weekend.

The evening offers valuable prizes with \$20,000 of "casino money" all for the admission of \$20. Tickets are available at the door. To donate, contribute to the auctions or purchase tickets, call any K of C member, Kevin McDonald at 672-9125 or David Harris 633-1791



(Photo by Sherry Hinkley/Telegraph-Journal)

The Knights of Columbus of Southern New Brunswick are key partners in the second annual Brian Lund Memorial Casino, along with his family and special friends, who have chosen PRO Kids as the beneficiary of the permanently endowed fund they have established in his memory with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Knights Don Adams, Peter Heffernan and Kevin McDonald prepare for the benefit auction and casino, slated for Saturday evening, May 15 at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal.



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. To view other Community Profiles go to www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca