



NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: June 16, 2010

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MAKES ANNIVERSARY GRANT TO MARCO POLO PRODUCTION

THREE GROUPS TO BENEFIT FROM \$30,000

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is announcing details of a special Anniversary Grant of \$30,000 they are providing to three arts-related groups for the production of an original new musical work, "Marco Polo" at an announcement Wednesday, 10:45am, June 16th along with announcing over \$220,000 in grants to over forty-five local charities. Ten groups from the arts/cultural sector will be supported with grants including: Imperial Theatre Inc., InterAction Children's Theatre Co Inc., New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, Saint John Art Club Inc., Saint John Arts Centre, Saint John String Quartet, Saint John Theatre Company, Saint Mary's Band Inc., Shakespeare Society of Saint John and Symphony New Brunswick. The grants are being characterized as the Foundation's way of supporting arts and culture, Saint John's and Rothesay's 2010 community anniversaries and Saint John being named a cultural capital of Canada.

The Anniversary Grant is the largest arts/cultural sector grant the since the Foundation began granting 34 years ago. It is also a tribute to the outstanding work of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO) Saint John High School Concert Choir (SJHSCC) and the Saint John Theatre Company (SJTC) which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. The funds will be directed to a unique, collaborative original production involving the three groups. The seventy talented young people from across New Brunswick who are part of the nationally acclaimed NBYO will join New Brunswick playwright Mark Blagrove, the SJTC and SJHSCC to stage the October world premiere of "Marco Polo: The Musical", a focal point for Saint John 225 celebrations, at Harbour Station.

The announcement is also making a link to the Community Foundation's first ever fundraiser, "Ovation", scheduled for Nov. 6 at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal. It will feature arts and cultural highlights from the Greater Saint John area. The gala evening will feature a performance from the Marco Polo production, along with many other vignettes of music, dance, theatre and visual arts.

The Anniversary Grant was inaugurated in 2006 to mark the Community Foundation's thirtieth anniversary. Each year, the major award of up to \$30,000 goes to a community charitable group which best addresses clearly documented priorities in Greater Saint John. The Foundation's annual Report Card on Greater Saint John's quality of life, Vital Signs, is used as a grant-making guide. It notes over 500 arts-related functions took place in Greater Saint John in the last year. The Foundation will be releasing its fifth annual Vital Signs Report Oct. 5 as a public service.

"Our Community Foundation was established in 1976 to improve the quality of life for our citizens" said Cheryl M.G. Robertson, Foundation Chair, who will make the announcement. "Often a modest grant will go a long way, but occasionally, a more substantial sum can truly make a difference. We congratulate the groups associated with "Marco Polo, The Musical", for taking the lead in this unique production" she added.

Anniversary grants can positively affect the arts, social services, health, education, the environment, heritage or recreation and have been awarded to First Steps, the Salvation Army, the Saint John YM-YWCA, ACAP Saint

John and the Crescent Valley Resource Centre to date. Public spirited donors can continue to contribute to the Community Foundation's Anniversary Fund, which is permanently endowed and helps support Anniversary Grants each year.

"It is very fitting for the NBYO to be involved in 225 celebrations. The NBYO was the first provincial youth orchestra in Canada, founded in Saint John almost 50 years ago under the vision and leadership of Philip Oland, the first Chairman of the GSJCF. Since then, and like the city where it was founded, the NBYO has earned a reputation for excellence and determination" stated Don Matheson, NBYO Executive Director.

"The 55 member Saint John High School Concert Choir dates back to 1805 and continues to thrive. We were invited to participate at the International Choral Festival at New York's Lincoln Centre representing Canada and New Brunswick and brought home the Silver." says Trish Gallagher, SJHS Choir Director.

"This amazing community project is a tremendous example of why Saint John is worthy of being a Cultural Capital of Canada for 2010," says SJTC's Stephen Tobias. "With almost 200 regional actors, musicians, and choral singers, "Marco Polo: The Musical" promises to be the largest theatre event ever staged in New Brunswick by New Brunswickers" he added.

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 stand at approximately \$8 M. In 2009, it donated in excess of \$175,000.00 to over 50 local charities.

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For further information or to contribute contact:

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2009-2010 GRANT RECIPIENT/CHARITABLE GROUP	GRANT
Boys and Girls Club of Saint John, Inc., Debbie Cooper, 506-634-2011 x 222	\$5,000
Canadian Paraplegic Association (N.B.) Inc., John O'Toole 506-462-9555	\$3,500
Centenary-Queen Square Care Centres, Marcia Kirkwood, 506-693-8080	\$6,000
Centre scolaire Samuel-de-Champlain (School District 1), Lise Drisdelle-Cormier, Principal, 506-658-5594	\$3,000
Dr. V. A. Snow Centre Inc., Terry O'Neill, 832-6210 x 6214	\$6,000
Ecumenical Saturday Supper Ministry of East Saint John, Rev. Gregory McMullin, 506-849-3118	\$2,000
Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John NB Inc., Marianna Stack, 635-8851	\$3,000
Gentle Path Counselling Services, Ltd., Judy Urquhart, 506-652-7284	\$3,000
Habitat for Humanity Saint John Region Inc., Dave Delaney, 506-635-5977	\$4,000
Hammond River Angling Association, Tom Benjamin, 832-1230	\$2,000
Hampton Community Garden, Chris Rendell, 832-4660	\$1,500
Hospice Greater Saint John, Sandy Johnson, RN, 506-632-5723	\$2,000
Imperial Theatre Inc., Angela McCaffrey 674-4103	\$3,000
InterAction Children's Theatre Co Inc., Kate Elman Wilcott, 506-674-9192	\$3,800
Junior Achievement of Southwestern New Brunswick, Gary J. Pitre, 506-634-8409	\$1,000
Kidney Foundation of Canada, Saint John Chapter, Judy Cannon, Chapter Coordinator, 506-634-0519	\$1,500
KV3C - Kennebecasis Valley Community Caring for Children, Shelley McLean, 506-849-7266	\$4,000
Long Reach United Church, Joan V Small, 506- 763-2479	\$5,000
Morna Heights Home & School Association, Mrs. Leslie McKinley, 738-1042	\$3,000
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Atlantic Division, Joanna Hamilton, 800-268-7582x230	\$3,500
Muscular Dystrophy Canada, Fundy Chapter, Jeff Sparks, 506-696-5150	\$3,500
Nature Conservancy of Canada, Laurel Bernard, 506-450-6010	\$3,000
Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Renata Woodward, 506-457-2398	\$5,000
New Brunswick Museum, Gary Chouinard, 506-643-2364	\$2,500
New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, Donald R. Matheson, 506-872-2973	\$30,000
ONE Change Inc., Scott Crawford, 506-647-3899	\$5,000
P.R.O. Kids (City OF Saint John) Tammy DeSaulniers, 506-642-7529	\$8,000
Rocmaura Foundation Inc., Theresa Gaudett, 506-643-7090	\$6,000
Royal Canadian Legion , Norton Branch #76, Gordon McKenzie, 506-485-8849	\$3,000
Saint Bridget's Catholic Church/Mission of St. Peter's, Rick Barlow, 506-763-2149	\$5,000
Saint John Art Club Inc., John Noddin, 506-635-6587 or 506-333-4666	\$500
Saint John Arts Centre, Heather White Brittain, 506-633-4870	\$3,000
Saint John Free Public Library, Joann Hamilton-Barry, 506-643-7770	\$5,000
Saint John Human Development Council, Randy Hatfield 506-636-8540	\$12,000
Saint John String Quartet, David Adams, 506-657-5102	\$2,000
Saint John Theatre Company, Stephen Tobias, 652-7582	\$3,500
Saint John Volunteer Center, Eileen McLaughlin, 658-1555	\$3,000
Saint Mary's Band Inc., Davin Sooley, 506-721-1074	\$2,500
Scholarships & Bursaries	\$21,850
Shakespeare Society of Saint John, Philip Huggard, 506-652-6576	\$2,000
SJ Kid (Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Association), Eric Daley, 696-6541	\$2,000
South End Day Care Centre Inc., Mona Clark, 506-763-3870	\$5,000
Stella Maris Auction 45s Card Party, Eleanor Dupère, 506-634-7975 OR Rev. Peter Osborne, 506-651-8695	\$300
Symphony New Brunswick Inc., Caroline Condon, 506-634-8379	\$2,500
Town of Quispamsis - plex recreation & wellness centre, Dana Purton Dickson, 849-5750	\$10,000
Trinity Church, Joanne McGraw, Parish Admin, 506-693-9558	\$5,000
YMCA-YWCA, Shilo Boucher, CA, 646-2109	\$10,000
	\$226,950