

# "Ovation" Event to Mark Community Anniversaries

*by Jane Barry, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation*

The celebration of Saint John's and Rothesay's 2010 anniversaries has sparked a call to community groups and establishments also marking milestones, who wish to add their names to a growing list to be honoured at a gala event, "Ovation". The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is contributing to 2010 celebrations, building momentum and inclusion as its organizing committee plans for this collective birthday party at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal, Nov. 6. Their evening reception will pay tribute to a growing list of celebrants. Arts and Culture and the national designation of Saint John as one of Canada's cultural capitals will be an important focus but the volunteers felt it timely to expand, including others celebrating special anniversaries ending in "5" or "0" in 2010.

Institutions like the University of New Brunswick, also turning 225, Centre Communautaire/Scholaire Samuel de Champlain, marking a quarter century and the Kennebecasis Power and Sail Squadron, which turns fifty, are diverse examples. St. Paul's and St. David's Churches in Rothesay, along with the Town, are marking 150 years. The Saint John Theatre Company turns twenty and Rothesay Ballet School thirty-five. Should they have cakes, Kennebecasis Lions Club, Irving Oil, King's Co. Historical Society, Beaverbrook Rink and St. Rose School will have 50 candles, while Rotary Clubs, Glen Lyon at Carter's Point, the United Church and the Royal Canadian Navy reach the century mark.

Carey A. Ryan is Ovation's official volunteer archivist/tabulator and states that some thirty anniversaries from 10 years to 225 have already been recorded, as word of their special celebrations have made the news or come to her attention. "We hope to hear from groups, businesses or landmarks with unique anniversaries ending in zero or five" she adds. It makes for fascinating social history says the former Principal of St. Vincent's High who encourages young people to learn about long-established community institutions. As a member of UNB's Board of Governors and the UNB Associated Alumni Council as well as being Past President of their Associated Alumni, she was familiar with that institution's anniversary but is quickly learning of so many more.

Ovation's volunteer Chair, Penny Milligan, notes that her committee welcomes ideas of how to best recognize celebrants at the Ovation event. The Lieutenant Governor and mayors of Greater Saint John's municipalities are being invited to serenade all honourees with Happy Birthday. The Community Foundation is welcoming news of additional milestones and suggestions by contacting the Community Foundation office.

Cheryl M.G. Robertson, Foundation Chair, notes "The Foundation is providing a way for us to celebrate the contributions of dozens of Saint John area organizations, institutions and businesses and their value to our community, as well as experience visual, performing and creative artists who enrich our quality of life. By organizing a social occasion featuring vignettes of dance, drama, music, heritage and visual art combined with exceptional refreshments, in one of our newest and most dramatically located venues, the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal, we think it will be one of the highlights of this year's celebrations."

The foundation is tapping into the volunteer experience of a skilled group of over forty community volunteers led by James C. Irving, Vice President of Brunswick News, as Honorary Chair and Penny Milligan as Chair of the Organizing Committee. "We have a creative team who are working with local members of the arts community to present both established professional and emerging young talent in an atmosphere we hope will delight our audience. We are building excitement and anticipation now that fall has arrived", Penny Milligan states.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as a trustee for charitable, educational and cultural purposes for the benefit of the people of Greater Saint John. Earnings from permanent endowment funds are donated annually to local charities for many worthy causes - youth, seniors, health & medicine, education, the arts, environment and social services, all of which will benefit from "Ovation". This is their first-ever fundraiser being billed as a way for supporters to give back to the many charitable causes it has supported for over thirty-four years. "Ovation" will be an interactive evening reception with fine food, festivities, music, art exhibits/sales, auction, prizes and performances to showcase artists from around our region. For ticket information contact the Foundation office.



Photo: Dr. Robert MacKinnon, Vice President of UNB-Saint John and Carey A. Ryan, a member of UNB's Board of Governors and volunteer tabulator of community anniversaries, discuss The Greater Saint John Community Foundation's plans for a November community artistic and cultural event, "Ovation", celebrating Saint John's 225<sup>th</sup> and Rothesay's 150<sup>th</sup> birthdays. "Ovation" will also pay tribute to the visual, musical, literary and dramatic arts and artists of Greater Saint John as well as community groups, institutions and businesses celebrating anniversaries ending in 5 or 0 this year. UNB turns 225 in 2010 and is one of the many diverse groups to be celebrated.



***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 [sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com) or 506-672-8880. To view other Community Profiles go to [www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca](http://www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca)***