

“Ovation” to Offer Unique Auction

By Jane Barry, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

When was there last an opportunity to purchase a personal performance by world class opera singer Wendy Nielsen or take a tour with internationally acclaimed photographer Freeman Patterson of his 272 acre Shampers Bluff Nature Conservancy property, the subject of his recent book, "The Garden".



The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is organizing a community artistic and cultural gala being dubbed Ovation, to celebrate Saint John's 225th and Rothesay's 150th birthdays and the designation of Saint John as one of Canada's Cultural Capitals. One feature will be a silent and live auction conducted by Tim Isaac, pictured with Auction Committee chair Judy Graham and a Jack Humphrey painting, Perry's Point, NB.

These are part of an impressive array of arts-related creations and experiences donated by public-spirited supporters of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation's "Ovation" evening reception Nov. 6 at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal. It will be the climax of 2010 anniversary celebrations and celebrate the national designation of Saint John as one of Canada's cultural capitals. The live and silent auctions will be a testament to the creativity of the organizers and donors.

The Community Foundation is organizing the evening reception featuring visual, performing and creative artists who enrich our community's quality of life. The fundraiser will also feature vignettes of dance, drama, music, photography and visual art combined with exceptional refreshments in one of our newest and most dramatically located buildings. The Saint John Port Authority has agreed to be the venue sponsor, as their way of contributing to the anniversary year.

Tim Isaac, who has kindly offered his expertise as an appraiser and auctioneer for the event, will invite bids on works of art by local artists Jack Humphrey, Gerry Collins and Peggy Smith as well as a Florida Family vacation, including airfare, a Fishing Lodge trip and an evening at the Saint John Arts Centre for a private party, complete with refreshments and entertainment. A silent auction with close to 100 items, many with an arts-related theme, will offer a myriad of quality items and experiences for pre-Christmas shopping. Ski and kayak excursions, opera, symphony and theatre tickets, pottery and photographs are part of the diverse selection.

Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Graydon Nicholas, along with Mayors of all our region's municipalities and Honorary Chairman James Irving will be special guests. The Mayors are contributing personally to the auction, for example, Mayor Grace Losier will be cooking up her famous seafood chowder for 8, Mayor Bill Bishop will take the winner for a round of golf and lunch, Mayor Court is contributing Sea Dogs tickets and Mayor Driscoll a lunch date. From dining and fine wine experiences, flowers for a year, a Swarovski handbag, a cruise aboard a luxurious 72' yacht and an NHL playoff game, to courses in ballet, photography and art, the calibre of donations is impressive.

Tim Isaac and Liz Isaac have been generous with their expertise, honed over 35 years in the antique, auction and appraisal business. They estimate they have helped raise well over \$1Million for local charities such as Hospice, Rocmaura, Rothesay Netherwood School, YM-YWCA, the Canadian Cancer Society, Saint John High and the Salvation Army. Isaac recalls their first event was for Lakewood Headstart. "We've given back to the community over the years since we first opened in 1969" he states, noting they contribute services to 8-10 benefit auctions annually.

The community-minded Delta Brunswick Hotel, a key Ovation sponsor, is introducing their new chef, Brian Ramsay, who will be offering refreshments of exceptional creativity in an artistic setting, in keeping with the event. Wayne Smith of W. Smith and Company, Fine Jewellers is donating the "Ovation Diamonds" a spectacular prize of earrings, ring and pendant valued at \$8,500. Each ticket purchaser who takes a chance receives an immediate gift of a box of Ovation chocolates. Katherine Bacon, one of real estate's Top 1% of Producers in North America, is sponsoring a Heads and Tails Game which will award a trip to Paris, one of the world's artistic and cultural capitals, to two lucky winners.

Volunteer Chair Penny Milligan has dubbed the event "Ovation" as a way to invite local talent to take a bow and be recognized. Concert pianist Ludmilla Knezkova-Hussey, Clinton Charlton singing the Saint John 225 Song "A Place to Play" and selections from "Marco Polo the Musical" will be highlights. Instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, poetry reading and ballet will all be under the spotlight as a wide range of talent performs. They include: Opera New Brunswick's Christopher Lane, poet Clyde Wray, singer Mike Biggar, The Children's Interaction Theatre, Kidsing, the Saint John String Quartet, Shakespeare Festival Performers, dancers from the Chinese Cultural Festival, young talent from Ecole Samuel de Champlain, the Port City Dance Academy, Connection Dance Works, The Studio and The Rothesay Ballet School.

Saint John West artist, Peggy Smith, has generously agreed to step up as the gala's "artist in residence", as she paints performers and the anticipated crowd of 750 from a vantage point high atop the Marco Polo Terminal's main hall. Twenty

members of the Saint John Art Club and thirty-three Greater Saint John professional artists, will take part in Ovation with a show and sale, specifically created for "Ovation". Both groups will be donating half of the proceeds to the Foundation and keeping prices affordable.



Ovation

Take a Bow Saint John
2010 Cultural Capital of Canada

With close to fifty volunteers organizing and planning the fundraiser for the Community Foundation, Ovation should prove to be a memorable and unique evening. Auction items can be viewed at www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca. Tickets are available at the Foundation office, 40 King St., KV Drugs and Guardian Drug in Grand Bay-Westfield.



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.