



The Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund

Rachael Dawn Duffley was born on Sunday, December 3, 1989, just after midnight during an enormous snowstorm. Rachael grew up in Kiersteadville, in the Belleisle area of rural New Brunswick, the oldest daughter of Mark and Lynn Ann (Jennings) Duffley. Her sisters Vanessa, Mariah and Kirstin share her combined love of physical activities and studies, all attending Belleisle Elementary and Belleisle Regional High Schools in Springfield, NB. Her maternal grandparents Gloria and Cecil Jennings of Grand Bay-Westfield, and paternal grandparents Jim and Rita Duffley of Quispamsis, all delighted in her academic and athletic achievements.

Rachael was extremely active as a young child, enjoying music, drawing, dress-up, playing games, and catching frogs. And how she loved to swing! She was only seven months old when she took her first dip in Belleisle Bay and continued swimming until she had achieved her Bronze Cross. Rachael seldom missed attending events at her local church, her voice could be heard practising for the Christmas Play or chatting during youth group activities. She joined Sparks, and proudly wore each pin and badge she earned until reaching Pathfinders. Rachael became an avid reader at a young age, regularly finishing a novel within a single reading. Some of her favourites included, Rainbow Six and the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.

Rachael studied tap, ballet and jazz dancing, always flashing an enormous smile whenever she was on stage. As her love for music turned to country and classic rock, she filled journals with her thoughts, song titles, and lyrics that spoke to her. She admired country entertainers like Alan Jackson, Brooks and Dunn, Tim McGraw and Garth Brooks. Her love for colouring and drawing progressed to painting and sketching, and soon her posters won cash prizes. This love for pictures developed into an interest in photography; family albums were often raided for her projects. Rachael filled scrap books with images of herself, her family, her friends and teammates, to remember cherished events, sports tournaments, tours of Italy and New York, and her much-loved “road trips” with friends— just for the fun of it!

Rachael’s abilities as a leader and talented athlete won her the admiration of her large extended family, friends and teammates. Whether she was involved in school, hockey, skiing, swimming, camping, fishing, boating, travelling, or her beloved game of rugby as a player, ambassador or coach, Rachael gave it her all. Beginning in grade six, she was presented with numerous awards and was frequently recognized for her contributions to the school community through her involvement in sports, student activities, fund-raising events, student council, and tutoring. In 2003, she was presented with Belleisle Middle School’s esteemed Participation Award, which in turn was earned by her sisters Vanessa in 2006 and Mariah in 2008.

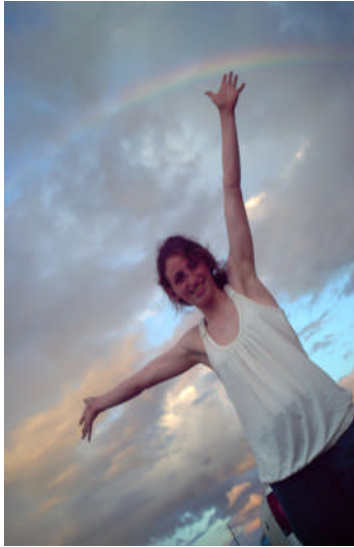
Rachael applied the same dedication and commitment to her employment, whether babysitting, refereeing basketball, selling strawberries, serving tables, tutoring students, assembling equipment, or planting trees, she worked diligently and with integrity—always striving to do better!

Rachael's first team sport was soccer, although hockey and rugby became her passions. She was especially proud of her District 5 Midget Champions Medal and MVP trophy, both earned as the only female member of the Hampton Midget C Hockey Team. But it was Rachael's attraction to rugby which won her the respect and interest of fans and players, and which brought her skills to a wide and appreciative audience. Rachael was a member of the Belleisle Rugby Club, the NB U-19 and Black Caps women's programs, the Saint John Trojans, and the St. Francis Xavier University Women's Rugby Team.



One of Rachael's favourite quotes, by James Dean, served as her guiding principle in life, *"Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die tomorrow"*. She shared her enthusiasm for living through her humour, quick wit and winning smile. On Sunday, July 6, 2008, Rachael's life was taken away in a tragic car accident, very close to her home. Investigators reported the daytime mishap occurred as "she was driving in a normal, safe manner". The loss was strongly felt by her community, local sports associations and the Atlantic Canadian rugby communities. Over 700 family, friends and teammates attended the Celebration Service for Rachael, also affectionately known as "Grizz", with a Rugby Honour Guard of 100 strong. As a returning sophomore in the Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics program at St. Francis Xavier University, her teammates mourned her, not forgetting another teammate who had passed away in 2007. They attended services as a group in the fall of 2008 and held a memorial game at St. F.X. in her name, to which the Duffley family were invited as guests of honour. *"Rachael was going to be a big part of our program,"* commented the championship-winning X-Women rugby head coach Mike Cavanagh. *"She was a good up and coming player; had a great work ethic..... She was very well liked by her teammates."*

Rachael was an over-achiever who excelled scholastically and loved a challenge, often following a path which led her to richer learning experiences. She graduated with High Honours in 2007, placing 2nd in her graduation class, and 1st in French Immersion, a standing she held for five consecutive years. During her graduation ceremonies Rachael delivered the Class History Address, received a total of \$1,000 in prizes for her academic and leadership skills, and was awarded the MVP Forward for the Ladies AA Varsity Rugby Team. St. Francis Xavier University also recognized Rachael's scholarly success with a \$1,000 Entrance Scholarship and a \$12,000 Award of Merit (over four years).



As a recent high school graduate, Rachael had many dreams, including her ambition to pursue a Master's Degree, play varsity rugby, travel the world, and live life to the fullest with friends by her side. Rachael's family has established the *Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund* as a lasting memorial to her commitment to family, youth, education, sport and the Greater Saint John area. Future recipients will be graduates of Belleisle Regional High School, entering a post-secondary education institution. Academic success, leadership qualities, extracurricular/community/athletic involvement, and financial need shall form the criteria for consideration in awarding the scholarship.

Contributors to the *Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund* can support scholarships through contributions to the Fund established in her memory at any time. The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is honoured to have been entrusted with this memorial scholarship fund in September, 2008.



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Thank You for Remembering Rachael

On December 3, 2008, Rachael would have celebrated her 19th birthday with teammates and classmates at St. Francis Xavier University, had it not been for her tragic death on July 6, 2008. We, her family, would like to sincerely thank everyone for your ongoing support throughout these past months. Your acts of kindness, whether by her side at the accident site, offering words or cards of sympathy, providing gifts of remembrance or food, and your financial donations, were all a wonderful tribute to Rachael's memory.

We appreciate each and every one of you, our extended family, our friends, our workplaces and Rachael's many friends and teammates. We will always cherish the Celebration of Rachael's Life made possible through the efforts of Kim Giddens and volunteers; Sherwood's Funeral Home; Belleisle Regional High School; the Women's Rugby Pallbearers: Amanda Bedard, Malorie Dobbin, Stephanie Garnett, Samantha Laird, Ghislaine Landry, Jill MacLaren, Megan Pritchard, Alana Totton & Shawnee Totton, and the 100 member Rugby Honour Guard; the candle lighting by Grandma & Grandpa Duffley and Gramma & Papa Jennings; the presentations by Gordon Jennings, Grant Beckingham, Kim Giddens, Amanda McKinnon, Brian Fowler, Jeremy Fowler, Leo Sipkema, Amanda Bedard, Jim Stanley, Leo MacPherson, Carol Duffley & Rev. Dan Austin; music by Jayne Ingalls, Gary Hall, Ariel White, Josh & Sarah Jennings and Morris Music; and the reception by community volunteers, the Kiersteadville United Baptist Women's Auxiliary, and Mama George's Restaurant.

We cannot forget the compassion of Leslie Reicker, the Belleisle Valley Fire Department, the local RCMP, and the staff of the Coroner's Office, Krista MacDonald, Anne Mugglestone, Donna & Fred Pope, & our many neighbours. The NB U19 Rugby Association for the Memorial Team Uniforms and remembrances of Rachael; St. Francis Xavier University for the Memorial Service and varsity season dedication to Rachael; and in Rachael's memory the sponsorship of the BRHS Ladies Rugby Championship Jackets by Tony & Cindy Bell of Kings County Mechanics. For their thoughtful donations honouring Rachael, a special thank you is extended to Uncle Alan Duffley, Godparents Kathy McGuire & David Merrithew, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 502, the staff of the Canadian Cancer Society, the staff of the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control, and Becky Steeves of Becky's Dance School.

With your generous contributions, the Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Graduates of Belleisle Regional High School pursuing post-secondary education, who emulate Rachael's scholastic and athletic achievements, her mentoring of others, her service to school & community and her enthusiastic love for life, will be eligible for the annual award.

Through your ongoing donations to the Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship Fund, which in turn will support the dreams of a new high school graduate, Rachael's ambition to pursue a Master's Degree, play varsity rugby, travel the world, and live life to the fullest with friends by her side, will be realized.



Thank You, Rachael's Family