

Scholarship Winners Source of Community Pride

By Jane Barry, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

Graduation ceremonies abound this time of year and provide an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our youth. They also give us insight into the generosity of those who raise and give money to ensure the costs of higher education are supplemented through awards, bursaries and scholarships. Some generous donors want to recognize a special person, commemorate loved ones and find the annual nature of such gifts brings honour to them and their achievements in a lasting way.

Several Community Foundation scholarships are now awarded annually through the generosity of individuals and groups; and were inaugurated and awarded in the past few weeks. Later this summer the winner of the Constable Royce Isenor Memorial Scholarship will be named for the first time. It will go to an incoming student at the University of New Brunswick Saint John. The fund originated from a surplus following a Chiefs of Police conference held locally several years ago which was entrusted by the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners and Police Force to recognize one of their valued members, the late Constable Isenor. Others will soon be named for the upcoming year.

Rachel Higgs and Karina Kierstead each have the honour of being the first recipients of the Suzanne Doyle Yerxa Awards for students going on to study creative or performing arts. The new fund was set up by former students of Ms. Doyle Yerxa, who was recently feted by a large group of admiring supporters in recognition of her extensive contributions to education and the arts at KV High.

In the past few weeks: The Garfield T. Meltzer-Jewish War Veterans Scholarship was established by the Jewish War Veterans and Meltzer family to a graduate of Saint John High School who best demonstrates Mr. Meltzer's kindness, honesty, integrity, devotion to family, community and country. Hilari MacLeod is this year's winner. The IB student, artist and musician is off to King's College in Halifax this fall and looking forward to meeting Mr. Meltzer's daughter Evenlyne. She will share her experiences and the topic of her winning essay on the Holocaust. Students from all District 8 high schools were offered a Jewish Holocaust Study program this year.

The Supersteel Band Fund generates income for a \$1,000 scholarship to music students from the former Lancaster steel band and goes to Ben Marmen.

The Rachael Dawn Duffley Memorial Scholarship was established by her family as a lasting memorial to her commitment to family, youth, education, sport and her community. Graduates of Belleisle Regional High School, entering post-secondary education institutions and demonstrating academic success, leadership qualities, extracurricular/community/athletic involvement, and financial need are eligible for the scholarship. Shawnee Totton is this year's successful winner who will be off to St. F.X.

The Saint John Law Society helps local high school graduates entering any faculty at any post-secondary institution. They have announced that Allison Winchester was the 2009-10 winner. The Belleisle Valley Health Centre Scholarships go to Belleisle grads pursuing health studies. When a former community health facility was sold, the proceeds inaugurated the fund. Winners this year are Melissa King and Alexandra Stratton.

The CN Wilson scholarships are funded from the Community Foundation's C.N. Wilson Fund to honour the Saint John industrialist. Family Plus administers the awards and will soon announce them.

The Canadian Federation of University Women Scholarships have a long history of aiding young women entering university. Extensive fundraising efforts have enabled them to present awards this year to Felicia Rodrigues; Lillian D. and Charles R. Bone Memorial Scholarship to Margaret McEacheran; and the Jean Flemming Memorial Scholarship to Kathryn Roberts.

The Florence Christie Memorial Bursary goes to a mature student returning to studies and commemorates the accomplishments of Ms. Christie, who was a widely involved community volunteer and one of the key figures in setting up the Saint John Volunteer Centre. Justine Jarvis, of Saint John, received this year's award and is in the Bachelor of Science program at the University of British Columbia.

The Dr. Malcolm M. Somerville Bursaries in Business were established by Dr. Somerville's family to mark his contributions to UNB Saint John and its Business Faculty, with two annual awards going to Business students there. The 2009-10 winners were Dereck Louis Craswell and Melissa Carole Leighton.

The Cook Family Bursary was established by the Cook family with an annual \$2,000 award going to an English major student at UNB-Saint John. The 2009-10 winner was Rickie Palmer.

Zoe Caddell, Ben Marmen, Owen McCausland and Janna Sherlock all have been awarded the Saint John Country Music Week Legacy Fund scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. Following a very successful national Country Music Week, the organizing committee turned over a surplus to the Foundation to assist music students annually.

The Margaret Willis Awards commemorate her life and love of ballet and went to Alexandria Munro and Kate Wagg for 2009-10.

The Old Ladies Home Awards recognize NBCC students pursuing studies which relate to seniors. April Torrie and Amy Langille received this year's \$2,000 awards. The Old Ladies Home served as a residence for elderly women for many years in Saint John's South End.



Photo: Hilari MacLeod, Owen McCausland, and Ben Marmen are among several recipients of awards, bursaries and scholarships derived from earnings from endowed Foundation funds.



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.