



News Release - For Release August 4, 2009

Community Foundation Entrusted with Stompin' Tom Connors Fund

Fans of Stompin' Tom Connors and the Greater Saint John Community Foundation will be celebrating the Saint John born country singer and a Day named in his honour on August 8. Thanks to the efforts of Jason MacLean, a dedicated fan, community activist and volunteer extraordinaire, a noon-time open-air concert has been quickly organized for King's Square in the heart of the historic city where Tom Connors was born seventy-three years ago. Because he has overcome many obstacles in his life, the musical artist, with a down-east flair, has a special interest in children and single parents who may be growing up in challenging socio-economic conditions. With his approval, a new specially designated fund has been established to provide for their needs through Saint John area charities dedicated to helping them. It is hoped that Stompin' Tom's schedule may permit a visit to the local event the afternoon of August 8, prior to his performance at Harbour Station that evening.

The concert by local artists and professionals is being arranged through their generosity, community organizations, corporate sponsors and the City of Saint John, who are coming forward to donate gifts in kind. Mayor Ivan Court and Council have offered the Ludlow Room of City Hall for a post-concert reception.

On Stompin' Tom Connors Day, fans will be encouraged to donate to the new cause online, through Canada Helps, a charity which enables safe, convenient giving by credit card. It can be found by going to www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca and selecting the Stompin' Tom Connors Fund from the drop-down menu. Alternatively, contributions will be received at the Foundation office, 40 King St. or through volunteers who will be collecting at the concert.

Community Foundation Chair, Cheryl M.G. Robertson, is enthusiastic about the new fund and its potential for supporting families living in difficult circumstances. The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as a trustee for charitable, educational and cultural purposes. It administers funds given by public-spirited individuals for the benefit of the people of this area. Since 1976, the foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$7 M. In 2008, it donated in excess of \$271,000.00 to over 75 local charities. It will be receiving grant applications, due September 30, for grants this year.

"Grants of \$5.02 Million to over 275 Saint John area charities for youth, seniors, social services, health, education, heritage, the arts and the environment since 1976"

For further information or to contribute contact:

Jason MacLean 658-9642

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

Jane Barry, Executive Director, P.O. Box 20061, Brunswick Sq., Saint John, N.B. E2L 5B2

Street address: Business Resource Centre, Fourth Floor 40 King St., Saint John, NB

Phone 506-672-8880 Fax 506-672-8881

sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com

www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca