



For release: March 15, 2007

News Release

Community Foundation Announces New Fund for Belleisle Area Students

Community Foundation and Belleisle Valley Health Centre Inc. representatives will be celebrating community generosity and support for youth today. Board President of the Health Centre, Brian T. R. Teed, is pleased the Community Foundation has taken over responsibility for funds which the Health Centre has raised and been entrusted with for several decades. Mr. Teed and Bev Stevens, Secretary-Treasurer of the group, will join the board of the Community Foundation for a scholarship fund signing ceremony today.

A home and office property, originally constructed for the purpose of attracting and retaining a physician for the Belleisle community, became a reality through community fundraising but had served its purpose. With changing times and the short supply of doctors, the centre closed and was sold several years ago. The fund is being set up with the proceeds from its disposition. The Board, wishing to give back to their community, while keeping a link to health, has donated \$60,000 to The Greater Saint John Community Foundation. This new, permanently endowed fund, will annually support scholarships for graduates of Belleisle Regional High School entering a post-secondary institution the following fall. The selection will be made annually by the senior administrative staff of the High School, based on a combination of academic success, community leadership and financial need. Preference will be given to students pursuing studies in the health care field. Initially, the fund shall award at least three (3) one thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarships, earnings permitting and be available this fall for the first time. Applications for the bursary can be directed to Dave Madden, Principal, Belleisle Regional High School.

“Your initiative, as long-standing supporters of Belleisle community health, and for graduates of the Belleisle area, pursuing post-secondary education, is to be commended”, said Michael Doyle, FCA, Chairman of the Community Foundation. “It is encouraging to have generous benefactors like the Belleisle Valley Health Centre Inc. come forward, who have been dedicated to improving the quality of life in their community”, he added. Many groups appreciate the Community Foundation’s flexibility and ability to receive funds for permanent endowment while relieving them of the management responsibilities and ensuring their identity is retained even when they may be winding down their organization’s affairs.

Last year the foundation supported awards valued over \$11,000 from several permanently endowed funds and gifts including: The Dr. Malcolm Somerville Bursaries in Business, The Saint John Law Society Bursary, the Cook Family Bursary, Supersteel Band Bursary, C.N. Wilson Scholarships, the Margaret Willis Awards and the Florence Christie Bursary.

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 \$9 M. In 2006, it donated in excess of \$320,000.00 to over 75 local charities. Applications from local registered charities are received twice yearly.

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“Grants of \$4.1 Million to over 250 Saint John area charities for youth, seniors, social services, health, education, heritage, the arts and the environment since 1976”

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