

President's Message – 2009/10

Sussex Area Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization focused on building permanent endowments in order to tackle long-term community challenges as well as meeting immediate needs. The Foundation serves the people of Sussex and the surrounding area by providing grants for projects that will positively affect our communities. SACFI also continues to award scholarships to students each year primarily due to the generosity of the families of Leo Forbes and Earl Cunningham. The Board of Directors, made up of twelve community leaders, is pleased that SACFI has weathered the storm of the recent economic downturn. The Board, which exercises discretionary control over the investment of our assets through external investment fund manager (Louisbourg of Moncton), has managed to perform comparatively well. By reducing the amount of grant distribution slightly, we were even able to provide an emergency request for a grant to the RCMP Victim Services.

For the year 2008-2009, ending on July 31, 2009, a total of \$27,130 in grants was issued to sixteen worthy charities. As well almost \$14,000 was awarded in scholarships bringing the total of grants and scholarships to over \$200,000 since inception in 2004.

While the focus is on prudent management of funds, SACFI is also involved in community leadership. In the near future a Community Directory of all non-profit organizations will be incorporated into our website (www.sacfi.org). Board members attended a meeting in Fredericton to work with other Community Foundations and the government in a poverty reduction initiative. Members also attended a national CFC conference in Montreal looking to work with the other 160 CF's in Canada to better develop community initiatives. SACFI also supported the Learning Partnership and took part in the celebration to honour former Lieutenant Governor, Senator Dr. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, for her work with children literacy. We were also pleased to have been a part of "Human Rights, Human Wrongs" initiative where community partners brought in Sally Armstrong to share her work with Afghan women and children. It was a wonderful example of community cooperation and coordination.

Finally, I would like to take time to thank two members of the SACFI Board who are leaving us. Both Doris Alexander, who served on our Grants Committee and Lorraine Pollock, who chaired our Communications Committee, have been active directors since 2004. Their hard work and commitment to the vitality of our Foundation is much appreciated and we will miss them. Both have been a part of SACFI since inception. Thank you!