

Lawyer honoured for hospice dedication

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SAINT JOHN - Saint John lawyer Ray Glennie has been awarded The Heart of Hospice for more than 25 years of dedication, support and leadership to the organization.



Peter Walsh/Telegraph-Journal

Above are the recipients of awards presented Friday night during the ninth annual Recognition Night of Hospice of Greater Saint John. Front row, left to right, Social Development Minister Mary Schryer, Jodi Bell, Sandra Davis, Deb Ryan, Ray Glennie, Tina Landry, Donna Lloyd, Betty Bowes and Pauline Long. Back row, left to right, Saint John East MLA Roly McIntyre, Jim Stewart, Alan Macdonald, Brian Kierstead, Heather Mabey, Helen Henry, Marilyn Craft and Nicole Hamming.

The award was the top honour bestowed on Friday during the ninth annual Recognition Night of Hospice of Greater Saint John, when more than 100 volunteers, staff and community supporters gathered to celebrate the realization of the residential hospice dream.

Atlantic Canada's first residential hospice is set to open in 2010 and will serve as a home away from home where palliative patients will receive quality care in peace and comfort, and families will have a safe haven and the support they need to cope.

The Jim Bowes' Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Deb Ryan of Glenwood for her outstanding contributions to Hospice and her community.

Three Volunteer Excellence Awards for family support were awarded to Helen Henry of Long Reach, Faye Sherrard of Quispamsis and Heather Mabey of Rothesay for their significant contributions to patients and families facing end-of-life issues.

Three Volunteer Excellence Awards for organizational support went to Jim Stewart of Rothesay, Jodi Bell of Quispamsis and Tina Landry of Saint John, while the Excellence in Teamwork Award went to the Hospice Valentine Gala organizing committee for its work in transforming the event into the "party of the season" and raising the net profit by nearly 300 per cent over two years. Picking up the award were co-chairpersons Tina Landry of Saint John and hospice executive director Sandy Johnson of Browns Flat, along with committee members Betty Bowes, Marilyn Craft, Cathy Connolly, Barb Levenshulme, Donna Lloyd, Pauline Long, Shirley McAlary, Donna and Doug McCaig, Jo MacLean,

Sue O'Brien and Diane Sullivan, all from Saint John, along with Ruth Hill of Browns Flat and Patti Nicholson of Rothesay.

The Hospice Champion Award, given to groups and individuals that have shown themselves to be champions of hospice, was bestowed upon MLA Roly MacIntyre and Social Development Minister Mary Schryer for their outstanding leadership in championing the development of Atlantic Canada's first residential hospice.

The Rookie Award, which recognizes dedicated service within the first two years of volunteering with hospice, went to Alan Macdonald of Rothesay, who helped hospice earn more than \$150,000 in donations to the Realize the Dream Capital Campaign for residential hospice.

A Special Leadership Award was given to the Telegraph-Journal for its leadership in advancing end-of-life care in the community and championing the establishment of Atlantic Canada's first residential hospice. Accepting the award was reporter Sandra Davis, who was also recognized for her exceptional newspaper reporting and coverage of the evolving story over the past year.

Special Champion Awards were handed out to four individuals and 20 businesses and groups that have played a significant role in supporting hospice and the establishment of the residential hospice. Accepting were: Tom Burns of Scotiabank; Alan England of Meridian Communications; Brian Maguire of Richard & Company Architecture Inc.; Michael of Richard and Company Architecture Inc.; AstraZeneca; Bayshore Home Health; Benjamin Moore; CIBC Wood Gundy; the City of Saint John; Enbridge Gas; Fortis Properties; Hilton Hotel; J.D. Irving, Limited; the MacMurray Foundation; the New Brunswick Regional Development Corporation; the Rotary Club of Saint John; the Saint John Board of Trade; Saint John Energy; the Saint John Regional Hospital; Sobeys; St. David's United Church; Sun Life Financial; United Commercial Travelers and the United Way of Greater Saint John.