

Community Support

Heroes in More Ways Than One



Photo: Dionne Izzard, QEII Foundation

The Nova Scotia Fire Fighter's Burn Treatment Society present a \$25,000 cheque to representatives from the QEII Regional Tissue Bank.

When we think of a fire fighter we often imagine of him or her rushing into a burning building, axe in hand—a hero who will truly save the day. Here at the QEII we think of fire fighters as heroes too, but our image is slightly different. Since 1982, members of the Nova Scotia Fire Fighter's Burn Treatment Society (NSFFBTS) have been demonstrating their heroism through hotdog sales, bowl-a-thons and many other grassroots fundraising activities. The visual image may not be as dramatic as one rushing into a burning building, but the effects of their good works have dramatic consequences.

In 1987, the NSFFBTS gave \$55,000 as seed money for an innovative Skin Bank. Since then it has grown to become the QEII Regional Tissue Bank—now deemed the largest, comprehensive tissue bank in Canada. Recently, they made another significant contribution of \$25,000—a gesture that reinforces the firefighters' commitment to burn victims and those requiring tissue transplantation.

"All it takes is one survivor to say thanks and immediately you have gotten back more than you gave," said Dave Collier, Chair, Burn Treatment Society. Over the years this group's annual contributions have also helped the QEII to have a state-of-the-art Burn Unit. The society is currently at the highest level of giving, Humanitarian, on the QEII Foundation's Wall of Honour, reaching well over \$200,000.

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"The Regional Tissue Bank is directly related to fire fighters since burn patients rely so often on skin grafts. It is nice to see that we can make a real difference," said Collier.

The contribution of the NSFF will help purchase more equipment for the Regional Tissue Bank—a growing centre providing over 1500 tissue grafts for transplantation in 2001.

"A badly burned patient may need up to 200 skin grafts during a recovery period which will protect against bacteria, fluid loss and act as a thermal regulator for heat loss," said Kate Hackett, Tissue Bank Specialist. The Tissue Bank recovers skin, bone, heart valves, corneas and eyes from those who, with the support of their family, consented to Organ and Tissue Donation. □

Standing Room Only

The fourth annual Battle of the Atlantic Musical Gala at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic was another sold-out success. Facilitated by the Canadian Navy with the help of the QEII Foundation, this event raised almost \$4000 for maintenance and up-keep of the Veterans' Memorial Garden.



Liz Rigney (at right) was the emcee for the evening and also entertained the audience with a medley. This event had all the elements of a first-class show; including singing, dancing and captivating musicians.



The idea for the Battle of the Atlantic Musical Gala came years ago after Lt. Pat Jessup saw similar festivities in Liverpool, England to mark the Battle of the Atlantic. "They put on a wonderful display for their veterans. When I came back I was really enthused and took the idea to Admiral Miller and he said, make it happen here," said Lt. Pat Jessup. □



Photos: Cpl. Shawn M. Kent, Canadian Navy