



13- 15 Pippy Place
St. John's, NL
A1B 3X2
Tel: (709) 722-0500
Email: info@edfnl.ca
www.edfnl.ca

Patron: Her Honour The Honourable Joan Marie Aylward
Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador

Eating Disorder Foundation Announces Community Support Award Winners

The Eating Disorder Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador announced its Community Support Awards yesterday at a ceremony at Government House, commencing at 2:30 pm.

“We are absolutely thrilled that Her Honour Joan Marie Aylward, has agreed to continue a tradition that started several years ago and host this prestigious event”, said Paul Thomey, Executive Director.

The Foundation has been honouring individuals and corporations who have shown dedicated support to the work of the Foundation since 2009. During that period Awards have been presented to some 42 individuals or companies. This is the 7th year that the award ceremony has been held at Government House.

“The 3 winners we are announcing today have all made valuable contributions to the Foundation over multiple years in support of our fundraising activities and our support programs”, said Thomey. This year’s honourees are Jean Claude Roy, Donna Cantwell and Ocean Choice International. (An attached backgrounder provides details on the award winners and the award they are receiving).

“Each of our awards is named for an individual or volunteer who continue to inspire our work today”, said Mr. Thomey.

The Eating Disorder Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (EDFNL) is a leadership advocacy group dedicated to promoting research and providing public support services and information about matters related to eating disorders, including information on available treatment services for individuals and families who experience disordered eating.

Media Contact
Paul Thomey
709-682-5543

Attachment – Backgrounder on Awards and Winner Bio’s

March 5, 2024

Awards Backgrounder

The Community Support Awards are designed to recognize the contributions of individuals, community groups, agencies, media, and the corporate community who have supported the Foundation on a continuing basis.

The Awards bear the names of 3 individuals who have had a significant impact on the Foundation and where it is today. They represent the spirit of what we strive for every day in support of individuals and families who are struggling with an eating disorder. The Awards are named in the memory of Renata Elizabeth Withers, Lana G. Curran, and Gerry Angel Jr.

Eating Disorder Foundation of NL Community Support Award Winners 2024

Ocean Choice International

The Lana Curran Butterfly Gala was initiated in 2016 to be a major contributor of needed funds to allow the Foundation to continue its role of creating awareness and supporting families in their journey with an eating disorder that has invaded their family unit. The success of the gala over its five-year history to date rests with the enduring support of the corporate community. Ocean Choice International has been a part of this success story from the beginning. From the purchase of a table, to supporting the live and silent auction, through bidding, as well as donations of tasty product to be auctioned. If all of this wasn't enough, when COVID-19 shut down the gala for a few years, OCI came on board as the presenting sponsor for our Drive In Bingo. For their continuing support of the Foundation, we are presenting the Gerry Angel Jr. Community Support Award to Ocean Choice International.

Donna Cantwell

This year the Foundation will be hosting its 17th Annual Remembering Renata Golf Tournament. For the last 16 years every participant has gone away having a fun day on the course, a good feed of fish and chips and a nice prize bag. Ever wonder where the prize bag came from? Will in the case of our tournament the answer has always been Donna Cantwell. For 16 years Donna has been the driving force behind gathering the prizes, putting together the gift bags and making sure they are all laid out and ready to be given out. For this very important piece of our golf tournament culture, we have Donna Cantwell covering our back? For her continuing behind the scenes effort, year in and year out, we are presenting the Renata Elizabeth Withers Community Support Award to Donna Cantwell.

Jean Claude Roy

How many charities in this province have the benefit of having one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most prominent and prolific painters as a major supporter? The Eating Disorder Foundation can! Jean Claude Roy moved to Newfoundland and Labrador in 1971 and since then has split his time between wintering in France and spending his summers in Newfoundland and Labrador. Since our first Gala event in 2016, Jean Claude has donated a large painting to be used as a "show piece" live auction item. In the five-year history of the gala the 5 wonderful pieces of artwork donated by Jean Claude have raised over \$41,000 for the Foundation. Jean Claude and his wife Christina have also attended each of the gala's and have themselves supported the live and silent auction through personal purchases. For his continuing support of the Foundation, we are pleased to present the Lana G. Curran Community Support Award to Jean Claude Roy.



(L-R) EDFNL Chair Vince Withers accepted on behalf of Jean Claude Roy, Donna Cantwell, Her Honour, The Honourable Joan Marie J. Aylward, O.N.L., His Honour, The Honourable Carl R Thompson, K.C., and Chris Curran accepted on behalf of Ocean Choice International

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