

NEWS RELEASE

November 1, 2005

Life-saving equipment to Heart Centre from Auxiliary

Thanks to the generosity of the Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary, perfusionists at the NB Heart Centre will now have a full complement of three state of the art Intra-Aortic balloon pump machines. These life-saving Intelligent Computer Pulsation Devices will be purchased with a \$54,000 donation from the auxiliary to help the most acutely ill patients at the NB Heart Centre. This complex piece of highly specialized equipment allows health care providers to support the circulation of blood to a patient's heart and have been used to transport patients to the QE II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax for heart transplantation.

The Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary organizes fund raising events in order to provide service and equipment that will enhance a patient's hospital stay.

On November 4, the Saint John Regional Hospital Auxiliary, Saint John Energy, and Bayview Credit Union will hold the 8th Annual "People of Influence" Luncheon at the Delta Brunswick at 11:45 a.m. Tickets are \$35.00 per person or \$280. for a table of eight.

Guest speaker for the event will be Jim Bracchitta, who has been a professional actor for more than 20 years and has appeared in numerous live productions. Audiences may recognize the character he portrays on NBC's crime dramas *Law & Order* and *Law & Order, Criminal Intent* – defense attorney Jason Goldell. A graduate of New York University, Mr. Bracchitta recently served two terms on the Board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild – the largest of the entertainment industry's labor organizations. He was a member of the negotiating team that ended the longest strike in entertainment history in 2000. In addition, Mr. Bracchitta is a trustee of The Motion Picture Players Welfare Fund and of the New Jersey Boys State Foundation, a fund that promotes civic responsibility in high school juniors through the American Legion Jersey Boys state program.

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(Photos and interviews with perfusionists in the NB Heart Centre can be arranged.)