

Foundation director retiring

By Bruce Lantz

FORT ST. JOHN - After a decade of fundraising, Fort St. John Hospital Foundation executive director Sue Popesku has retired.

She was honoured Jan. 12 with a special retirement dinner to mark the occasion, ending her 10-year association with the foundation - a period in which she helped the organization raise just over \$4 million for the hospital.

"One person doesn't do it," said Popesku when she finally got to the microphone after a round of praise and roasting. Instead, she said the community deserved the praise for offering its financial help to provide the hospital with much-needed services and equipment.

Gordon

Gentles, chair of the hospital foundation, had nothing but praise for Popesku as he outlined how she started working for them 10 years ago, when volunteers had conducted the first two fundraising campaigns, and promptly told them they would run at a deficit for the first year.

"We knew she would do a good job but we had no idea just how good it would be," he said during the retirement dinner, which drew more

than 100 well-wishers to honour her.

In her remarks, Popesku issued a warning about the need to expand or rebuild the Fort St. John Hospital, noting that its "basic footprint" remains unchanged even though the city's population has more than tripled in the 32 years she has lived here.

Services have been added but that has meant that departments have had to shrink to

make room, she said.

"The foundation has played a meaningful role in health care at the hospital," she said, "and individuals, businesses and community organizations have given consistently and larger over the years, and each contribution has been put to good use."

Janice

Isberg has replaced Popesku as executive director.

Popesku called her work with the foundation "a fulfilling journey" and said she's optimistic at what the future holds for the fundraising group.

As for her future, Popesku plans to take some time to complete tasks around her Fort St. John home but, she said, "This retirement is a rest, not an end".



Bruce Lantz photo

Retiring Fort St. John Hospital Foundation executive director Sue Popesku gets a hand with one of her gifts from board chair Gordon Gentles.



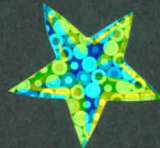
*Sue Popesku's
Retirement Party*

Northern Grand Quality Inn

Friday January 12th, 2007

Cocktails at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm

No Host Bar





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FORT ST. JOHN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

\$25.00 each

The Hospital Foundation Cordially Invites You

Sue Popesku's
Retirement Party

A decorative flourish consisting of symmetrical, stylized floral and scrollwork elements, centered below the title.

Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

Friday January 12th, 2007

6:00 pm

*Please come and help us celebrate her retirement,
and come prepared to share your anecdotes
and stories on this special occasion.*

Tickets are Available Now!

Pick up at the Front Desk of the Fort St. John Hosp

Kindly pick up during non-peak hours, early afternoon, evenings c

\$25.00 each