

Mount Desert Islander

Bordeaux, Dimond honored



Friday, June 20, 2008

BAR HARBOR — Charlotte Bordeaux of Bar Harbor and Richard Dimond of Southwest Harbor will be honored as the Maine Sea Coast Mission holds its fifth annual Sunbeam Awards Gala on Friday, Aug. 22.

Mrs. Bordeaux traces her philosophy of giving to a spiritual journey she began in 1984, for sharing her wealth; she believes, it is God's will. She principally supports charities or organizations that help or serve other human beings.

On the local level, Mrs. Bordeaux has been most active in supporting the Mount Desert Island Drug and Alcohol Abuse Group, the Acadia Family Center, Open Door Recovery, YMCA, YWCA, the Maine Sea Coast Mission and scholarships for island residents to attend the Summer Festival of the Arts.

As a child, Mrs. Bordeaux summered here at the home of her grandmother, Bertha Thorne, on Ocean Drive. After she married in 1959, Mrs. Bordeaux moved here as a year-round resident and raised her four children on Cromwell Cove. Three of her children, Peggy, Lynn and Tom, live here year round with their families, while her daughter Joan and her family summer here.

Mrs. Bordeaux said she knows from personal experience how difficult it is to fund-raise: "Raising dollars is like pulling teeth. Those who can give often don't give or don't give as much as you want them to," she said.

A former Army physician and researcher, Dr. Dimond has been coming to Maine since 1947, has summered in Southwest Harbor since 1978, and moved here as a year-round resident in 1994. Dr. Dimond is being honored for the pivotal role he played in organizing and ensuring the viability of the Hancock County Deferred Sentencing Project, an initiative of the Mount Desert Island Drug and Alcohol Abuse Group.

Dr. Dimond stressed that he was just one person among many. With help from others, particularly district attorney Mike Povich and retired Superior Court judge Paul Pierson, they formed a steering committee, raised money through grants and private contributions to establish the sentencing project in 2004, and maintained it for four years. On July 1, it will become one of 16 state-operated deferred sentencing programs.

When Dr. Dimond accepts the Mission's award, he will do so on behalf of many other volunteers.

Gary A. DeLong, executive director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, said, "The Mission is honored to have the opportunity to express our gratitude to these Sunbeam Award honorees. Like those who have gone before them, they have touched the lives of many on the margins of life who are often forgotten."

The gala's lead sponsor is Bar Harbor Bank and Trust. Funds raised will be used to underwrite and expand the Mission's programs. For more information about purchasing tickets, call Sarah Clemens at 288-5097.