



Marilyn Luscombe, left, presents Tara Lee, an NBCC student in the Personal Support Worker program, with a \$1,100 bursary awarded by Anne Woods, president of the Rotary Club of Chatham, after whom the bursary is named.

AWARDS

STUDENT SURPRISED WITH \$1,100 BURSARY AT NBCC MIRAMICHI

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10 DEC 2012 08:12AM

MIRAMICHI — What Tara Lee thought was just another day at school turned out to be especially surprising.

As Lee chatted with one of her New Brunswick Community College instructors on Thursday, she was introduced to Anne Woods, president of the Rotary Club of Chatham and Marilyn Luscombe, president and chief executive officer of the NBCC. The pair was visiting the campus to present and accept a \$5,000 donation to an NBCC scholarship and bursary foundation, which distributes the money to deserving students.

Unbeknownst to Lee, she was about to be the recipient of a portion of the \$5,000 NBCC Foundation cheque, a \$1,100 Rotary Club of Chatham bursary with her name on it.

“Oh my God, thank you,” said Lee in disbelief.

She covered her mouth in awe as Luscombe, who is also on the board of the NBCC Foundation, presented her with the envelope.

“I’ve heard a lot of good things about you, Tara ... Your classmates, your teachers and your parents think very much of you. They are very proud that you came back to school ... You’re a very hard worker and very much contribute to your class and its discussions ... I understand you have a great sense of humour and often have your classmates and teachers in stitches,” She said as Lee’s instructor’s looked on smiling as she wiped her tears.

“I would have dressed up if I knew,” said Lee laughing to the group applauding her, “My knees are knockin’.”

Lee is enrolled in a yearlong Personal Support Worker course. She graduated high school in 1999, but decided to come back to school and get a degree at a post-secondary institution. She has two sons, one 13 and the other four. The latter attends the daycare located in the same building where she studies.

Lee said she is very grateful for the help and she will be putting the money to good use.

“It’ll help me get some more stuff for my schooling, scrubs, a better binder ... It will just help with my studies and my children and with getting things better,” said Lee, who said the monetary gift will alleviate some of her financial stress.

Anne Woods, president of the Rotary Club of Chatham, said the \$5,000 cheque was made as part of the organization’s five-year commitment to financially supporting the NBCC Foundation to be used during that time as the college sees fit. The only requirement the Rotary had was that the money be awarded to a Miramichi resident.

The NBCC Foundation chooses students based on financial need and how well they are doing in their program. There are different categories and criteria for various scholarships and bursaries and cases are reviewed individually.

“Certainly those are things that would meet our criteria for sure and she is so sweet,” said Woods of Lee’s personality.

Woods said the Rotary Club of Chatham made the commitment to support the foundation financially because they believe it is important to help students finish their degrees so they can graduate and be employed in Miramichi.

“They get to stay here in New Brunswick, preferably here in Miramichi, that’s an awesome thing. We don’t want them going out west somewhere ... We want them to be able to stay at home and afford an education here.”

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