



Third Place Transition House in Truro received a \$34,000 donation on Thursday from the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association, through a live auction held at the group's annual general meeting in January. Participating in the presentation from left were: Scott Hoeg, member of the NSRBA and past president of Third Place Transition House; association past president Andrew Lake; associate member Jennie Appleby of Aggregate Equipment Ltd.; associate member B.J. Harvey of Atlantic Cat and Cat Rentals; Third Place executive director Sandra Falle; NSRBA executive director Grant Feltmate and association president Greg MacDonald.

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# Truro women's shelter receives large donation

*It's a great day for the house: executive director*

By HARRY SULLIVAN  
TRURO DAILY NEWS

**TRURO** – In a word – “unbelievable.”

In 10 years as the executive director of Third Place Transition House, Sandra Falle has never before been reduced to tears by a single donation.

That changed Thursday when she received a contribution of \$34,000 from the Nova Scotia Roadbuilders Association and associate members.

“Oh my gosh. Wow. That’s unbelievable. I think that’s the biggest donation we’ve ever had,” she said when the figure was revealed.

“Wow,” she repeated, as her hands raised in prayer fashion to her mouth and happy tears welled in her eyes.

“Oh my goodness. Wow. I’ve been doing this work a long time and it’s just amazing to me that, you know, this is our 25th year, and the generosity of people that help us through the years is heartwarming. And this is just unbelievable.”

Each year, the NSRBA association holds a live auction during its annual general meeting to raise funds for a community charity.

As the outgoing president during the January auction, Andrew Lake had the privilege of deciding where this year’s funds from the 160-member association would be placed.

Lake’s choice was Third Place Transition House because it’s a charity that was “near and dear to my heart,” he said.

“We felt that this was certainly a worthwhile charity to honour.”

Scott Hoeg, association member and past president of the shelter, wholeheartedly agreed.

“I told you Santa Claus was going to come early,” he told a shocked Falle as the figure was revealed.

“It’s a great day for the house,” he later commented of the donation, especially given that \$15,000 in total donations would be an out-



**Sandra Falle, executive director of Third Place Transition House in Truro, reacts with delighted shock after learning the women's shelter was receiving a \$34,000 donation from the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association.**

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standing fundraising year.

“This house does a lot of work in the community and part of the fundraising, part of the budget has to come from the community.”

While the majority of the shelter’s core funding is provided through the province, those dollars do not pay for many of the incidental, albeit necessary, items that many women and children require when they arrive there.

“It will just enhance what we are able to provide women that are coming through our shelter,” Falle said. “It enables us to do things that we’re not funded for through our provincial grants.”

Many times, the women and children who arrive at the shelter come with nothing but the

clothes they have on their backs after leaving troubled homes in a state of rushed panic.

Their children may need coats or shoes, or perhaps a child wants to be enrolled in a school program that requires a registration fee – all things not covered under the provincial funding mandate.

“Women sometimes come without their purses so they don’t even have any identification,” Falle said.

“They have to get it all done, so the house

pays for that. We pay for transportation. Some women need to get out of the province, so we facilitate that.”

While numbers fluctuate, last year approximately 50 women and 30 children were received at the shelter.

“We’re just so grateful,” Falle said of the contribution.

“Very grateful.”

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