

# C.F. SWEENY'S FUNERAL HOME LTD.

~ Established 1917 ~

Office: 51 Phoenix Street, Bridgewater  
Chapel: York Street, Bridgewater  
Phone: (902) 543-2587 Fax: (902) 543-6355

Office: 4395 Route #10, New Germany  
Chapel: Sweeny's Funeral Home, New Germany  
Phone: (902) 644-3656 Fax: (902) 644-3482

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P.O. Box 248, Bridgewater, NS B4V 2W9

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## CHARLES F. SWEENY MEMORIAL BURSARY



### HISTORY

In February 1928 a young couple, William and Lila Young, newly weds; decided to open a home in East Chester, where unwed mothers were accepted in and were nursed to good health during their pregnancy. This home soon became known as the "The Life and Health Sanitarium - Where the Sick Get well." They worked out of their 4 bedroom cottage in East Chester, with barely enough money to buy cots for the patients to sleep on. Lila started delivering babies, and within a year the Young's were specializing in maternity services for their patients. Their business later became known as The Ideal Maternity Home And Sanitarium. Due to the lack of funding of their business, many babies were placed in butter-box's which were used as cribs. If the child was unfortunate to survive, then their butter-box was used as their casket, was lined in white linen, and the child was buried. It was under these conditions that on November 24, 1934 that a young mother gave birth to a healthy baby boy. This child, was soon thereafter, adopted by a waiting couple, Heber and Mildred (Veitzen) Sweeny of Bridgewater. They named their newly adopted son, **Charles Frederick Sweeny**.

Charles' parents at this time were operating the H.M. Sweeny Funeral Home, of Bridgewater. At the same time, Heber was a successful businessman, operating the former Bridgewater Horse Racing track, which was originally located at the former Canadian Tire location on Dufferin Street, Bridgewater. Heber travelled Canada and the US in search of various horses for racing. The funeral business at this point, was mostly the responsibility of Mildred to run and operate. Now, along with the funeral home and the race track, Heber decided to expand his business by opening a jewelry store on King Street; Mildred at this point was solely operating the funeral business on her own. Charles, their adopted son, was raised from an infant to a young boy and then a teenager in the funeral home business. Living and working in the same house which served as both their residence and a place of business when meeting families who have suffered a loss of a loved one. The living-room was used to greet these families and arrange funerals. Currently today, that same living-room is the arrangement office that we use to serve the many families of Lunenburg County who are experiencing a death in their family.

Charles at an early age left Bridgewater to attend the New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science and Embalming, Boston Massachusetts, so he could obtain his embalming license. He was a graduate from that institute on June 30, 1954. He returned back to his home town of Bridgewater where he worked professionally with his mother until he achieved his Nova Scotia professional license in 1955. He continued to work with his mother, until he took ownership of the company in 1965, the company then became, C.F. Sweeny Funeral Home. His mother, Mildred, passed away in 1987.

Charles operated his business with his wife Patricia (Kehoe) by his side. They had three children while running the funeral home. Two daughters, Cheryl and Jill and a son, Patrick. Patrick followed his father's footsteps, by completing his high school education, and then immediately entering the workforce, by becoming his father's assistant. Patrick worked diligently and professionally, along with his father, and achieved his Nova Scotia professional licenses in 1985. Patrick continued to operate the current company as president and his father as chairman for a number of years.

In 2002, the Sweeny's expanded their Bridgewater business to the village of New Germany, when the former New Germany Funeral Home was being sold. Again, in 2004, when the owner of South Shore Crematorium and Transfer Service expressed his interest in retiring, the Sweeny's purchased this company as well. Together, Patrick and Charles operated these companies together, until the time of Charles' passing, on January 26, 2007.

### **Criteria**

This bursary is being offered to a graduating student **of each** of the high schools in our business areas, *Bridgewater High School, Parkview Education Centre and New Germany Rural High School*, who has or is experiencing difficult or challenging circumstances, financially or physically in their home or personal life. For a student who is not necessarily progressing on to a post secondary institution, but who also may have chosen to enter the workforce directly following graduation.

### **Application Requirements**

The student applying for this bursary can obtain the application documentation at the guidance department of your school or can be downloaded by following the link below. The applicant is asked to complete the following:

- Complete the application form
- Submit a written article explaining your past or current situation or conditions you derive from and why you feel it is important for you to receive the ***Charles F. Sweeny Memorial Bursary***.
- Explain your future plans for the workforce or a choice of post secondary education.
- Forward your completed application to the following address or drop off at your school guidance dept. :

**Sweeny's Funeral Homes  
C. F. Sweeny Bursary  
P.O. Box 248 – 51 Phoenix Street  
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia  
B4V 2W9**

The successful candidate will be decided upon by the management of C. F. Sweeny's Funeral Homes.

### **Funding**

The funding of the ***Charles F. Sweeny Memorial Bursary*** will be offered by C. F. Sweeny's Funeral Homes, Bridgewater and New Germany. This bursary has been available since June 2007, and will continue annually.

### **Bursary Amount**

\$500.00