

THIS WEEK

Vol. 17 No. 17

Canton-Potsdam, NY

FREE!

Dec. 20 - 26, 2000

PCS grad forms Sandstoner Foundation for scholarships; seeks aid

By BETSY BAKER

POTSDAM — Tim Dempsey says he wants to help Potsdam Central High School students "match academic excellence with financial resources."

Dempsey, an early '80s PCS graduate and former Potsdam resident, has made some \$10,000 in monetary awards to graduating PCS seniors over the past several years.

Now, he has formalized his efforts by creating the Sandstoner Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization with a local board of directors. Dempsey says the foundation will administer an endowment fund that, as it grows, will provide scholarships to generations of stu-

"I view these scholarships as loans that the students will give back to someone else at Potsdam when they are financially able to do so," Tim Dempsey

dents in financial need.

All contributions to the Sandstoner Fund will go directly to the students named to receive the

awards, Dempsey says, to avoid financial aid complications. All contributions are tax deductible. Scholarships will be based solely on financial need. "I view these scholarships as loans that the students will give back to someone else at Potsdam when they are financially able to do so," he says.

Half of each contribution will go to the first scholarship awards to be made in the spring of 2001; the other half will go into a fund that can't be drawn on until it reaches \$100,000, according to Dempsey.

Contributions can be mailed to the Sandstoner Foundation, Post Office Box 264, Potsdam 13676. For more information, e-mail sand-

stonerfdn@aol.com. Locally, those interested can call Cindy Centofanti at 265-2000, ext. 875, days.

"Now I'm trying to get the word out," Dempsey says. He plans a direct mail appeal after the first of the year. Clarkson hockey fans will be able to hear a series of Sandstoner Foundation ads on 99 HITS FM during broadcasts of hockey games.

Officers of the foundation include David Cubley, Cindy Centofanti, Lisa G. and Randy Cardinal, Dan and Ellen Hayes and Sarah Fiocco. Serving on the foundation board are Con Elliott, Randy Sieminski and Craig Conroy.

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Scholarships...

Dempsey is a resident of Portsmouth, NH, but business brings him to the North Country often. His father, William Dempsey was a longtime Clarkson University staff member.