

## Shediac arts, business leaders honoured

### Contractor and developer and a professional artist received Fondation Louis-J.-Robichaud's Medal of Excellence

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The Fondation Louis-J.-Robichaud awarded two standout leaders with its Medal of Excellence [Saturday evening](#), Oct. 18. Pictured from left to right are: Marc Robichaud, president of the Fondation Louis-J.-Robichaud; Francis Brun, Alumni of the Year (Business); Gisèle Léger-Drapeau, Alumni of the Year (Arts); and Luc Michaud, director of the Louis-J.-Robichaud High School. PHOTO: STudio SOrmany

The Fondation Louis-J.-Robichaud honoured two of Shediac's business and arts leaders [Saturday night](#) in an awards banquet and silent auction at the synonymous high school.

Alumnis Gisèle Léger-Drapeau and Francis Brun received the foundation's Medal of Excellence, awarded to LJR grads who stand out in their field of work.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in education of fine arts from l'Université de Moncton, Léger-Drapeau taught fine arts at the high school level and also worked as an assistant art consultant at the elementary level. She went on to teach methodology of art education at U de M.

An elected member of the Canadian Society of Artists, Léger-Drapeau has been a professional artist for the past fifteen years. She's had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Canada (Moncton, Fredericton, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver), in Europe (France and Portugal) and in Tunisia, in north Africa. Working with a rich array of techniques and mediums keeps her constantly motivated and allows her to pursue artistic challenges.

"I have a lot to be thankful for and I wouldn't be the person nor the artist I am today without the love and support of my husband and our daughters," Drapeau-Leger said Sunday. "As for my future projects - to keep on creating, to play golf and to spend lots of time with my husband as we grow old together."

A father of two, Brun, whose firm secured the contract to build the Hotel Shediac, graduated from LJR in 1985. He then took his plumbing course at NBCC Saint John.

After completing his course, he bought an old truck and started doing plumbing work on his own. In 1991, he opened a store on Main Street in Shediac and soon built up his company.

Three years later, he moved to Dieppe and opened what is now known as Francis Plumbing on Champlain Street.

In 2001, he purchased Résidence Gamelin and operated the nursing home under the name "O" Bons Soins at [106 Providence St. in Shediac](#). That same year, Brun started Francis Holdings and acquired various properties and constructed Residence O' Bons So-ins where it stands now at 330 Pascal Poirier. The following year, he began operating the new nursing home which now houses 139 senior residents.

He built several apartment buildings and other nursing homes throughout the Shediac region over the years, held ownership of these types of properties and began two companies, Breau Construction and Yves Excavating, with partners; both of which continue to operate.

Brun's most recent project is the only five-star hotel in New Brunswick, Hotel Shediac, which began construction two years ago and is now open.