

BCTV host named WZID Outstanding Woman

BY JANET THOMPSON

Contributing Writer

Celine Desrosiers, host of "People Places and Things with Celine," on BCTV, was recently named one of WZID's 20 Outstanding Women You Should Know for 2013, an award for community service.

After meeting her, it's clear why such an honor was given - she's genuinely passionate about others, committed to her family and dedicated to her community.

Desrosiers was the 12th of 14 children born to Langis and Madelaine Desrosiers. The family lived on a large chicken farm 20 minutes east of Quebec City. Her mother managed the farm, while her father worked outside the home. They grew their own fruits and vegetables, in addition to raising 14,000 chickens. Every morning at 4 a.m. the children did their chores before leaving for school, said Desrosiers.

With such a large family, individual attention wasn't always given, and she depended on her older sister, Lucie, for guidance.

"Because my dad worked outside the home, my mom ran the farm with 14 kids. We never got one-on-one attention because there were so many of us. We had a lot of discipline, but on our own emotionally."

Desrosiers spent a lot of time imagining visiting other places.

"I've always been a dreamer on the farm," she said. "I'd wished to be other places. I wanted to meet people."

However, despite the lack of closeness from her mother, she has fond childhood memories. She recalls how family conversations roused her curiosity about faraway places. In fact, she attributes those early years as her foundation.

She got her first camera at age 14. She discovered that photography provided another avenue of exploration.

"It was a way for me to express



Janet Thompson Photo

Celine Desrosiers, host of BCTV's "People, Places and Things with Celine," was named one of 20 Outstanding Women You Should Know for 2013 by WZID.

myself, to see all the beauty of nature and what surrounds me. When I'm in nature or when I photograph people, there's an emotional connection," said Desrosiers.

In 1988, she left her family's farm and moved to Newport Beach, Calif. She traveled extensively before settling in New Hampshire in 1992. She currently lives with her daughter, Viviana, and two sons, Yanick and Vincent. Now that they're older, she's dedicating more attention to her TV show.

The influence for the show comes from the interesting stories she learn about in her community - stories that weren't getting the attention they deserved.

"I meet people that have so much, they've talent, they're productive, they're creative, and it's not known," she said. "I see the passion, and I want to recognize them. This is why for the past three years I do my TV show."

Her program has not only touched the lives of those in the community, but on occasion, they've personally touched her.

For example, while filming a Mother's Day program, Desrosiers was reminded of her own mother, and the impact of her

absence.

She is committed to keeping the French culture alive in New Hampshire, and has volunteered for the past 17 years for Franco-American Centre. In addition, she's served six years on the board of directors at Catholic Medical Center, and as a member of the Photography Art Design of Quebec. However, her involvement with Mothers Against Drunk Driving stems from her own personal family tragedy. "I lost three brothers due to alcohol - Guy age 19; Denis age 36 and Yves age 40." Celine educates others about the consequences of drinking while driving, and the effects it has on the entire family.

Desrosiers has some exciting projects coming in the future. She'll be filming in Hawaii in April. She'll also be filming at The Executive Health Club, and the Euro Skin & Body Spa, where she currently works.

Desrosiers wants to live life with no regrets.

"I don't want to grow older saying I should've, I could've - I'm not like that, so I just do everything I can every single day."