



# St. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL

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February 8, 2010

## News Release

### Want To Share Your Heart for Valentine's Day This Year?

Gowns for Grads Holds Valentine's "Gown-A-Thon" Event That Collects New and Gently Used Gowns and Accessories for Grade 12 Graduates

Gowns for Grads is pleased to announce the launch of its "Gown-a-thon" on Friday, Feb. 12 and Saturday, Feb. 13 at Mardi Gras at The Winnipeg Convention Centre. This annual launch collects new and gently used formal dresses, such as grad or bridesmaid dresses.

Anyone bringing a gown donation to Mardi Gras will be given free entrance into the event.

The dresses are then dry-cleaned at no cost by Dollar Wise Quality Cleaners and donated to young women who are graduating from Grade 12 and do not have the financial means to purchase their own grad dress. Dresses can also be dropped off at all six Dollar Wise Quality Cleaners locations and St. John's High School throughout the year.

Gowns for Grads was launched in the winter of 2009 by St. John's High School after the school's graduation committee realized many young women were not attending their graduation because they didn't have a dress to wear. "There is nothing more heartwarming than seeing a young woman, entering the next phase of her life, who finds the perfect dress at the Gown Boutique—a dress she thought was never possible," said Linda Bulka, principal of St. John's High School.

Winnipeggers went into their closets and donated over 1,000 new and gently used gowns to the Gowns for Grads Program in its first year. This year the annual Gown Boutique will be held at The Winnipeg Convention Centre, April 28 & 29, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. each day.

This time around, Gowns for Grads is hoping to collect over 500 dresses. For every dress donated to the program, a ballot can be entered for a chance to win one of many wonderful prizes, including a pair of diamond earrings donated by a local Winnipeg jeweller.

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For more information on Gowns for Grads, visit [www.gownsforgs.org](http://www.gownsforgs.org) OR contact: Linda Bulka at [lbulka@wsd1.org](mailto:lbulka@wsd1.org) or phone: (204) 589-4374