



KENORA & LAKE OF THE WOODS REGIONAL

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Building Forever Together

2015 FALL NEWSLETTER



Fall Granting Ceremony Salutes Smart and Caring Community Volunteers

Something extra was featured at the Community Foundation's Fall Granting Ceremony this year. In addition to distributing \$78,000 in grants to twenty-five charitable groups, recognition was also given to volunteers who have made a significant impact in community living in the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Region.

The Smart and Caring Community Volunteer Program was launched in 2011, by Canada's Governor General, his Excellency David Johnston. It is part of a national effort to build a more Smart and Caring Nation, as we move towards celebrating Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

"This region has a wealth of community-minded people and volunteers, who make a significant difference in the lives of others. We wanted to take the time to honour them tonight", said Darlene MacGillivray, Executive Director. "We received a total of 16 nominees, which were taken down to 3 finalists and then to one overall winner. To me, every nominee is a winner for their contributions to our community", said MacGillivray. Through a process of online voting, Woody Linton, from the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Fall, was declared the winner.

Another highlight of the evening was the presence of long-time donor and community builder, Jim Richardson.

Since 2006, Jim and his wife, Leney, have contributed \$20,000 each year to the Community Foundation's Fall Granting Program. Jim attended the event with his son, Sprague, and distributed grants to a variety of recipients, supporting the general needs of the community. "My wife Leney and I are pleased to be a part of this ceremony each year, in recognizing the great work done by all the charities around the lake. Thank you to everyone for making a difference to your community", said Richardson.

2015 Smart and Caring Community Volunteer Nominees Ron Baker, Barry Baltessen, Tania Cameron, Laurine Goerzen, Dr. Clay Hammett, Alice Jardine, Joni Lindsay, Trina Lindsay, Woody Linton, Miriam McDonald, Lisa Moncrief, Mary Margaret O'Flaherty, Don Parfitt, Cindy Peloquin, Lindsay Wenaas, and Arlene Wilcox.

Photo Left: Smart and Caring Community Volunteers
Back row, left to right: Miriam McDonald, Lisa Moncrief, Joni Lindsay, Tania Cameron and Ron Baker. Front row, left to right: Alice Jardine, Laurine Goerzen, Woody Linton, Trina Lindsay and Mary Margaret O'Flaherty.

Photo Right: Donor Jim Richardson, left presents a grant of \$5,650 to LOW Railroad Museum Volunteer Ron Baker.

Thomas Sill Foundation continues support to the Kenora Region



Thanks to a challenge launched by the Thomas Sill Foundation in the fall of 2015, The Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation stands to receive a \$25,000

endowment gift, if we can reach \$50,000 in endowed donations in 2016. The Sill Foundation has a unique and special relationship with our community foundation, as they were an inaugural donor during our inception in 2004, with an endowed gift of \$100,000. In addition to delivering grants to registered charities in Manitoba, the Sill Foundation has been instrumental in the establishment of over forty community foundations in rural and northern Manitoba.

"The Board and staff of the Sill Foundation believe in the work that our community foundation is doing in the Kenora Region and have gone to great lengths to include us in their many challenge initiatives. We are the only community foundation outside of the Province of Manitoba, to receive

such support. They challenged us in 2004 to raise \$200,000 to start our foundation and take advantage of their 50 cents on the dollar match. Then in 2006, they funded the Youth in Philanthropy Program at Beaver Brae Secondary School for three years, on the condition they we would run the program for an additional three years. We extend sincere gratitude and thanks for their continued significant financial support to our community and region", said Darlene MacGillivray, Executive Director.

Mr. Thomas Sill (1905-1986), was born in Winnipeg and spent his entire career as a successful chartered accountant. He was known to be a quiet and modest man. He was also an astute investor, who supported many charities. At the time of his passing, his executors were instructed to create an entity to carry on his good work. The Thomas Sill Foundation was created in 1987, with assets of \$19 million. To date, the Foundation has distributed \$36 million in grants, while their total assets are now valued at over \$40 million.

"Forest Capital of Canada 1999 Committee" creates Endowment Fund



The Community Foundation is pleased to announce that the Forest Capital of Canada 1999 Committee, has established an endowment fund in support of student bursaries at both local high schools. Committee member Carla Devlin-Scott, and Committee chair Jack Pearson, felt that the time was right to turn the legacy project over to the Community Foundation, in the hopes of growing the fund and attracting students into pursuing studies in forestry or in a related field of environmental science. "With Kenora Forest Products starting up again and because there is a shortage of people to work in the industry, it is more important than ever to get youth involved in the industry", said Devlin – Scott.

In 1999, the three towns of Kenora, Keewatin and Jaffray Melick were awarded the title of Forest Capital of Canada. Kenora's successful bid for the event was also supported by forest companies of the day such as: Abitibi Consolidated, Kenora Forest Products, Devlin Timber, Trilake Timber and independent contractors. This much respected annual recognition was jointly determined by the Canadian Forestry Association and the Canadian Institute of Forestry. The tradition of naming a "Forest Capital of Canada" began in the 1970s as a special designation to celebrate and honour a community or region for its connectivity to the forest. The program was intended to spotlight the valuable role forests play in the socioeconomic and environmental health of our communities – past, present, and future.

"Donating to this endowment fund may be very appealing to many here in the Kenora Region, since our history is so tied to forestry and until very recently most families' incomes were directly or indirectly tied to the forest industry", said Darlene MacGillivray, Executive Director for the Community Foundation.

Photo Caption: Don Parfitt, Past President left and Dennis Alvstad President right, accept a \$22,000 Cheque from Committee members Jack Pearson and Carla Devlin- Scott.

Celebrating Our Generous Donors, Worthy Recipients and Dedicated Volunteers



■ **Philanthropic Spirit Recognized:** Mrs. Shirley Richardson, son Jim and wife Leney, have a special bond with the Lake of the Woods Region. They have enjoyed summers at the lake and have a keen interest in supporting the charitable sector. They are inaugural donors to the Community Foundation, in addition to supporting many other worthy community needs. Jim and Leney created the Richardson Challenge in 2006, where they will match every dollar donated to the general community endowment category, up to \$20,000. Through their leadership and support, they have also helped to connect the Community Foundation with many other generous donors. Marketing Director, Kelly Williams and Darlene MacGillivray, Executive Director, enjoyed meeting with the family at the Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club in August.



■ **Random Act of Kindness Day is growing:** Individuals, school groups, businesses and the community at large, participated in our 5th Annual Random Act of Kindness Day, held during Community Foundation week. The idea behind the day is to perform simple acts of kindness for others. It is not about "fundraising" but rather about "friendraising". Schools got involved by distributing cards with simple messages on them, such as, "You look great and you have a nice smile". Insurance companies like The Standard, provided cookies and hot chocolate to community members during their lunch hour, while Gillons staff (pictured) collected donations of clothing for patrons of the Kenora Fellowship Centre.



■ **"Chop the Mop" helps supports the Pinecrest Home Endowment Fund:** Pinecrest Home custodian Bill Maffey, got wild and woolly, in the months leading up to his celebrity "Chop the Mop" event at Pinecrest Home in December. Family and friends had begun gathering pledges since the fall, until brave Bill bit the bullet and chopped his mop and beard, in support of the Pinecrest Home's Agency Endowment Fund. The event attracted a capacity crowd of staff and residents to watch the entire shearing. "I was surprised at how many people wanted to support me and make a pledge to our fund. It was a fun way to raise the awareness that we have a fund that we can support any time", Maffey said.



■ **Special Olympics Athletes, a strong presence in our community:** Every Monday night, the Kenora Bowling Alley is home to a boisterous group of young people enjoying the fun and fellowship of being together. Kenora Special Olympics athletes, their volunteer coaches and supporters, take part in many activities, such as bowling or swimming on Saturday mornings at the Rec Centre and soccer games during the summer season. "We have received many grants from the Community Foundation over the years and appreciate their support. They helped us to buy t-shirts and jackets for our athletes. We also established an endowment fund with them, that anyone can support. We are proud of our athletes and the role they play in our community", said volunteer coordinator, Garry Socholotuk.

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■ **Donors making a difference:** Bryce and Nicki Douglas have been noted community builders in the Kenora area for decades. Since establishing an endowment fund with the Community Foundation in 2009, in support of children in need, their grants have reached every corner of our region. Their efforts have helped to grow breakfast and lunch programs at area schools, provided first aid training to at-risk youth, distributed Rec Centre passes to area families and supported a community sports program for Grassy Narrows First Nations youth. The Douglas Family believes it is extremely important to focus their support on our region's most valuable resource: our children. Past President Don Parfitt, right, joined the Douglasses for a review of their granting programs in September.



■ **Community Foundation welcomes new President:** The Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Dennis Alvestad has assumed the role of Board President. Dennis has been a Board Director with the Community Foundation since 2013, as well as a donor and volunteer with the organization, since its inception in 2004. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Copperfin Credit Union Limited, with branch locations from the Manitoba border to Thunder Bay, with assets under administration, valued at over \$325 Million. "I am looking forward to working with our donors, grant recipients and volunteers in helping to grow our region for the future", says Alvestad. In addition to his current leadership role, he is also a member of the Marketing, Asset Development and Nominating Committees for the Community Foundation.



■ **PUFF Endowment Fund reaches out:** Despite only starting their endowment fund in December 2014, donations to the PUFF Endowment Fund really took off in 2015. "Fundraising is a big part of running the fire department out in Pellatt. This is one way we can ensure the long-term viability. We hope to build up the fund significantly in the future and to cover off major capital expenses; this is going to go a long way," said Board Chair, Nick VanderZande. Income from this endowment fund will continue in perpetuity and be used by PUFF as a source of funding for their programs. Anyone may contribute to the fund and donations will be accepted through the Community Foundation or PUFF.



■ **Legacy Giving Promoted at the Farmers' Market:** How will you be remembered? What impact will you have on your community? Giving back to your community forever was a hot topic of discussion at Kenora's weekly Farmers' Market in 2015. There are many ways of growing your community, including making a charitable bequest or gifting a life insurance policy. It is always beneficial to consult with a financial professional before planning a legacy gift. As well as making a gift during your lifetime, your legacy gift can be used to support any sector of the community, including arts and culture, the environment, social welfare, animal welfare, health and wellness and the general needs of the community.