

## SDCF proud to announce three new funds



The Polinuk Family Fund will support the well-being of others, including furry friends, like Eddie, a stray who recently moved from his home under a shed into his new owner's cozy home

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The success of the Selkirk and District Community Foundation (SDCF) can be defined in many ways, but in reality it boils down to one simple reality - our region is blessed with an abundance of incredibly thoughtful and generous people.

Over the course of the Foundation's 25-years, countless groups and organizations have been the benefactors of that thoughtfulness and generosity and each year, without fail, more people come forward to support their community through the Foundation.

The Polinuk Family Fund will support community organizations that fulfill the fund's purpose – to deliver programs and/or projects impacting the well-being of others, in areas like health and wellness, recreation, aging adults (seniors) and any type of animal/wildlife welfare or rescue.

The Polinuk family is well known in the region as the former owners and operators of Selkirk Air, a leader in the fly-in fishing industry. The family's stellar work ethic and love of fishing camps, wildlife and aviation have been the driving forces behind more than 70 years and two generations of Polinuk pride in their business.

Doreen Polinuk said the family – late husband Bob, sons Ron and Gary along with Gary's wife Michele, created the fund to give back to the community they call home and where they operated their business for so many years.

"It's been a family run business and I was so pleased to have this fund not be just one person, but the Polinuk Family Fund, because we all worked in the business and we all contributed," she said.

Because it is a donor advised endowment fund, the family will have a say in where the money is directed, and Doreen said the timing of its establishment is important to her.

“It’s nice to be able to do something while you’re still here to enjoy it,” she said.

“To put money into a fund at the Foundation is wonderful because it will be ongoing and will help with projects we’d like to help out. When you’re gone, you’re not going to be here to see this, so it’s nice when you can have a little bit of control in that.”

The Bud and Doreen Oliver Family Fund will be part of the Foundation’s Community Fund and will support a wide variety of community charities.

Bud and Doreen have deep roots in Selkirk and the surrounding area, and both have been staunch community supporters from a young age. A former city councillor and long-time Selkirk mayor, Bud said they have always marvelled at the Foundation, from its beginnings in 1995 to the impressive organization it has become today. He said a fund bearing the Oliver name allows them to be part of the history of a wonderful organization.

“Doreen and I have been supporters of the Community Foundation, of the concept first of all, and the Foundation through donations throughout the years,” he said.

Both like the idea of helping the countless groups that work day in and day out to make Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements better places.

“The projects that are closer to the community, supported by individuals within the community, can receive help through the funding of the Foundation to assist them in doing what they are doing in support of the community,” Bud said.

“It’s helping those who are already trying to help the community.”

Doreen, a champion of heritage preservation, said helping out in any small way pays dividends that extend far and wide.

“So many organizations can benefit from a little help,” she said.

“It doesn’t have to be big bits, it could be little bits. It’s important that people know that and understand the concept. People see so called little things happening and then they realize that they’re not so little after all, they’re doing more than they thought.”

The Local Leaders Fund is a donor advised fund created by Duane Nicol to fund the development of skills and capacities in local leaders who are working to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural conditions in their community.

Nicol, a life-long Selkirk resident with a passion for his home community and for the work the Foundation does, describes himself as a ‘leadership geek’, so it only makes sense that he’d establish a fund aimed at assisting local leaders.

“There’s lots of grants and funding programs for projects and work but most of those exclude capacity building for non-profits, local governments and governmental agencies,” Nicol said.

“These groups in our communities that are doing that good work, most of the funds available to them exclude professional development, organizational development, education, skills and capacity building for staff and volunteers. This fund would really focus on building social and human capital within to build strong organizations in local communities so they can continue to do the good work that they do.”

Nicol and his wife Erin Nosal created another SDCF fund last year. The Libri Fund will support the operation of the Gaynor Family Regional Library, allowing for the purchasing of books and other materials as well as supporting programming.

Along with his family and friends, Nicol also started the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund in memory of his brother, who passed away suddenly in 2007. The fund provides grants to local charities working to promote social justice, a cause near and dear to Sean. In particular, the fund supports projects and programs delivering affordable housing, food security, and economic and social empowerment.

“The SDCF is an example of what happens when a good idea is paired with amazing people. Magic. It is a powerful tool for community development. They connect local donors with local organizations and projects that are making our community stronger, healthier and more vibrant. They make thoughtful giving and impactful granting easy. They make it possible for anyone to make a difference.”

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in the region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$2.7 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations during its 25 years. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.9755.