



**36th Citizen of the Year
– Brett Mitchell**

*Mitchell with the gift he was
presented by the SDCF.*

Brett Mitchell was more than a little stunned when a small, masked party burst into his office at the Selkirk Record to tell him he had been selected as the 36th Citizen of the Year.

"I'm shocked right now. I don't know all the names on the list of previous winners, but the ones that I can recall...they've done amazing things for our community. I can't believe that I'm on that list," Mitchell said.

"One of the things that I believe is that we were lucky as a family to move to this community that's full of these people whose main focus is to make this place better for all of us."

Shauna Curtin, SDCF Chairperson, said it was an honour to inform Mitchell that he'd been selected as the Citizen of the Year for 2021.

"Brett Mitchell is certainly a most deserving recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award and I'm proud to congratulate him on behalf of the Selkirk & District Community Foundation," Curtin said.

"His hard work and incredible energy definitely make our communities the best that they can be."

Jim Pelletier nominated Mitchell for the Citizen of the Year Award and says Mitchell's energy is limitless and so too is his dedication to the communities of Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements.

"I couldn't think of a more deserving, hardworking and community minded individual than Brett Mitchell," Pelletier wrote.

A few of Mitchell's volunteering gigs include board member for the Festival on the Red, member of the Dufferin Gang Committee, Lockport Development Group and the Selkirk Biz. He's also had a hand in Selkirk's Canada Day celebrations, Triple S Fair & Rodeo, the Santa Parade, Homes for the Holidays and Holiday Alley, the Highland Gathering and the Lockport River's Edge Run.

Mitchell has dedicated much of his adult life to raising funds for and awareness of Huntington Disease. His father lived with Huntington Disease and Mitchell made the difficult decision to be tested to see if he had it as well – the tests showed he does not.

He's involved in the Huntington Indy Go Kart Challenge, Rally the Sleds for HD Guinness Book of World Records snowmobile runs in 2002, 2003 and 2005, the HD500 500 K snowmobile ride since 2014 and Light It Up for HD at the Merchant Hotel.

Congratulations, Brett Mitchell!

Warm Wishes for a Bright Giving Season



2021 – 2022 Board of Directors and staff, from left:

BACK ROW: Pam Seekings, Brian Chorney, Brandon Sutherland, Davide Thorne, Bev Clegg (Executive Director). **FRONT ROW:** Carole Wiedemann, Bonny Wynnobel, Eileen Janowski, Shauna Curtin (Chairperson), Barbara Knoll. **MISSING:** Greg Dewar, Terry Neplyk.

The days are shorter and the weather is decidedly chillier, while here at the Selkirk & District Community Foundation I'd like to report that you've warmed our hearts with your generosity once again – *for this we are truly grateful!*

2021 was a busy year for the Foundation – the Board continued to meet virtually to keep the Foundation 'Here for Good'! Some of our work is the privilege of considering the excellent grant applications we receive. The thoughtful, caring people that write these applications are in touch with the genuine needs of the community. This year I would like to give a special shout out to the volunteers, community facility operators, educators, municipal leaders and non-profit representatives who let the SDCF do the important work of sharing the donations. We also congratulate the 36th Citizen of the Year, Brett Mitchell! He is a shining example of the generous spirit that makes our community so special.

Finally, to all our donors along with those who think of us throughout the year – **THANK YOU!** From small to large, all donations contribute to long term benefits to our community. Just like our most recent announcement – granting \$74,817 to 20 community organizations where support was given to youth, accessibility, community facilities, culture and much more. All of this is possible because of the kindness and willingness to share, which exists so abundantly in our community.

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation Board and staff wish you and your family a **Happy Holiday Season**, today and into the New Year.

– Shauna Curtin, SDCF Chairperson

By the Numbers

November 2021 – Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge

7 Days of Giving	\$72,802 Total donated to SDCF
Smart and caring donors	178 Being "Here For Good"
	Priceless

SDCF provides more than \$74,800 in grants from fall intake

It's the perfect Time for Kindness. The SDCF has embraced that sentiment and granted \$74,817 to 20 different community projects, including those that support recreation, mental health, the arts and a safe place in times of crisis.

Shining a light on the Clandeboye outdoor rink



Frozen skating party at the Clandeboye rink

Folks in the Clandeboye area know how important the local outdoor rink is and when an aging hydro pole came crashing down Oct. 4 and threatened to bench evening skating, board members had to act fast.

"This wasn't a project that we planned for this year, it caught us by surprise and it really made us worry, so how lucky were we to have Selkirk & District Community Foundation jump on board and really save us," said Clandeboye and District Recreation Association board member, ice maker, caretaker and more, Vivian Desjarlais.

"We were able to turn to the Foundation who came through with a substantial amount of funding for us that made this project possible. Had we not had them, I know for a fact that we would not have any evening skating this season, it just would have to be daytime because we'd have no lights."

SDCF moved quickly, granting \$11,500 to replace the old poles and install LED outdoor lighting, and provided another \$4,500 to paint the exterior of the building and buy some hockey and broomball sticks.

Desjarlais, who grew up at the Clandeboye rink and watched her own sons learn to skate there, says the rink has always been a community gathering place and when COVID hit, it became even more so.

The clubhouse couldn't open, but the ice was in and people were coming out in droves. She said they routinely had 30-60 people a night skating and using outdoor benches to put on their skates.

They set the lights to auto timers and let the good times roll.

"We were just wowed with what we were seeing on our video cameras," Desjarlais said.

"We were just absolutely taken aback to see what our little rink was doing. It was really at that time we realized how important we are in the community."

The ice is ready to go for the winter, and the Coyotes Learn to Play Hockey Program and Learn to Skate Program are set to begin.

Blanket programs wrap us in warmth



Established blanket program Project Linus and the new Tied With Kindness both received grants from the SDCF.

St. Andrews School teachers Gina Doyle and Krista Bruce liked the connection that Tied With Kindness – a blanket making program – offered students and both felt there was plenty they would gain.

The program has students hand tying tassels onto blankets that will be given to the Nova House Shelter for women and children in crisis.

Doyle said the students will be introduced to Nova House and the services it provides and they will be working together providing a valuable community service.

"The students will learn many things, including the act of generosity," Doyle said.

"Shifting the focus from ourselves to others can have powerful effects. Doing something good for someone else can boost your own happiness."

Working together as a team with their classmates will allow students to practice co-operation and communication skills, build self-confidence and develop social connections.

Making and giving the blankets will also instill a sense of community and community service.

"(This will) expose them to and develop the ideals of community service. My main focus will be on volunteering our time without needing something in return and all good things take time."

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation provided a grant of \$1,065 so they could purchase materials and equipment to create the blankets.

"The grant is extremely important to our project running," Doyle said.

"The grant will provide us with the resources needed to create at least 15 blankets. Without the grant we would only have the funds to create 3 or 4 blankets."

The SDCF also funded Project Linus, a long-standing blanket making group in the area, with \$750 to purchase storage bins and material for the blankets they give places like Inclusion Selkirk, Nova House and Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

Time to take care of mental health



Sources of Strength will be implemented into the Lord Selkirk School Division thanks to a grant from the SDCF. The program focuses on social emotional learning, suicide prevention, mental health and well-being.

Provincial funding to implement a universal suicide prevention program in Manitoba school divisions was exciting news for Heidi Fingas, Director of Student Services for Lord Selkirk School Division, but the reality was the program was still financially out of reach.

"Sources of Strength is an evidence-based program that's been shown to be quite supportive with social emotional learning and suicide prevention, mental health and well-being, all those big check boxes for recovering from COVID and returning to school," Fingas said.

LSSD was fortunate in that it had two divisional social workers willing to take the training, which helped keep costs down, but it would still be about \$20-\$30,000 to implement it into the entire division. Materials and resources were extra, totally about \$15,000 for the elementary schools alone. A Selkirk & District Community Foundation grant through the Gaynor Family Fund to LSSD Student Services allowed the division to move ahead with the program.

"The financial piece was a bit of a struggle and having the opportunity to offset the cost with the Foundation's grant was an absolute grace to us because we wouldn't have been able to do it," Fingas said.

"Having this grant to support the materials and resources piece gave us the ability to go larger, go divisionally rather than just what we were looking at originally, which was four schools."

The province made the funding available to help with recovery from COVID, and it is necessary, but Fingas said it's a program that has value at all times.

"This program is valuable whether it was COVID or not, whether it was recovery learning or not. It focuses on mental health, family support, positive friends, mentorship, healthy relationships, physical health. There's the wheel of all the different sources of strength that you pull from to help support the students and the staff. So it's not student focused, it's school focused."

In Vital Signs, the SDCF's 2018 report card of the state of our community, the proportion of people in Selkirk, St. Clements and St. Andrews saying they have mood or anxiety disorders was 24.6%, 20.1% and 19.1% respectively, up in all cases from 2008.

Vital Signs suggested three things we could do to make a difference: ask a friend to come for a walk, wear purple on World Mental Health Day to recognize and promote mental health and expand mental health resources for youth.

New mural a welcomed addition to East Selkirk Legacy Park



This mural, in a Selkirk Manitoba Avenue pocket park, is eye catching and was created with the help of an SDCF grant; St. Clements' East Selkirk Legacy Park is the recipient of a grant that will allow for a mural to be created there.

The East Selkirk Legacy Park is the most apropos of places for a new 560-square-foot Community Spirit Mural and by next summer it will be a reality.

The RM of St. Clements is working with the Interlake Art Board and world-renowned mural artist Charlie Johnston – a Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School graduate and St. Andrews resident to create the mural. The project received \$10,000 from the SDCF toward the project, marking the first time the Foundation has funded a mural project outside the City of Selkirk.

"We are thrilled the Foundation has come to this side of the river, and East Selkirk will be added as another destination to Red River North Tourism's Mural Tour," said Sandra Strang, St. Clements Councillor.

"Hopefully we can see more murals in St. Clements, possibly in Lockport, or even Grand Marais?"

The mural will add another layer to Legacy Park and coincide with the completion of a long-awaited project, the Community Donor Recognition.

Strang thanked the Foundation for its contribution to the important project and said it has everyone looking forward to summer.

"We are very excited that after reaching out to the Interlake Arts Council and with the Selkirk & District Community Foundation grant, St. Clements is going to be home to another mural in our area. This mural is going to be an exciting addition to our Legacy Park," she said.

"Council is excited to see what Charlie Johnston along with other local artists, will create for our community."

We know that the arts are an integral part of any community and the Foundation's 2018 Vital Signs Report found that visits to the Selkirk Community Arts Centre were on the rise; a 2012 survey of Canadians found that 87 per cent of regular arts attendees said the arts make them feel part of their local community.

Murals bring art to the public in a seamless way and make their pure joy accessible to all.



COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
Spring Intake, deadline:
Monday, February 28, 2022



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DONATE TODAY
and be a part
of the HERE for GOOD team

Look for our DONATE ON-LINE button at sdcf.ca

Donate with a cheque addressed to:
Selkirk & District Community Foundation
200 Eaton Ave., Selkirk, MB R1A 0W6
Call us at 1.204.785.9755
or email selkirkfoundation@sdcf.ca

Connecting your smart and caring gift with the perfect fund

At the Selkirk & District Community Foundation, we know that when you make the decision to give, it's because something is important to you. We appreciate that and have created a variety of ways for you to do so. We're confident you'll be able to match what you care about with the right fund at SDCF.

When you donate to the Community Fund, your gift will help out at any number of deserving groups throughout the community, such as daycares or senior organizations.



COMMUNITY FUND

If your decision to donate is based on helping wherever help is needed, the Community Fund will resonate with you. It's an undesignated fund and matches donated dollars with all kinds of deserving groups, from daycares to senior centres and cultural dance troupes to women's shelters. It's a smart and

caring fund that fulfills both the wishes of our donors and the dreams of charitable community organizations. Your donation to the Community Fund can be a general donation, or if you wish, can be directed to a Named Fund, such as:

- Bud & Doreen Oliver Family Fund
- Rob Cox Memorial Fund
- Jeanne & Dexter Harvey Fund
- Kinsmen, Kinette & K-40 Clubs of Selkirk



The John Mytz Memorial Fund is a Designated Fund that was created by John's wife Irene and family to honour his love of reading.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

With a Designated Fund, you can get specific and target your donation to one or more charitable community organizations to be the perpetual beneficiary. These funds include:

- Amma's Bookshelf
- Edith Schofield Estate
- John Mytz Memorial Fund
- Leslie & Marguerite McRae Family Fund
- Libri Fund
- Lord Selkirk School Division Scholarship Foundation Fund
- Mooring-Griffioen Family Fund
- Palliative Care Fund
- Selkirk & District Community Foundation Administrative Support Fund – Buhr Family Endowment Initiative
- Selkirk General Hospital Fund
- Selkirk Heritage Endowment Fund
- Selkirk Youth Hockey Assoc., Fund
- Travel Kit Fund



Our Daily Bread Endowment Fund supports marginalized people with food security that may include the organization's regular food provision program, support of local breakfast programs, seasonal hamper programs and other social justice food programs.

AGENCY-DESIGNATED FUND

The SDCF stays true to the vision of original donor groups who created these funds to support local community organizations' missions, values and so much more:

- Chief Peguis Heritage Park Fund
- Inclusion Selkirk Futures Fund
- Marine Museum of Manitoba (Selkirk) Fund
- Our Daily Bread Endowment Fund
- St. George's Wakefield Anglican Church Fund
- Selkirk Accessible Transit Endowment Fund
- Selkirk Parks Endowment Fund
- Selkirk Recreation Endowment Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST

You can cover a lot of ground with a thoughtful donation to a Field of Interest Fund, which enables your gift to assist many organizations that are near and dear to your heart. For example:

- Children's Programs
- Homes for All Fund
- Olive & Bill, Joseph and Michael Cholosky Music Fund
- R.M. of St. Andrews Fund
- Western Canada Games Legacy Fund



The Olive & Bill, Joseph and Michael Cholosky Music Fund is a Field of Interest Fund that supports community and/or school-based programs that enhance and develop music.

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

The SDCF has a variety of scholarships and bursaries that support and help the future education of deserving students through the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School and other education and community-based organizations. For a complete listing of all the scholarships visit our website at sdcf.ca

DONOR ADVISED FUND

When you donate to a Donor Advised Fund, you're fulfilling not only your gifting goals, but the goals of the individual or group that created the fund with a specific community need in mind:

- Curtis Niemi Legacy Fund
- Endowment for the Arts
- Gaynor Family Fund
- Local Environmental Action (LEAF)
- Local Leaders Fund
- Kirstin's Walk for Kids Fund
- McLeary Family Fund
- Michele & Gary Polinuk Fund
- Parker Sutherland Memorial Fund
- Polinuk Family Fund
- R.M. of St Clements Fund
- Richard & Ruth Konzelman Fund
- Sean Nicol Legacy Fund



The Michele & Gary Polinuk Fund is a Donor Advised Endowment Fund that fulfills the Polinuk's passion to help their home community by supporting programs that deal with physical and mental health care.