



Finding the bright spots in a difficult year – it's you! Thanks for giving



2020 – 2021 Board of Directors and staff Ltr: Carole Wiedemann, David Thorne, Shauna Curtin, Greg Dewar, Aaron Martyniw (Chairperson), Pam Seekings, Brandon Sutherland, Bev Clegg (Executive Director), Terry Neplyk, Deann Lane, Barbara Knoll MISSING: Eileen Janowski

Citizen of the Year Michele Polinuk enjoying unique celebration

It's doubtful that we're breaking news here, but Michele Polinuk is the 35th Citizen of the Year!

In a normal year – and we know 2020 is anything but normal – the Selkirk and District Community Foundation would have hosted its annual banquet and Polinuk would have been feted by friends and family and colleagues and co-workers.

Instead, the Foundation has held a series of mini-celebrations for Polinuk to make honouring her, in this most unique year as memorable as it possibly can be.

There was a balloon and flower drop from friends and nominators while she had tea during an interview; there were more gifts delivered to her home and then there has been all the good times spent creating congratulatory videos celebrating Michele Polinuk and her Citizen of the Year award.

Recently retired from her position as the Lord Selkirk School Division's Superintendent, Polinuk is a Selkirk girl born and raised, who began her teaching career in Winnipeg before heading home.

Her list of volunteer involvement is too long to list in its entirety, but includes the Selkirk Rotary Club, where she's held the position of president twice, the SDCF, Education Research Development & Innovation Corporation, Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority, Interlake Eastern Regional Health Foundation and the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents.

She said her commitment to community comes from her parents and grandparents who supplied a lifetime worth of good examples for her to follow.

"I learned growing up that you needed to be a part of the community, it's just what you do," she said.

"That's what I always saw. My dad and mom were involved in so many different clubs and organizations and my dad actually ran the parade for a while. I saw them not only going to things but bringing things home and working on them at home."

Polinuk was perhaps the perfect selection for the award in this year of social distancing – the absence of an award ceremony was of no consequence to the perennially positive Polinuk.

"I'm just so deeply touched. What a year in so many ways and it's so good to have some good things come out of such a year like this," she said.

"For me personally...I like being unique. I like doing things in a different way anyway so all of this is just so intimate and personal. It's kind of cool."

Congratulations Michele, we think you're pretty cool too.

From Aaron Martyniw, SDCF Chairperson

Happy holidays to everyone! I hope this Selkirk and District Community Foundation Community Report finds you and yours well.

2020, well, what can I say? It's been a year like no other and one that I hope we can take some positives from. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have been many and my wish is that this difficult year has brought us closer to our children, our parents and grandparents, and helped us embrace all the good things in our lives. We will get through this and come out better on the other side.

There were many bright spots this fall – the SDCF gave out \$130,196 in grants to 16 deserving organizations. Your generosity has made this possible. During our "Week of Giving" we witnessed more of our community members give and in greater amounts. Your caring spirit, even during crisis, has once again made our communities soar. Thank you for your giving!

We also celebrated the 35th Citizen of the Year, Michele Polinuk. Michele is a most deserving recipient, she's a friend and colleague, and I couldn't be more thrilled for her. She has been a force for good in this community for years and, like the Foundation, I know she's Here for Good and will be a dedicated volunteer for years to come.

In closing, on behalf of the SDCF, I wish you all a happy holiday season! Stay safe everyone!



The SDCF crew and Polinuk's nominators celebrated her Citizen of the Year honour in unique ways, much to the delight of someone who embraced this year's challenges.

Libri Start Up Fund a real page turner



The newly created Libri Fund will provide an ongoing legacy to support the library in the future.

Libraries are quiet places by design and when you're in one, the turning of pages, though often barely audible, is sometimes the only sound you can hear.

For Ken Kuryliw, it's like music to his ears.

And now, thanks to the Libri Fund, a new Designated Fund at the Selkirk and District Community Foundation, that music will play on for years to come.

"We are very excited about the Libri Fund, as it will provide an ongoing legacy to support the library in the future," says Kuryliw, the Director of Library Services at the Gaynor Family Regional Library.

"The money allows for the operation of the library so it's more books, and sustained programming for the community."

Libri means 'book' in Latin and the fund was created by Selkirk citizens Duane Nicol and Erin Nosal, whose reverence for

books and libraries, and what they mean to a community, moved them to donate.

Libraries are meeting places and safe spaces and they bring people together, as well as providing "tools to make ourselves better in mind, spirit, body and community", the couple wrote in a note to the Foundation.

An initial \$5,000 donation has been made and a second, which will bring the fund to the benchmark of \$10,000 for a Named Fund, will be made in the near future.

Kuryliw says the fund is important to the library's future.

"The Selkirk and District Community Foundation partnership has been critical to the success of the Gaynor Family Regional Library, and this endowment fund provides everyone with a way to support our efforts to the community, for literacy, affordable recreation, lifelong learning and community sharing."

SDCF provides more than \$130,000 in grants from fall intake

Though it may seem like COVID-19 has ground us all to a halt – and in some ways it has – this fall the SDCF has granted more than \$130,000 to 16 local organizations to keep them moving forward during this difficult time.

Food and so much more



Delivering food to Growing Years families has been a learning experience – food is essential, so too is human contact, even from an acceptable social distance.

For Growing Years Family Resource Centre, a SDCF grant of \$7,000, out of the Gaynor Family Fund, will help them continue to deliver essential food to clients.

They've been making the deliveries for the past several months – including some meal bags complete with all the ingredients and a recipe – and it's been therapeutic for both recipients and the delivery person.

Shawna Cromie, Director of Growing Years, said they've made more than 150 food deliveries and learned they're bringing more than just good nutrition to people's front doors.

"We noticed early on this wasn't just about the food...People were as happy with being able to connect with us as they were with getting the food," she says, noting they maintain social distancing during deliveries.

Kids run out the door, happy to grab a bag of apples, and parents light up, eager to engage in conversation.

Cromie says SDCF grants are a reminder how special and connected this community is.

"Knowing that it's community members who donate to the Community Foundation, who in turn provide that gift back to the community members that need it the most, is just such a beautiful full circle moment."



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Alzheimer Society comes together in a virtual way



The Alzheimer Society is allowing clients and family members to connect virtually thanks to a grant from the Richard and Ruth Konzelman Fund.

Samantha Holland, Interlake-Eastern Regional Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba, says an \$1,800 Foundation grant via the Richard and Ruth Konzelman Fund has allowed her to stay connected to clients and family members who need support, perhaps even more, as the pandemic keeps them from coming together.

"We've been able to do a lot of new and interesting things. One of the biggest things is our virtual support group for care partners," she says.

She invited five existing support groups to a Zoom meeting with fantastic results.

"It went awesome, it grows every month and right now I have a list of about 25 – 30 people that have attended. There are people that come every month, whereas in person they might not have."

The Konzelman Fund supports health education that has a positive influence on quality of life and it seeks to improve, maintain or safeguard the healthcare of the community, and with the new virtual connections Holland is able to do just that.

In one case, a sibling from B.C. has been able to join family discussions about their family member's care, and, she's able to offer online education sessions to family members and health care professionals as well.

The Minds in Motion program has also gone virtual.

New app will map your successful tour of local history



The RM of St. Clements Heritage Committee is using a \$6,000 grant from the SDCF to create an app that will guide people to discover heritage treasures as they drive from the Forks through to the East Beaches.

The app will give users their own personal tour guide as they visit sites like the St. Andrews Church and Rectory, Lower Fort Garry, St. Peters Dynevor Church or historic Eveline Street in Selkirk.

"We developing an app for people who want to find out about the heritage treasures of this area, the app will help them find them," said Fraser Stewart, Chair of the St. Clements Heritage Committee.

"While you're standing on site, the app will give you a further visual and when you get back in your car, you get a narrative."

Stewart says the app is perfect for the COVID-19 era, allowing users to have a virtual tour guide with them while they drive from location to location in the safety of their vehicle.

Creating an app to assist today's citizens as they tour the past has long been a desire for Stewart, but it was cost prohibitive. The discovery of an Ontario company that has an affordable option brought it into reach and the SDCF grant helped them grasp it.

"The Foundation has always been very helpful to the organizations that I've been involved with, whether it's the Marine Museum or the St. Clements Heritage Committee...and we've been going since 1989."



Community Grant Program Spring Intake

– deadline:

Monday March 1, 2021

Donate Today
and be a part of the
HERE for GOOD team



Look for our DONATE ON-LINE button at
www.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@shaw.ca

Connecting your smart and caring gift with the perfect fund

At the Selkirk and 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 give. We're confident you'll be able to match what you care about with the right fund at SDCF.

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)
- Kirstin's Walk for Kids Fund
- McLeary Family Fund
- Parker Sutherland Memorial Fund
- R.M. of St Clements Fund
- Richard & Ruth Konzelman Fund
- Sean Nicol Legacy Fund

Rick and Laurie Sutherland created the Kirstin's Walk for Kids Fund in memory of their daughter, and are "humbled by the support that so many people have shown to the Walk", all in Kirstin's memory.



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:

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



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 Selkirk Canoe Kayak Centre has received many Foundation grants over the years, and recently was the beneficiary of new canoes, paddles and safety equipment through the Western Canada Games Legacy Fund.



"Henry" was made possible through the Community Fund and helps hard working volunteers Stan Lesnick, Fran Tobin and Kathy Long at the Clandeboye Community Club



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 Wakefield Anglican Church Fund
- Selkirk Accessible Transit Endowment Fund
- Selkirk Parks Endowment Fund
- Selkirk Recreation Endowment Fund



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
- Leslie & Marguerite McRae Family Fund
- Libri Fund (Start Up 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



Donor Kit, shared – "I've been lucky enough to learn about different cultures, history, art and architecture in my travels and my hope is that the Travel Kit Fund will allow young people, through their school, to receive funds to help cover travel expenses."

"We connect on giving to the Foundation personally and professionally," said Merilee Mollard, Fund Developer at Inclusion Selkirk, and, along with husband Charles Birt, a regular donor to the Foundation. "For us, giving is a no-brainer, and we wanted to give in person during the Giving Challenge to make sure they know we appreciate them."

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.