

Connecting with...

Endow
Manitoba
YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NETWORK



Chair's Message



It's All About The Connections

It's hard to believe, but it's the end of 2023! December is always a time to reflect and looking back on this year, it's the connections we made that stand out to me.

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation is, at its core, about making connections. We strive to bring people together, to connect donors with causes of importance to them, to connect organizations with grants that enable them to make their communities thrive and to connect the past, the present and the future and be *Here for Good*.

This year we were selected to host the Community Foundations of Canada Board of Directors for its October Board meeting. It was a huge honour and we delighted in showing our community to board members from other Foundations from across Canada. It was a moment we were all proud of, and we came out enriched by the experience.

The Foundation welcomed Meredith Boerchers to our team. Meredith is our Community Development Officer, and I'm sure many of you have already

met her and know how wonderfully she fits in with the Foundation.

The Giving Challenge Week was another huge success and we were pleased to be able to have a chat and share a coffee with those who came out on the Saturday to donate in person.

The Foundation once again was able to connect local organization with grants from the Community Services Recovery Fund, established by the Government of Canada to help charities and non-profits as they recover from the pandemic.

In the pages of this report, we'll share stories with you of some of the great organizations that your donations have supported this year.

In closing, on behalf of the Board and staff at the Foundation, I wish you all the best this holiday

– Shauna Curtin,
SDCF Chair

TIM
EDWARDS

38th Citizen of the Year

The 38th Citizen of the Year is a busy man, so much so that when Tim Edwards was informed of the honour, he had to finish his duties in the canteen at the Grand Marais Tuesday night bingo before he could let the news sink in.

His friend Terry Neplyk nominated Edwards, who works tirelessly at the Grand Marais Community Centre.



"I had heard rumblings about a nomination in the wind, so to speak, but I didn't realize any paperwork had been put through. To be honest I wasn't really interested in getting an award, but I am flattered by it and what more can you say? Terry and I will be talking a little later on. But I am very appreciative," Edwards said.

Edwards' involvement in Grand Marais includes: President of the Grand Marais Rec Association, head organizer of the annual Santa Parade & Breakfast and the SAFE Halloween event, spearheading renovations at the old Grand Marais curling rink and turning it into a multi-purpose room, and Past President/Director of the Grand Beach Area Development Corporation.

Neplyk called Edwards a "huge part" of the community who volunteers for "everything, anytime, anywhere, anyplace".

Though Edwards would have been happier to have the spotlight focused on anyone else, he humbly accepted the recognition.

"I'm honoured, flattered, never saw this coming and actually I'm really honoured to get this award," he said.

"I'm retired, I've got a pretty easy schedule...we do it for our community, we do it because we want to leave a legacy behind, we don't want to see the place close up and it was close to that a few years ago.

"Now it's (god), we've got a lot of help, a lot of grants and a lot of prayers answered I guess you could say. We're gonna keep moving forward."



The Selkirk & District Community Foundation supports and serves on Treaty One Land and the home of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, OjiCree, Dakota, Dene and Metis peoples. We acknowledge that our Indigenous peoples are the stewards and guardians of this land. As a community and workplace that embraces the values of diversity and inclusion, we honour and celebrate our Indigenous nations, their traditional knowledge and their contributions to all our communities. We acknowledge the harms of our shared history on Indigenous people, and that we pursue a path forward that is inclusive and supportive of reconciliation within all our communities.



Riley, Nakita and Kayla are looking forward to the reopening of the Riverside Grill.

Riverside Grill on its way back

If there was any doubt that Riverside Grill had a connection with Selkirk, it's been put to rest in the time since the community staple had to shut down due to the pandemic.

The good news is, the Grill is coming back, and the Selkirk & District Community Foundation has provided a grant that will help out.

"Short and sweet, we couldn't do this without the Selkirk & District Community Foundation. And Selkirk needs its Grill back. Probably weekly, we have somebody ask when we're going to open the Grill again," said Merilee Mollard, Fund Developer at Inclusion Selkirk.

"We don't have a date, but we'll get it open."

When Inclusion Selkirk – which owns and operates the Riverside Grill as a social enterprise – went to reopen the popular dining spot, it was clear that the months spent idle had done significant damage to the air exchange unit in the kitchen. On top of that, there were new codes and they needed to come in line with those.

Along with the new system, they'll do some upgrades to the kitchen, but make use of whatever existing elements they can.

"Inclusion is great at using what we have, so it will be a combination of what we need, which is a new grill, the new air exchange, and that's really where the expense is. There's a lot of stuff in there that we love, that the cooks love using, that will stay."

The Mighty Kiwi – which doesn't use a hot kitchen – has been operating out of the location since summer, and Mollard says they're grateful for that.

"Thankfully we have friends in the community that needed a space, we've worked well at various activities like Holiday Alley with the Mighty Kiwi over the years and all they need is a panini press and a blender," she said.

"It has worked out well for us and it has worked out well for them. And it's kept them in the community for the community."

MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS

Thanks to your donations, the SDCF was able to connect 20 organizations with grants from the fall intake totalling **\$131,760**.

Some of this year's grants will support early years learners, curling for all ages, bag pipers of all ages and the rebirth of the Riverside Grill.

Pipe Band connects young and old through love of bagpipes

For the past few years, when Robbie Burns night rolls around, the Clandeboye Hall is full of folks immersed in Scottish culture, checking out the haggis, the highland dancers and listening to the Clandeboye Pipe Band.

On Jan. 27th, 2024, if you're lucky enough to be at the Clandeboye Hall for the Scottish celebration in Mr. Burns' name, the pipe band will sound even better than last year.

Band President Gary Alexander says a grant from the Selkirk & District Community Foundation will allow the band to buy new chanters for their bagpipes and skins for their drums.

"We're going to improve the sound of the

Alexander, left, with past pipe major Dennis Schindler



band with matching chanters, so that all of the pipers sound alike," Alexander said.

"It's kind of important. A lot of us play different types of bagpipes and to have matching chanters makes the band sound better and makes it easier for the people in charge to tune the pipes."

The band was formed about five years ago and Alexander says

they're a teaching band and open to anyone who wants to learn. Their membership sits at around 18 members – 12 bag pipers and six drummers – and they range in age from nine to 68 years.

"That would be me, the old guy," Alexander laughed.

But his point is, anyone can learn. He played when he was around 10 years old, but then put the instrument down for the next 50 years. He's reconnected with the pipes now and he's hoping others who want to learn will come out and give it a try.

"We're always looking to recruit," he said. "We want new members and they can be any age."

Selkirk curling up and running with new ice plant

A successful bonspiel requires a few standard elements – curlers, brooms, rocks, snacks and beverages and, of course, a curling club to host it.

The same can be said of a curling season, and if you're shy a few players or the fry machine is on the fritz, you can still make a go of it. But when the club's ice plant crashes, you're in trouble.

That's what happened to the Selkirk & District Curling Club last spring, but timing and a couple crucial grants made the trouble a lot less troublesome.

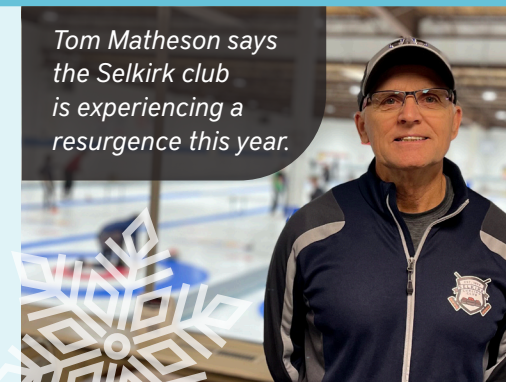
"The compressor went last March 17. It was horrible, catastrophic, but the timing was perfect because we were essentially finished curling for the year so we had a few months to go out and start fundraising and working on the project," said club Vice President Reid Henderson.

"We're up and running...but it was a big potential hit to us."

A provincial grant cut the \$62,000 price tag, and the Selkirk & District Community Foundation connected with the club to offset costs even further.

"The province stepped up which helped out for half, but as a curling club we don't have a lot of money

Tom Matheson says the Selkirk club is experiencing a resurgence this year.



in the bank, so the Foundation coming through is just awesome. We're floored," Henderson said.

After about a week of getting the kinks out of the new system, the club started curling after Thanksgiving. Leagues run all week and on Saturday morning it's Learn to Curl for juniors.

"We have 48 kids that come out every Saturday...and it costs them roughly \$7," Henderson said.

"We give them a broom, a slider, they get full instruction and it's affordable."

The kids also get to fill their bellies with breakfast sandwiches from Coralea's Kitchen. Owner Coralea Courtland took over the kitchen this year.

"It's fantastic food," he said.

"It's a place to come and watch live curling, if you want to watch curling on TV, you can, and it's just a great space."

East Selkirk Early Learning Centre welcomes first kids

Three levels of government came together to build the new East Selkirk Early Learning Centre under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Now Director Laura Barthelette is putting it together, room by room.

The ready-to-move building arrived earlier this year and opened its doors in late November.

Furnishing the space that will over time accommodate 74 kids is no easy task – money is hard to come by and everything is expensive.

"We received a \$33,000 start up grant for this space from the government, it furnished one room," Barthelette said.

"We still have five more rooms to go, so any help we can get is greatly appreciated."

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation granted \$18,000 to the Centre and that's having a positive impact on the timeline.

"It means being able to get more rooms furnished and open sooner rather than later," Barthelette said.

"It helps with a lot of things like the chairs, the tables...a lot of equipment, like science stuff, and cots for the kids."

The Centre is under the Hand in Hand Daycare umbrella, which operates at Happy Thought School and in Breezy Point. With an estimated 200-plus kids on the waiting list, Barthelette

says the opening of the building is exciting. "We watched it go up for quite some time so we're happy to be in here."

Supporting new child care spaces connects with the Foundation's 2018 Vital Signs report, that showed a need for more spaces in the region.

The next challenge is finding staff. Like all day cares, that's a huge challenge.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
Spring Intake, deadline:
Thursday, February 29, 2024



@selkirkdcf



Selkirk & District
Community Foundation



sdcf.ca

Donate Today!

online at www.sdcf.ca

OR

with a cheque addressed to
Selkirk & District Community Foundation
200 Eaton Ave., Selkirk, MB R1A 0W6

OR

call us at
1.204.785.9755 or email
selkirkfoundation@sdcf.ca

Community Fund supports food security over the holiday season and all year long



We already know you care about your community, and 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.

A donation to the Community Fund allows us to help fulfill the community's greatest needs by connecting your donations with the Foundation's Charity of Choice. Simply put, the Community Fund has the flexibility to allow donors' gifts to land where they are needed most. During the holiday season, and all year long, food security is a big concern. Recent Charity of Choice recipients include:



Connected to the Numbers

November 2023 - Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge

7 Days of Giving

174 Smart & Caring Donations

\$88,245 Total donated to SDCF

Being 'Here for Good'
Priceless

- R.M. of St Andrews Seasonal Hamper Program - supported through Abundant Life Lutheran Church
- R.M. of St Clements Seasonal Hamper Program - supported through Abundant Life Lutheran Church
- Seasonal Hamper Program - East Beaches Social Scene
- Power of the PJ Program and food security support - Nova House
- Supporting local food security programs - Inclusion Selkirk, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Selkirk Friendship Centre, Selkirk Food Bank, Lord Selkirk Education Centre
- Nutrition over the Weekend (NOW) - Rotary Club of Selkirk
- Camp Stepping Stones - Interlake Eastern Health Foundation



The Lily Pad Cruisers know where it's at, and they showed up to donate during Giving Week Challenge.

Foundation Facts



\$4.5 million Dollars granted to the community since 1997



71 Funds that strengthen our community



125+ Community organizations funded