



**Books unleash the imagination – two funds paying out for the first time this year will support the Gaynor Family Regional Library.**

## **New funds paying out this year to support Gaynor Family Regional Library**

February is I love to Read month and it's fitting for the Selkirk & District Community Foundation to proclaim that it loves to support reading, not just in February but all year long.

Two Foundation funds created in 2022 to support literacy will pay out their first grants this year.

The John Mytz Memorial Fund and the Libri Fund are two of four funds held at the Foundation that support literacy, and both support the Gaynor Family Regional Library. The other funds that support literacy are Amma's Bookshelf, which gives a copy of the Margaret Wise Brown classic *Goodnight Moon* to all babies born at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre, and the Mooring-Griffioen Family Fund, which provides grants to the library to assist interlibrary loan services costs and the purchase of books.

Bev Clegg, Executive Director of the Foundation, says a minimum of \$10,000 is required to create a Named Fund and it takes time before the fund can pay out.

“When a fund is created, the donated money is invested and it takes time for interest to accumulate,” Clegg said.

“The power of endowment is that it ensures long-term support for charities and non-profits in our communities. The original investment is never touched, it’s only the interest that is used for granting. The timeline for a fund to start paying out is typically three years. So we have these two funds this year that are paying out for the first time and, since it’s I love to Read month, we’re excited for the donors and for the Gaynor Family Regional Library as the recipient of these grants.”

The John Mytz Memorial Fund was created by his wife Irene following John’s passing 2021.

Irene told the Foundation when the fund was created that John had a library card since the time he began reading and as a young boy started spending time at the library, then located near where the mall is today.

“She told us that John was an avid reader who had a great memory, he knew a lot of trivia and a lot of Selkirk’s history, so a fund that benefitted the library was perfect,” Clegg said.

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.

“A library is a community hub for the region. Books are a key part but there are so many resources, features, and programs within a library that make a community connected and results in social and economic benefits,” Nosal said.

“This is an investment for all and that’s why Duane and I started the Libri fund to ensure continued support for this vital service. We love our beautiful library and know many do as well and will join in to donate to the Libri fund.”

For Foundation Chair David Thorne, donors like Nicol and Nosal and the Mytz family are critical to keeping the Foundation Here for Good.

“It’s their commitment to community that drives them to create a fund and, for these folks, to support literacy and the Gaynor Family Regional Library,” Thorne said.

“And in these two cases, both families have a history with the Foundation and have been donors on more than one occasion. We’re thankful for the fact they continue to think of the Foundation and trust the Foundation to carry out their wishes.”

The first donation the Foundation ever received was from the Maple Drive Gang, and Irene Mytz was part of that gang. Nicol and Nosal have created several funds at the Foundation.

Funds they are connected to include The Sean Nicol Legacy Fund, Local Leaders Fund and the Larry & Arlene Nicol Legacy Fund.