



New members, left to right, Aaron Hoium, Rachelle Naherney, Maralee Jehle, Aaron Martyniw and Ralph Quade.

SDCF says hello to five new board members

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation is welcoming five new members to its executive and Chair Deborah Vitt is looking forward to working alongside each and every one of them.

“Anytime new members join our team it’s exciting,” Vitt said.

“Foundation board members all share a common goal of making our communities the best they can be and supporting each other in achieving that goal. The new members have all spent time volunteering for various causes and we’re thrilled that their experiences and skill sets are going to enhance the Foundation team.”

Aaron Hoium, Aaron Martyniw, Rachelle Naherney, Maralee Jehle and Ralph Quade are the new members, replacing the outgoing David Thorne, Brandon Sutherland, Kelly McDonald, Ryan Werbicki and Wendy Meger

Martyniw is no stranger to the Foundation, having served on the board from 2017 - 2021, before having to step down for work commitments. The Regional Vice President for RBC in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and Northern Ontario is back and he's ready to pick up where he left off.

"It feels like reuniting with a long-lost friend. Familiar and warm, but new at the same time. The newness comes from the many new faces, but the spirit, energy and enthusiasm are present as ever. It's amazing how the Foundation finds people dedicated to our communities and eager to serve," Martyniw said.

"I guess that's what I like about the Foundation the most. Like minded board members all with the goal of making our communities better places for all. I can't think of a better cause than that!"

Martyniw steps into the role of Treasurer.

Hoium and his wife have lived in St. Andrews for more than 30 years and raised their three children in the community. He is the owner of No Frills and through his business supports the community in numerous ways. He was recognized with the Community Spirit Award in 2023, Philanthropist of the Year in 2024 and he received the No Frills Community Award for Western Canada recently.

Hoium saw the Foundation from a unique vantage point and probably got a pretty good understanding of its workings because of it.

"My wife and I learned about the Foundation through our good friend and neighbour (former Executive Director) Bev Clegg a number of years ago. When we saw the benefits that numerous local groups received, we really felt this was a great way to help improve and support our community. When I was nominated, I took this as a great honour and I thought this could be another way to help support the Foundation," Hoium said.

"I think when community works together to improve the lives of our residents in various ways it makes us stronger and helps us support everyone who lives here. I am looking forward to helping the Foundation and meeting more folks."

Naherney is the Division Manager of IG Wealth Management in Selkirk and volunteers for numerous organizations including the Rotary Club of Selkirk, Interlake Football Club and the Lockport Band Parents Association, to name a few.

Naherney says a great community is one where people feel connected, supported and included. Volunteering, she says, is essential because it strengthens those connections and encourages people to take an active role in shaping their community.

“I believe strong communities are built by people who are willing to invest their time, knowledge and resources,” Naherney said.

“The Foundation has a meaningful role in supporting local initiatives that have a lasting impact and I would be proud to contribute to that work.”

Jehle and her husband Grant own Fort Distributors and have lived in St. Andrews for the past 26 years and she says they prioritize supporting local community initiatives. Prior to starting their family, she worked in public relations and marketing for non-profits in the City of Winnipeg.

Her volunteer work includes school Parent Advisory Councils, and the Lockport and Comp Parent Band Councils.

Jehle says she’s watched the Foundation grow over the years and has always been impressed with how much it gives and the impact it has on the community.

“Great communities thrive when people support, respect and help each other,” Jehle said.

“Volunteering brings people together and offers opportunities to those who might not have access to certain resources. And it allows us to learn about each other, our cultures and backgrounds and what different needs are within our community.

Quade is a distinguished Canadian Armed Forces veteran with 39 years of service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, royal Canadian Navy and joint operations within all three branches of the military.

He’s travelled the world with deployments to Croatia, Golan Heights/Syria, the Middle East and Afghanistan. He grew up in Winnipeg and Germany and has a lengthy history of volunteerism, including as the Communications and Community Liaison with Habitat for Humanity Selkirk.

All his experiences have prepared him well to serve on the Foundation board.

“I have travelled to the four corners of the planet, some outstanding some not so much, my military work always revolved around logistics and supply chain management, the delivery of humanitarian needs in Croatia, Syria, and Afghanistan and helping those in need the most,” Quade said.

“It's been a part of my life for 39 years, now with SDCF and Selkirk's Chapter for Habitat for Humanity, I am able to focus locally, close to home. We are proud to have chosen St. Andrews our home, and equally proud to have been accepted into the community at large.”

He says people make communities great and he's looking forward to working with the Foundation.

“A diverse community with different ethnic backgrounds and cultural identities is a very colourful pallet of life,” he said.

“The history of the Red River Valley, Selkirk, the immigrants and the generations that followed in their footsteps. Our community is extensive and empowering those who can do good is very rewarding.”