



COMMUNITY MATTERS

Fall · Winter 2017

Communities flourish through generosity.

Community Foundation Breaks Bread with Friends

The Community Foundation's annual Friends of the Foundation Dinner took place on September 28 at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and Conference Centre. Commemorating 150 years of Canadian Confederation, the Dinner featured a keynote address by Dr. Sheila McManus of the University of Lethbridge Department of History. Delivering a presentation prepared by Belinda Crowson, Dr. McManus regaled the crowd with newly-unforgotten tales of Southwestern Alberta's past.

The address shed light on many quirky subjects, from little-known buildings and businesses to bizarre people and their exploits. Dr. McManus spoke of the popularity of alfalfa palaces, temporary structures built entirely out of alfalfa bales that were used for fairs and exhibitions. Dr. McManus also recounted the unusual luck of David Clausen, a Swedish immigrant to Lethbridge who survived the sinking of three different ships, including the Empress of Ireland, and as a carpenter, built, among other items, a two-seat



Dr. Sheila McManus of the University of Lethbridge Department of History delivered the keynote address at the Friends of the Foundation Dinner in September. outhouse now in the collections at the Galt Museum & Archives. Dr. McManus then shared a tale of high flight, that of eleven-year-old Thornton Tweed. As a grade six student at Galbraith School, Thornton set a Canadian aviation record in 1935 for the youngest solo flight, taking off from the Lethbridge Airport and landing without error ten minutes later.

The Community Foundation offers special thanks to Dory Rossiter, who once again served as the host and emcee for the evening; Dale Ketcheson, for lending his musical talents to the cocktail hour program; and Kurt Roy of Kurt's Kustom Photography, for documenting the evening's festivities through the lens of his camera. We also wish to thank all of our friends for helping us celebrate the evening, and for helping to ensure Southwestern Alberta's future is as bright and colourful as its past.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Charleen Davidson



As we move into the holiday season, we start to wrap up another busy, but successful, year at the Community Foundation.

Fall officially began for us with our annual Friends of the Foundation Dinner at the end of September. The evening is a perfect way to catch up with longtime friends and to make new

friends as we share highlights from the past year, including our annual *Giving Together* publication. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the festivities, with special thanks to our keynote speaker Dr. Sheila McManus, and our emcee, Dory Rossiter.

At the beginning of October, we launched our fifth annual *Vital Signs* report. This year, we strategically aligned *Vital Signs* to our Community Priorities Grants program, reinforcing the interconnectedness of our work. *Vital Signs* enables us to talk to members of our community, understand their concerns, and hear their dreams. We use the data we collect to identify ways that we can continue to help build a healthy and vibrant community where everyone has a sense of belonging.

We moved into November with Random Act of Kindness Day, a day set aside to promote and celebrate kindness. We invited our community to join

us and engage in random good deeds, encouraging people to pay it forward. Wanting to lead by example, we donated mitts, gloves, and toques to Streets Alive to help keep their clients a little warmer this winter. We also donated baked goods to the local police and EMS detachments as a thank you for all the hard work they do to keep our community safe. We are happy to award ten \$500 Kindness Grants to Kindness Squads for the registered charity of their choice. For more information on Random Act of Kindness Day, please see page seven.

Also in November, we helped to celebrate National Philanthropy Week, proudly supporting the Inspiring Philanthropy Luncheon as the premier sponsor. We were delighted to see our friends at the Lethbridge Auto Dealers Association (LADA) receive recognition for their philanthropic spirit. Since partnering with us in 2014, the LADA has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to our community. Congratulations to all of the LADA's members for this well-deserved recognition.

December brought with it our Fall Grants Celebration. Congratulations to the 30 grant recipients! We are proud to support the important work you do and we wish you the best of luck with your projects. For a full list of grant recipients, please see pages four and five.

As we move into the holidays, we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make this year so successful: our donors, our volunteers, and our friends. We wish you the best of the season.

Please note:

On December 22, the Community Foundation Office will close at 12 p.m. The Office will also be closed December 25, 26, and January 1.

From December 27-29, the Office will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular business hours resume on January 2, 2018.

We wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!



COMMUNITY

VISIT

The Community Foundation Team began the month of September with a visit to the stunning Waterton Lakes National Park, where we met with representatives from the Waterton Park Community Association. Accompanied by Cliff Elle, Birthe Perry, and Ronda Reach of the Community Foundation Board of Directors, we had a productive discussion about the challenges faced by charities and community groups in Waterton and how the Community Foundation can be of assistance.

We also received updates on projects in and around Waterton that received funding from the Community Foundation before receiving a tour of the Waterton Community Centre. Once a two-room schoolhouse, the renovated and restored building continues to serve the community, now as a gathering space for many different events. Successful applications to the Community Foundation's Community Priorities Grants program have helped to secure the Community Centre's audio-visual equipment and portable stage.

Less than a week after our visit, Waterton was placed under a mandatory evacuation order as a result of the Kenow Fire. The Community Centre functioned during this period as a command post for firefighters and emergency workers as they fought to keep the blaze from destroying the townsite. Thanks to the efforts of first responders, the Park sustained



Cliff Elle (left) and Birthe Perry (right) of the Community Foundation Board of Directors in conversation with Marianne Reeves of the Waterton Park Community Association (middle). only minimal structural damage. Now, however, begins the natural process of reforestation, which will see Waterton's ecological beauty renewed for the next generation of Southwestern Albertans to enjoy.

We extend our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who worked to protect this beloved jewel of Southwestern Alberta, and we look forward to spending many more wonderful days in the Park in the years to come.

THANKS AND FAREWELL

As 2017 comes to a close, we say goodbye to Cliff Elle and Birthe Perry, whose terms on the Community Foundation's Board of Directors expire at the end of December. We thank them both for sharing their time, expertise, generosity of spirit, and friendship over the past six years.

Cliff Elle



Cliff Elle joined the Board of Directors in 2011. He served as the first Chair of the Rural Life Committee. Originally coming to us as a representative from the Pincher Creek area, Cliff and his wife recently moved to Lethbridge, which will make keeping in touch that much easier.

Birthe Perry



Birthe Perry joined the Board of Directors in 2011 and served as the Chair of the Vital Signs Committee. We will miss the calls from her "office," but she will not be too far away—Birthe has agreed to remain on the Vital Signs Committee as a member representing the community at large.

GIVING AND GRANTING

Fall Community Priorities Fund

This fall, the Community Foundation proudly supported 30 organizations in Southwestern Alberta with \$217,800 in project grants from the Community Priorities Fund, which serves the pressing needs of our community. The funding for these grants is provided by income earned from endowments that were established by generous donors as unrestricted funds at the Community Foundation over the past 50 years.

Seven projects also received a combined \$10,000 in funding from the Lethbridge Auto Dealers Association, to which we express our gratitude.



Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge, \$15,000:

Construction of permanent artist kiosks at Casa's east square as part of the AAC's 60th anniversary celebration plans.

Granum Museum, \$4,000: Construction of washroom facilities for the museum.

Granum Public Library, \$5,000: Purchase of new computers and office software.

Bellecrest Senior Citizens Club, Crowsnest Pass, \$10,000: Building renovations to construct a full kitchen, available for use to any of the groups sharing the space.

Great Canadian Plains Railway Society, \$4,000: Installation of period-correct oak flooring in the Railway Park's interpretation of the Coutts-Sweetgrass International Train Station's American Customs Room.

Blood Tribe Social Development, Blood Reserve, \$15,000: The Awanatsinatsi Beautification Project addresses the lack of community parks in Moses Lake on the Blood Reserve.

L.T. Westlake Fine Arts Elementary School, Taber, \$8,000: To expand the school's music program, the grant will be used to purchase a set of xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels, and contrabass bars.

Carriage House Theatre Foundation, Cardston, \$8,000 (\$1,500 from the LADA): To enhance the quality of theatrical productions, the grant will facilitate the installation of energy-efficient LED stage lighting.

Lethbridge & District Horticultural Society, \$12,000: Installation of a water feature as part of a planned ornamental garden within Legacy Park in North Lethbridge.

Catholic Central High School, Lethbridge, \$10,000: To enhance the school's fine arts programs, the grant will facilitate the purchase and installation of a new lighting console for the Eggplant Theatre.

McMan Youth Family and Community Services Association, Lethbridge, \$10,000 (\$2,000 from the LADA): In order to provide reliable transportation for youth in transitional living situations, the grant will go toward the purchase of a vehicle for Parkside Group Home.

Claresholm Arts Society, \$5,800: Installation of permanent stage lighting within the Claresholm Community Centre.

Milk River Historical Society, \$6,000: Restoration, for historical preservation, of a North-West Mounted Police barracks.

Crossroads Counselling Centre Society, Lethbridge, \$5,000 (\$1,000 from the LADA): Renovations will focus on creating additional workspace and increasing the privacy of the client reception area.

Nanton Thelma Fanning Memorial Library, \$3,500: As a component of a modernization project, the library will use the grant to purchase new computers.

Dr. Hamman School, Taber, \$10,000: Purchase of a new sound system, speakers, and projector system for their gymnasium, which is also used by many community groups.

Nord-Bridge Senior Citizens Association, Lethbridge, \$15,000 (\$1,500 from the LADA): The Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre will undergo repair work to the concrete subfloor replacement of the carpeting, which was installed when the facility opened in 2001.

Empress Theatre Society, Fort Macleod, \$7,500 (\$1,000 from the LADA): Purchase of updated electronics, including new sound and lighting boards.

Park Meadows School, Lethbridge, \$10,000: Construction of a new playground accessible to all students, including those with limited mobility and special needs.

Raymond High School Show Choir, \$2,500: Purchase of computer equipment, microphones, and related accessories for use in choir performances.

Raymond Playhouse Society, \$4,000: To enhance performances put on by the groups that use Raymond's Broadway Theatre, the grant will facilitate upgrades to the sound room and mixer system.

Royal Canadian Legion Pincher Creek Branch #43, \$5,000: Renovations to the Legion building in Pincher Creek will include installation of roof vents and re-insulation of the ceiling.

Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society, Taber, \$13,500 (\$1,500 from the LADA): Construction of office space within the basement of the Community Outreach Building to enable the organization to accommodate a recent expansion of services and increase public outreach programs.

Stavely Museum, \$3,000: Renovation of the museum building that houses an antique wooden threshing machine from 1904, improving the historical context of the exhibit.

Theodore Brandley Library, Stirling, \$5,000: To meet growing demand from the community, the library will undergo renovations to expand the area used for youth and other public programming.

Town of Stavely Library, \$2,500: Addressing accessibility concerns of library users with poor eyesight, the library will purchase a new laptop and large secondary monitor.

Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Club, Lethbridge, \$2,000: Assisting in dancers' skill development, the grant will go toward the purchase of portable glassless mirrors for use during rehearsal.

University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music, \$6,500: This initiative will add several percussion instruments to the collection housed at Casa and used for music education and programming offered to the public.

Vauxhall High School, \$5,000: Construction and landscaping of a school-run greenhouse to introduce students to botany. Produce grown there will be incorporated into the school's meal programs.

Wrentham Fire & Rescue Foundation, \$15,000 (\$1,500 from the LADA): A volunteer fire department in existence since 1965, Wrentham Fire & Rescue will purchase life-saving rescue tools and accessories for use in attending motor vehicle collisions.

Funding for Rural Communities

The Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life provides support to sustain a high quality of life in rural communities throughout Southwestern Alberta.

In October, the Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,500 to the **Chinook Arch Regional Library System** for a project aimed at increasing the resources and collections of rural libraries within the system. A number of items intended to increase physical activity, including giant board game sets, mini-golf equipment, and other "physical literacy kits," are now available at rural libraries as a result of this grant. These kits increase the number of recreational opportunities and activities accessible to residents of rural communities in an effort to decrease the divide between rural and urban living.

Funding was approved in November for the following projects:

Pincher Creek & District Historical Society, \$4,800: Museum Week in Pincher Creek: Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village will host a series of workshops geared toward Southern Alberta's rural museums, museum volunteers, and members of the Southern Alberta Museums Association.

Canadian Medical Association, \$8,500: "Ayaakksimokiwa Ksaahkomm" Learning Grounds Project Phase 2: Additional funding will enable this initiative, which embeds Indigenous teachings into health education practices, to extend its curriculum through the 2017-18 school year.



CEO Robin Hepher (left) and Public Services Manager Lisa Weekes (middle) of Chinook Arch Regional Library System with Community Foundation Executive Director Charleen Davidson (right).

BERT RIGGALL UPDATE

A Canada 150 grant awarded by the Community Foundation has taken on a life of its own.

When Beth Towe, project co-ordinator for the Canada 150 Bert Riggall Heritage Horsemen Experience in Waterton, received word that her project had been selected for funding back in January, her expectations were modest. She planned to use the grant to develop a sustainable tourism program honouring the legacy of turn-of-the-century environmentalist Bert Riggall and the piece of Canada that he fell in love with. It soon grew into much more, becoming a deep dive into some of the lesser-known history of Waterton Lakes National Park.

Waterton gained its reputation as a jewel of Southwestern Alberta thanks in large part to Riggall's efforts as a photographer, naturalist, and mountain guide. His photos gave Canadians their first glimpses of Waterton, popularizing the region's natural beauty and establishing the area as a tourist attraction.

As one of the first naturalists working in the Waterton area after Alberta joined Confederation, Riggall's efforts encouraged an emerging conservation movement. Riggall's archives, including maps, diaries, letters, and some 14,000 photographs, were deemed to have "outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, and his conservation work has inspired a number of organizations in Waterton today.

It was with this legacy in mind that plans for a heritage tourism experience took shape. Using a map hand-drawn by Riggall in 1913, Towe and her colleagues planned a series of horseback trail rides along the boundary of Waterton Lakes, passing historically and environmentally significant landmarks. In partnership with the Buffalo Runners Society, they also developed a hike that highlighted Indigenous points of interest throughout the Parksite.

While planning routes for each event, Towe and her colleagues came to the realization that there were few documents about the evolution of the park's boundaries and the surrounding conservation initiatives. They worked with Parks Canada, the Nature



Riders take part in one of the new trail programs offered by the Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation as a result of a successful application to the Community Fund for Canada's 150th. Photo submitted by Beth Towe.

Conservancy of Canada, and private cartographers to produce a series of maps illustrating how Waterton's geography has evolved over time.

Through research into Riggall's archives, the group was also able to put together an interpretive program. Offering a unique perspective into conservation in Waterton, the program eventually became the manuscript for a book. *Bert Riggall's Greater Waterton: A Conservation Legacy* collects over 300 of Riggall's photographs, and features writings by Canadian authors Sid Marty and Fred Stenson, among others. "The first publisher we showed the manuscript to agreed to publish it," remarked Towe. "These maps, the professionally-written text, and access to the Riggall photographs are considered important legacies of our Canada 150 project."

Response to the initiatives has been wildly positive, surpassing the expectations of everyone involved. The trail ride has been updated using feedback from early participants, debuting in 2018 as a permanent event, and the book will also be available early in the new year.

For Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada 150 was an event that, though marred by near-disaster, broke records, realized milestones, and, thanks to the Bert Riggall Environmental Foundation, earned the park a new understanding of its history as one of Canada's most beautiful natural treasures.

VITAL SIGNS

2017



The Community Foundation's fifth Vital Signs report was launched at our office on October 5. Analyzing the vitality of Southwestern Alberta, the report uses local data, sources, and information to assess quality of life in six Impact Areas: Community Connections, Environment, Lifelong Learning, Healthy Communities, Living Standards, and Cultural Life.

On hand to speak at the launch were Amanda Berg, President of the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge, and Jody Francis, the Housing Liaison Worker for Fort Macleod. Together, their remarks told a story of belonging. They highlighted how inclusion in a community takes place on many levels, encompassing the basic need of safe and functional shelter as well as the more complex elements of association, including how culture helps cultivate a vibrant and distinct sense of community spirit. The Community Foundation has provided support to causes improving the quality of life in these areas.

The Community Foundation uses Vital Signs as a tool to spark conversation, inform donors about community need, and focus granting programs.

To read 2017's Vital Signs, visit cflsa.ca/knowledge.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

DAY

Anne Herbert once wrote, "Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty." This message helped to inspire Random Act of Kindness Day. Started by the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation, the initiative takes place every year on the first Friday in November.

This year, we encouraged everyone to put together Kindness Squads to perform good deeds for their friends, family, coworkers, or even perfect strangers, and tell them to pass it on. Each participating Kindness Squad and

contributing sponsor was entered into a draw for one of ten \$500 Kindness Grants to the CRA-registered charity of their choice.

On November 3, the Community Foundation Team partnered with Volunteer Lethbridge and formed our own Kindness Squad. As part of our plan to spread kindness, we brought toques and gloves to Streets Alive, treats to emergency responders, and cupcakes to businesses in Lethbridge.

Throughout the day, we received messages from kind-hearted individuals sharing with us the ways they



had braved the snowstorm to show how kindness has roots in the community. We were inspired by the giving spirit and ingenuity demonstrated by everyone who participated.

We extend a special thank-you to contributing sponsors Crazy Cakes and Save-On Foods North Lethbridge for generously donating the treats that we offered during the day.

Congratulations to the following ten Kindness Squads! They have each won a grant for the registered charity of their choice:

- BDO Financial ("The 'A' Team")
- Career Transitions
- Chinook High School ELL Class ("The Kind 'Yotes'")
- Crazy Cakes (sponsor participant)
- Dr. Hamman School, Taber
- The Gratitude Squad, Glenwood
- Lethbridge Regional Police Service ("The Law of Kindness")
- St. Patrick's Elementary School, Taber
- U of L Advancement ("The Girl Gang")
- UVolunteer ("Kill 'em With Kindness")

GRANT

DEADLINES

The Community Foundation is proud to support Southwestern Alberta through three granting programs, established through private donations made by generous individuals since 1966.

Community Priorities Fund

The Spring intake for applications to our Community Priorities Grants program will commence in January. Applications will be accepted until March 15.

Youth in Action

Applications to the Youth in Action granting program will be accepted beginning in January.

Henry S. Varley Fund for Rural Life

The first deadline for applications will be in Spring 2018.

For full details regarding applications to any Community Foundation granting program, please contact the office or visit our website, cflsa.ca/granting.

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(Lethbridge)

Bob Short
(Lethbridge)

Laurel Van Vaerenbergh
(Picture Butte)

The Community Foundation extends a warm welcome to Renee Richards, Kevin Ronan, and Bob Short, whose terms on the Board of Directors will begin in January.

Community Foundation Staff

Charleen Davidson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rob Dowell
RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY
KNOWLEDGE COORDINATOR

Caitlin Gajdostik
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