



Deep River & District Community Foundation

2014 Annual Report

President's Message

This is the 13th AGM of the DRDCF and I think it is important to remember those people who had the vision and worked hard to establish the Foundation back in 2003. Without their fervor and tenacity we would not be here tonight and would never have been able to give the over \$100,000 in grants to the communities we serve for important projects. The founding members were:

Bruce Bigham, Chris Carroll, Saulius Fidleris, Jennie Forster, John Hilborn, John Hulbert, John Ormrod, Gwen Milton and David Sutherland.

A big thanks is also due to all of you who support the ongoing work of the Foundation. You have shown that our motto of Giving Back is a realistic one and we are seeing the benefits of that support, even through the financial recession in previous years. For yet another year, we have seen a strong financial performance in our portfolio which has enabled us to approve over \$25,000 in grant requests this year.

The Foundation set a million dollar goal recently and this has helped to generate a significant increase in donations. Our target is getting closer, approaching \$900,000 in 2014, and we look forward to achieving it.

A special thanks to our dedicated board members who work in sub-committees of the board focusing on finance, publicity, grants, fund agreements, constitution and nominations. We have been particularly fortunate this year in securing the services of Glen Wolgemuth to act as our treasurer once again. Glen's experience, attention to detail and commitment to the organization ensures that we maintain our financial records with comprehensive detail and accuracy.

We have also been fortunate in retaining the support of former Board-member Kathy Amunds as chair of our nominating committee as her experience and connections have proven invaluable to retaining a full board once again this year. I also want to thank my Co-chair for 2014, Mike Ueltzhoeffer. This sharing of responsibility has worked well for the Foundation.

The Foundation has recently found a permanent home and address for our records and files in the Deep River library. This provides us with the continuity and permanency that this organization needs in order to continue to meet our legal obligations.

New members are also important to sustaining the role of the Foundation into the future. We were delighted to welcome Martin Bagshaw onto the board in 2014 and are also pleased to have found two

other new members this year. We welcomed Michael Stephens to the board in the New Year when board member Pam Charron moved to Ottawa. The other new name will be coming forward at the nominations portion of this meeting.

As new members come on board we unfortunately also lose valuable contributors who hand over the reins of their dedicated involvement with the Foundation. We thank Pam Charron for her contribution to the board and wish her well in her new community.

One valued and committed individual that we will be also losing this year, because her term of service to the board has expired, is Fenella Lane. Fenella has been a wonderful asset to the board for the past 6 years not only as a board member but also as secretary. She is another person who has helped keep us on track and ensures that we follow the rules; she will be sorely missed by the board. Thank you, Fenella, for all your hard work over the years.

While a strong investment strategy has ensured growth of our funds, we could not reach the almost \$900,000 investment we have today without the continual support of this community with your generous donations. It is always so gratifying to see this incoming contribution and to pass along to others the annual earnings your contributions produce.

The Foundation also benefitted from a contribution from one of the consultancies who are bidding in the process to take over operation of CNL as a Go-Co. Lougheed Martin sent us a donation of \$10,000 US in December 2014 which translated to \$11,287 CAD. This was an unexpected contribution, for which we are grateful.

This year we were particularly fortunate when a local couple decided to cash in a number of their shares and donated the proceeds of \$6,247 to the Community Foundation. When I asked them how they benefitted from this they told me that it resulted in a “huge” tax deduction for them, and that it was very simple for them to just turn the shares over to the Foundation who sent them to our financial advisors Nesbitt Burns to sell. Most importantly, it gave them an enormous sense of satisfaction that they could contribute to their own town in this way. We encourage all of you to consider this type of donation as there are many benefits to you and to the Foundation. Please speak to our treasurer Glen Wolgemuth if you have any questions.

Below are highlights of the grants given in 2014:

- A grant of \$3,500 given to the Four Seasons Conservancy to build a boardwalk across Betty’s Marsh to provide even more access to the Four Seasons trails. The project also includes the creation of an outdoor environmental education program for school children from Grades 1 to 12 in both the public and Catholic schools.
- Two grants totaling \$12,400 were given through The Environmental Support Group to build two accessible pathways around the marina and the yacht club area.
- For the second year, DRDCF has supported the Deep River Symphony Orchestra in their School and Community Outreach program. I had the pleasure of attending one of these events at Mackenzie Community School where a brass quintet, Centretown Brass from Ottawa, presented four different mini-concerts tailored to different grade levels, demonstrating their instruments, engaging students in discussion, and playing traditional and popular music for students. This

included Star Wars and TV themes which the students really enjoyed. This type of program is a solid step to engaging students in the value and excitement of music and specific instruments at a time when schools are challenged to find enough in their budget for music programs.

By partnering with groups such as these, we can leverage our limited resources to achieve more. Of course, the more financial support that is given, the more our local groups can be helped financially to sustain and improve our community for the benefit of everyone.

We always welcome more grant applications. If you know of a group who would like to apply, please refer them to our website, listed on our agenda, where they only need complete a simple application.

I believe you can be proud of your Community Foundation and the work it does with the donations on your behalf. The Board merely acts as a conduit for your generosity between your donations and community groups. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mary MacCafferty, President