



Deep River & District Community Foundation

2014 Annual Report

President's Message

Welcome to the 14th AGM of the DRDCF. It really is a privilege to stand before you and represent an organization that exists because people in our own community willingly and enthusiastically share their good fortune for the benefit of the entire community. People like you! What a concept today that this enduring desire to share continues to thrive to provide support and assistance to others when there is so much conflict and greed in many parts of the world.

We are hearing a lot these days about the “sharing economy,” in which things are shared by people who own resources with those who need or want them. For example, Uber taxis and Airbnb rental accommodation have spread worldwide by offering needed services through online technology. It is regarded as a new concept and indeed some of its current successes would not exist without the technology that we have access to today.

The concept of sharing resources, however, is not new. The Community Foundation model of sharing resources pre-dates the newest examples of the sharing economy today.

For almost 100 years, since 1921, community foundations in Canada have harnessed the human impulse to share resources for the improvement of the community. Families, individuals, businesses and nonprofit groups have established funds within community foundations into which they have contributed a variety of assets to be used by the community.

So sharing isn't brand new. This model has been around for a long time. Deep River and district have been enthusiastic supporters of this sharing model for 14 years now, since 2003. With your help its assets have grown to over \$900, 000 and it has given away almost \$180,000 to local causes.

It is people's sense of pride and belonging to this community that has been the powerful catalyst for the cohesive, inclusive society that Deep River and district has become, with organizations such as the community foundation.

We thank 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.

It is not by chance that the Foundation has sustained its investments through these difficult financial times. We thank our Finance Committee, ably chaired by John Hilborn, along with Glen Wolgemuth, Doug Milton, Ron Desrochers and Fenella Lane for diligently managing the funds, under the

advisement of Nesbitt Burns, to maintain a balanced portfolio that has prevailed. For yet another year, we have seen strong financial performance in our portfolio, which has enabled us to approve \$36,600 in grant requests in 2015.

I would like to give a special thanks to our dedicated board members who work in sub-committees focusing on finance, publicity, grants, fund agreements, constitution and nominations. We have been particularly fortunate this year in finding a new volunteer secretary, Tess Carina, whose enthusiasm and hard work are very apparent in everything she does for the foundation. Tess has also indicated that she would like to join our organization as a board member in order to contribute further to our work.

We thank Fenella Lane for hanging in with us for yet another year since she stepped down as Secretary, assisting with the hand-over of duties to Tess and the board.

We also could not be as successful as we are without the diligence and solid work ethic of Glen Wolgemuth, our Treasurer, whose 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 community connections have proven invaluable in retaining a full board once again this year.

New members are also important in sustaining the role of the Foundation into the future. We are pleased to have found another new member this year as well as Tess to replace our two outgoing members. The other new name will be coming forward at the nominations portion of this meeting.

As new members come onboard unfortunately we also lose valuable contributors who hand over the reins of their dedicated involvement with the Foundation. We thank John Hilborn and Ron Desrochers for their valuable contributions to the board and wish them well in their many other commitments in this community.

Here are some highlights of the grants we gave in 2015 (Glen Wolgemuth will list all of the disbursements for 2015 in his financial report):

- Two grants were given to the Four Seasons Conservancy to continue their work building 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. Importantly, school students were active participants in this project, by designing, producing and installing elements of the boardwalk and its entrance.
- A grant of \$5,000 was provided to the North Renfrew Long Term Care Services to help purchase a new emergency electricity generator, an important infrastructure upgrade to ensure that their residents are protected in the event of a power failure.
- A grant of \$5,000 towards a fund for the Deep River & District Hospital to purchase four telemetry units. These are portable heart monitors and are being used both in the emergency department and for in-patients.
- \$3250 was also provided in annual scholarships to five deserving students advancing to college or university.

By partnering with groups such as these – the Four Seasons Conservancy, Long Term Care Facility and the hospital, 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. It is always so gratifying to see this incoming contribution and to pass along to others the annual earnings your contributions produce.

We always welcome grant applications for further projects. 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 your donations on your behalf. The Board merely acts as a conduit for your generosity, managing the investment of your donations and transferring their earnings to local charities and community groups. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mary MacCafferty, President