

VitalNews

June 2019

2019 FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

Thank you to our donors and supporters for attending our annual Spring Grant presentations in May!

A total of \$280,290 in funds was dispersed to local charities, community groups and school divisions.

Numerous organizations applied for funds through the Smart & Caring Community Grants in March. After thorough analysis by a committee of several local volunteers and board members, CFSEA was proud to announce the results and acknowledge their donors for their contributions at the Founder's Day Picnic. A total of \$126,900 in Smart and Caring Community Grants was dispersed to twelve different agencies.

The Foundation received applications in excess of \$300,000, but grant giving is limited as it is based on the investment performance of its endowments. Current CFSEA Endowments are over \$13 million.

The grants announced at the Founder's Day Picnic included funds to support youth, health & social services, poverty, animal welfare, community development and education.



Board Vice-Chair Ajit & Grants Chair Cheryl Pocsik present a \$25,000 grant to Maureen Mudry, Manager of Parks Planning & Development and Dr. Ken Sauer Secretary with the Medicine hat & District Track and Field Society for resurfacing of the track in Crescent Heights.



Jennifer Ottenbriet, Assistant Director of the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society accepted a \$10,000 Smart and Caring Grants for the replacement of a shelter security system.

Thank you to Pritchard & Co. Law Firm for sponsoring the 2019 Founder's Day Picnic!



PRITCHARD & CO.
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2019 COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Our former Vital Impact Grant application and process was recently changed to distribute one large grant that could truly make an impact.

The result was the Community Impact Award, a \$25,000 grant designated for charities with new and innovative project ideas that show creativity and leadership in supporting a vibrant, healthy and caring community.

Using information from our 2017 Vital Signs Report, agencies who address the priorities of Work & Economy, Mental Health and Vulnerable Populations were invited to submit Letters of Intent. Three organizations were then chosen to present their projects to our committee.

The Community Leadership Committee and Board of Directors presented our very first \$25,000 Community Impact Award at the 2019 Founder's Day Picnic to the South East Alberta Search and Rescue Association for their Collaborative Emergency Response Project.



SEASAR representatives from left to right DeLea Mapstone, Mark Keller and Paul Carolan accepting the \$25,000 Community Impact Award at the Spring Grants presentation.

RBC FUTURE LAUNCH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE



Today's problems need more than yesterday's solutions. We need bold new thinking to help meet the challenges of the future. The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge is a call to action for youth, and an opportunity to bring young leaders to the decision-making table as we build strong and vibrant communities for the future.

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta is pleased to host the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge and to make up to \$60,000 available to youth-led projects across Southeastern Alberta that will respond to one central question.

What is your boldest idea to respond to an urgent local need?

By applying for a grant and bringing a local project to life, youth will have opportunities to lead, learn new skills, gain experience and build relationship in their local communities – all things that will help them prepare for the future of work. The Community Challenge goes far beyond Southeastern Alberta, participating Community Foundations will make grants and learning opportunities available to youth-led initiatives in 150 communities from coast to coast to coast.

To learn more about eligible projects and how to apply, follow this link; <https://cfsea.ca/uncategorized/rbc-future-launch-community-challenge/>

The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge is made possible thanks to support from the RBC Foundation and is part of RBC Future Launch, a commitment to empower Canadian youth for the jobs of tomorrow!



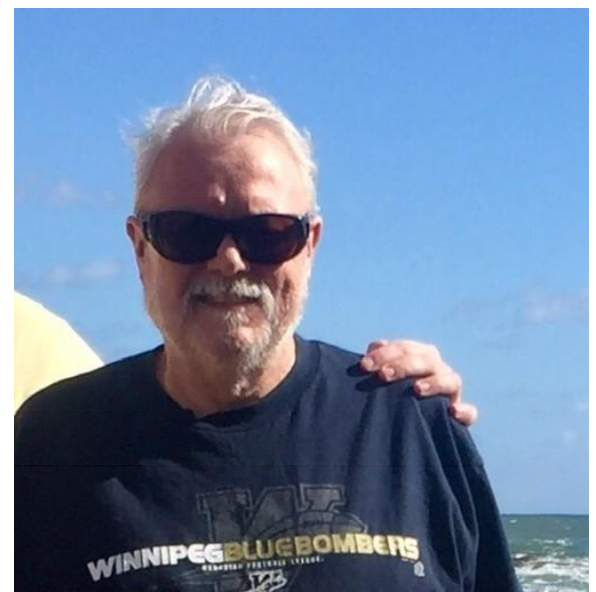
Meet Board of Director Larry Johnson

Larry Johnson has been an active Board member with CFSEA for five years acting as Treasurer for two years and Chair of the Finance and Audit committee during this time. We are honored to have had Larry be a part of our CFSEA team for so many years. Thank you for your financial expertise and passion for our community.

Larry was raised in a family who valued the importance of giving back to their community. Growing up in a culture of volunteering, Larry found it a natural progression to be involved in organizations that enhanced the quality of life for the residents of his community.

"Led by these values of community mindedness and civic engagement, I soon realized that benefits of volunteering were actually accruing to me. I was meeting like-minded individuals and discovering needs in the community that needed to be supported. We were working together to solve gaps in services and helping individuals and organizations that needed a hand up. It is a very rewarding pastime." Larry says as he reflects on his volunteer time in Medicine Hat.

"The community of South Eastern Alberta has been very good to our family since we arrived here 22 years ago. I am so pleased that I am in a position to give back. I realized many years ago that an endowment that provides annual grants within the community which doesn't expend its capital is an important and wonderful source of perpetual funding for a community's needs. When I had the opportunity to join the CFSEA Board of Directors, I had to take it because the work we do now and in the future will help to sustain and improve this community forever!" says Larry.



RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Sean Blewett and Larry Johnson for their combined 9 years of dedication to the CFSEA Board of Directors.

We would like to wish you both the best of luck in all of your future adventures.

HERITAGE CLUB UPDATE

Heritage Club Members are those who have made a conscious decision to build today into a better tomorrow... to leave a gift for the lives that follow. They believe in the potential of our community today and action that belief with a planned gift that will ensure vibrant, healthy, caring communities – today, tomorrow, forever!

At the Spring Grant presentations in May, we recognized two of those Heritage Club Members. Thank you to Ken Biemans, who accepted a Heritage Club pin in honour of his mom Elizabeth Biemens who recently left a generous gift to CFSEA in her estate. Drew Barnes was also recognized as a Heritage Club Member.

Thank you to our many donors who choose to leave a legacy that will go on forever.



Left to right CFSEA Executive Director Chris Christie, Ken Biemans and Vice-Chair Ajit Atwal



Left to right Chris Christie, Drew Barnes and Ajit Atwal



We have been very blessed – and are so grateful - with an ECAP Transition Grant from the Government of Alberta! ECAP stands for Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program.

This funding has helped support CFSEA in:

- Building the capacity of other nonprofit organizations and broader voluntary sector (through Vital Signs, Vital Conversations, Board Leadership Southeastern Alberta, Great Grant Writing Workshops, ED Network, Food Systems Mapping Project, Vital Charities)
- Revising and enhancing our ongoing operations (new strategic plan, By Law and policy review, preparation for Imagine Canada accreditation, Terms of Reference, Board recruitment and orientation, updated marketing materials and plan, evaluation of Grant Making and Community Leadership activities, staff training, establishment of three rural community endowment funds)
- Obtaining alternate revenue sources (an anonymous donor to help staff the three rural community funds for three years, enhancing donor engagement/giving and corporate sponsorships)

Thank you GoA – Culture and Tourism for making a short term investment in the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta so that we can make a long term investment in our region!



DONOR PROFILE

Mason Close was an incredible young man, loved by all who knew him. He impacted the lives of many young people through his love of sport and coaching.

Mason also silently struggled with anxiety and was knew of the stigma attached to mental health issues.

Mason's family have established the Strikeout Stigma in Honour of Mason Close fund that will help provide supports to young athletes with similar struggles. If you wish to make a donation in honour of Mason, please call our office or follow this link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36129>

CFSEA Regional Development

It has been an exciting couple of months for the Prairie Crocus Community Fund, which serves the region of Special Areas 2, 3 and MD of Acadia.

“I’m having a wonderful time meeting with community members,” says Kim Stief, Community Fund Coordinator. “I’ve done several presentations to local organizations and individuals. They were all very interested and supportive of this initiative.”

Kim has more meetings coming up and is always looking for opportunities to promote the fund.

“We have received donations, which is good news for the community!” shares Stief. “Every dollar donated brings us closer to the first \$10,000 to secure the matching \$10,000 from CFSEA, for our fund and an additional \$10,000 in grants.”

Recently, the Prairie Crocus Advisory Committee, led by Chairperson Linda Bingeman, held a meeting to review and discuss the grant applications from the region for the 2019 Spring Grant Cycle.

“It was a good learning experience,” comments Bingeman.

The committee’s recommendations were presented to the CFSEA Board. Successful grant applicants were announced at the Spring Launch Event, on June 6 at the Canalta Hotel in Oyen. As well as announcing grant recipients, the event formally introduced the Prairie Crocus Community Fund to the area.

To make a donation or to find out more about what is happening with the Prairie Crocus Community Fund, please contact: Kim Stief prairiecrocusfund@cfsea.ca 403.664.9571



SPRING 2019 LAUNCHES

The establishment of the three sub-regional funds and operating advisory committees has been a success for the Southeast region. Our staff were excited to host a fund launch event for each region this Spring!

Thank you to our donors and supporters for your continued support of the CFSEA community funds.



Brooks and District Community Fund

From left to right, Community Fund Coordinator Nicole Nichols, Executive Director Chris Christie, Advisory committee member Inga Ellefson, Advisory Chair David Andrews, M.P. Martin Shields and Advisory committee member Grant Jensen.



Prairie Crocus Community Fund

Left to right, Sibbald Community Club representatives Olivia Sederberg and Tori Munroe, Advisory committee members John Van Otterloo, Stacy Scheuerman, Elaine Michaels and Louis Bedwell.



Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile

From left to right, Senator Gershaw Parent Council representatives Tara Lockhart and Megan Weber, Community Fund Coordinator Michelle MacLean, CFSEA Grants Chair Cheryl Pocsik and Advisory Chair Clint Thacker

Thank you to the following donors who helped make the Spring launches a success:



Mark Your Calendars

July 1 - closed for Canada Day

July 8 - RBC FL Challenge Information Session: Big Country Adult Learning Centre Oyen AB 6:00 - 7:00 pm

July 11 - RBC FL Challenge Information Session: Medicine Hat Public Library Currie Room 7:00 - 8:00 pm

July 16 - RBC FL Challenge Information Session: Brooks Public Library 6:30 - 7:30 pm

July 18 - RBC FL Challenge Information Session: Town of Bow Island meeting room 6:30 - 7:30 pm

August 5 - closed for civic Holiday

August 15 - Grant Writing Workshop: CFSEA 12:00 - 1:00 pm

September 15 - Smart and Caring Grant Application Deadline

September 18 - RBC FL Challenge Grant Application Deadline

GRANT IMPACT STORY

Dunmore Equestrian Society

The Dunmore Equestrian Society received a grant in June 2018 for Hypo Therapy to provide an opportunity for growth and healing through interaction with horses.

Dunmore Equestrian hosted a Winter Horse Drawn Sleigh Ride Activity for Seniors from the RiverRidge and Good Samaritans Senior Residences at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede grounds. It was a happy hooves Western Day Christmas event to get the seniors in the Christmas spirit. The seniors were bused to the Stampede Grounds to have sleigh rides around the Stampede Village. Despite the frigid temperatures, they braved the cold for a ride by the team of Jake and Joey in a horse drawn wagon. There were 50 seniors who participated in the event. They were served lunch, had a sing-a-long and ended with some dancing. It was an enjoyable afternoon for the seniors and the volunteers that helped host the event.

The value of volunteering!

BUILDING: CONFIDENCE COMPETENCE CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY



National Volunteer Week was held April 7 – 13. The theme was “The Volunteer Factor – Lifting Communities”.

The Volunteer Factor celebrated and recognized the exponential impact of volunteers and how they lift our communities.

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers for supporting and inspiring our community.

Please help us spread the word about our donors, their impact and the work of the Community Foundation by forwarding this newsletter to your family and friends.

Contact us:

E: admin@cfsea.ca

P: 403-527-9038

W: www.cfsea.ca

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Thank you for being a part of the Community Foundation's lasting legacy.

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