

Winter 2020

# VitalNews

## DONOR PROFILE

Todd & Darlene O'Reilly

## IMPACT STORY

Medicine Hat Family Service

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## BOARD HIGHLIGHT

David Andrews

## EVENTS

Leave a Legacy Month  
Paul Nazareth

With the help of our generous donors,  
CFSEA gifted \$417,013 across  
Southeastern Alberta in 2018/19!

Today, tomorrow, forever!

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR**

I'm often asked what the Community Foundation is when I mention that I'm on the board. It seems to me that we may be the best kept secret in Southeast Alberta. Thankfully many more are aware of what CFSEA is all about and the tremendous difference that we make in the lives of the people who reside in our region.

What sets us apart from other worthy organizations is that all donations received are never spent. Donations are added to our endowment fund and invested with professional financial advisors. A portion of the interest from this fund is granted back to our communities through a granting process. We're very proud to only take 1% of the total endowment for administration. Last year alone we granted \$417,013 to charities in Southeastern Alberta while maintaining our Endowment.

On behalf of our 15-member volunteer board and the staff of CFSEA thank you if you are already a donor and making a difference in your community. Thank you if you're considering becoming a donor. Please have an no obligation visit with our staff. Your community will thank you for making a difference.

Warmest regards,

**Michael Anctil, Board Chair**

## DONOR STORY: Todd & Darlene O'Reilly

Todd and Darlene are active community members who, when time allows, take time away from their busy lives as grandparents to their 4 beautiful grandchildren ages 7 months to 3 years to give back to Medicine Hat. Todd is a past director for the Community Foundation Board and serves on the Endowment Development and Finance Committees for CFSEA and serves on the Endowment Committee with the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter. Todd and Darlene love to spend time with their two sons and their children and venture abroad as often as possible.

"Medicine Hat is an awesome place to live that provides an excellent quality of life. This community has been very good to our family and my business and we feel strongly that it is important to give back to those in need and ensure our community remains vibrant." – says Todd

Todd joined RBC Dominion Securities in 2007 and is presently the Vice-President Investment Advisor for RBC Wealth Management working closely with his clients while offering insight and solutions to their specific wealth planning needs.

When asked what inspires Todd and Darlene to give back to their community and why they choose the Community Foundation as one of those avenues this is what they shared.

"The Community Foundation is the ideal place as our donations will be available to build and maintain a strong community today and forever. The community's needs will likely be quite different in 20 years and we are confident that Community Foundation will appropriately and effectively distribute the income from our family fund to those most in need."



## IMPACT STORY: Medicine Hat Family Service

**Medicine Hat Family Service received a \$9,530 grant in the Spring of 2018 to help establish a Seniors' Outreach Grief Counselling Project.**

This project has impacted seniors' lives by connecting them to services to increase their quality of life. Seniors who were connected to this service received social, emotional, psychological supports in their period of grief and loss. Emotional well-being of seniors was increased through the program by listening to seniors' stories and building a professional relationship with them. Clients acknowledged this program as being "helpful", and workers have been told they have been "thankful for the program". Seniors also wish the program would be continued as the counseling has made an impact on their life and well-being. Seniors within the program are hoping to see further/more programming in the future.

Outreach senior counseling provided an opportunity for seniors experiencing grief and loss to share their stories with an interested, caring person who assisted in providing guidance, support, and referral to community supports they required. Talking to an objective counselor about emotions and feelings when facing social isolation or no family connection with family members was a "bridge" to the outside world one said. Some difficulties seniors brought also tied into relationship concerns and feelings they experience living with a partner that may have ongoing cognitive difficulties linked to dementia or physical health difficulties such as cancer, heart disease, hearing loss etc. This type of grief and loss had its own challenges. Isolation and loss of the person you once knew.

"This program has been beneficial for aging adults in our community. It has helped with increasing the quality of life for older adults and assisting with the grief and loss process. It is apparent that these services have made an important impact within our community."

- Dakota Szola, Family Counselor

Both mental and physical health issues can dramatically change the dynamics of their relationship from a loving partner to tired and burnt out loving care-giver. Other seniors struggled with the devastating grief issues of having lost their life long-partner through death. Talking with someone who provided an objective listening ear was very helpful to share their grief story as well as explore ways to understand grief's challenges and move forward.



### Why do I Donate? By Inge Ellefson

First, I donate because I can. I find myself at a time in my life where all the saving for my retirement has paid off and I'm happily retired. In fact, being in an advantageous position to take early retirement has been such a blessing. I am extremely grateful for all that I have.

Second, I donate because I love where I live. Brooks is where I grew up participating in a large variety of youth activities, such as lessons in piano, dance, majorettes, and swimming in the summer. I was blessed with a mother who encouraged me to participate in any activities which caught my interest. Although, she did have her limits, she didn't allow me to join CGIT since we were required to purchase our own shirts, and her budget didn't allow for something so expensive. I come from a penny-pinching family. Brooks is also where I returned to work and raise my family. At a very young age I landed a fabulous job as an elementary school principal. In my work I was encouraged to continue with my ongoing formal education and I was able to take time to complete my post graduate degrees to the doctorate level. I enjoy meeting and greeting former staff and students I bump into on an ongoing basis.

Third, I donate because where I live has become increasingly prosperous. My, originally very poor, family farm has increased in value beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and as an only child I've inherited something very substantial. I love living in the Eastern Irrigation District. It fills me with wonder on a daily basis. I have a blue jay feeder set up outside my window, and a canal runs adjacent to my property which attracts a variety of wildlife. Deer can be seen wandering through the yard.

*While I've been blessed with more and more resources throughout my life, one thing I know for sure is that donating didn't start when I felt I had enough resources, it started when I was very young, and has continued throughout my life. I've always found that whenever or whatever I give is always returned many times over. Even if it is just the satisfaction that I've done my best to make a difference.*

Lastly, I donate because I believe in giving back. Plus, it has been my experience that it is much more fun to give than receive. It is my belief that if there is a constructive way in which to continue to enhance the community in which I live I'm more than happy to do so. Hence, I willingly agreed to join the Brooks and District Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta. I love being a part of a progressive, philanthropic organization.



**For more information about the Brooks & District Fund please contact Nicole Nichols at 403.376.8884 or [brooksanddistrictfund@cfsea.ca](mailto:brooksanddistrictfund@cfsea.ca)**



## NEWS FROM THE RURAL COMMUNITY FUND OF FORTY MILE

There were many exciting announcements throughout the year, including the fantastic news that the endowment fund had reached it's first \$10,000 raised!!

The local advisory committee and staff had been out in the community raising the awareness of the fund since establishment in early 2019. The committee was getting close to reaching the first \$10,000 raised when the **Forty Mile Community Adult Learning Association Society** came forward with a very generous donation of \$10,000!

**"This incredibly generous donation from this long-standing and amazing committee is so very greatly appreciated by not only our committee members of the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile, but by everyone within the region as this now means that our goal of raising the first \$10,000 has been reached, and the fund is now growing, supporting our region today, tomorrow and forever!"**

**- Clint Thacker, Chair of the Advisory Committee**



L to R: Clint Thacker (Chair), Larry Robinson, Tyson Ormann, Donors Betty Van Staalduin, Erma Schnee, Jodi Cassell & Janet Strom; Lorne Buis, Jill Bernhart, Stephanie Hlady & Michelle MacLean

### 2019 Fall Grants

The Fund hosted their first Fall Grant Presentation near the end of November at the Foremost School, right in the heart of the County of Forty Mile. The presentation announced \$20,000 in Smart & Caring Grants that supported three groups and organizations in the County of Forty Mile Region!

Another \$15,000 from the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge was also awarded in the fall which supported three youth-led initiatives in the County of Forty Mile! This was a new initiative which highlighted youth-led projects in 150 small and medium sized communities across Canada. The goal of the program is to shift the power to young leaders making positive social or environmental change in their communities, while gaining valuable skills and experience.

"Thank you to RBC Foundation for recognizing the impact young leaders can make, here in our County of Forty Mile and beyond," added Thacker, as a concluding note on the year.

***For more information about the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile please contact***

***Michelle MacLean at 403.866.8901 or [40milefund@cfsea.ca](mailto:40milefund@cfsea.ca)***

## NEWS FROM PRAIRIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND

2019 was truly a rewarding and eventful first year for the Prairie Crocus Community Fund! Dozens of meetings and presentations were held and numerous events were attended in towns and villages across the region, from Oyen, Acadia Valley, and Cereal to Empress, Sibbald, and Hanna.

Charities and non-profit organizations within the Special Areas 2, 3 & MD of Acadia received a total of \$40,400 in grants last year, which included the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge grant of \$15,000 to the Breaking Barriers Youth Project. The Smart & Caring Grant recipients in our region were the Sibbald Community Club (\$12,400), Hanna Roundhouse Society (\$10,000), and Cereal Golden Centre (\$3,000).

Another remarkable highlight of 2019 was reaching over \$10,000 in donations! Thank you to all the generous individuals and local organizations for their valuable gift to our region. Canalta Hotel Oyen was one of these inspiring local organizations. Canalta donated \$2,000 and was recognized as a *Founder's Circle\** member during the Fall Grants Presentation last November 20, 2019.



"We're honoured to be a Founder of the Prairie Crocus Community Fund. Canalta believes in supporting and caring for the local community. Donating to the Community Fund will ensure that we'll be able to do that for years to come."

- Betty Deneault, Asst. General Manager.

L-R: John Van Otterloo, Advisory Committee Member - Prairie Crocus Community Fund; Elaine Michaels, Advisory Committee Member - PCCF; Betty Deneault, Canalta Oyen Asst. Manager; Linda Bingeman, Advisory Committee Chairperson - PCCF; Lois Bedwell, Advisory Committee Member - PCCF

2019 was filled with excellent reasons to celebrate, hence we look forward to 2020! Meetings and presentations have already begun. **Contact Kim Stief at 403-664-9571 or [prairiecrocusfund@cfsea.ca](mailto:prairiecrocusfund@cfsea.ca) to book an appointment.**

**\*Individuals and organizations who donated a minimum of \$1,000 by December 31, 2019 are recognized as *Founder's Circle* members, and as *Founder* with at least \$250 donation. As first supporters of the Prairie Crocus Community Fund, they will be remembered for their lasting legacy to the local community.**

## CFSEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MEET BOARD DIRECTOR DAVID ANDREWS

David Andrews and his wife Cheryl farm and ranch at Bow City, south west of Brooks. This is a family farm operating as Lazy A Farms Ltd. with enterprises made up of dry land grazing and grain production, irrigation for forage production and pasture and a cow-calf herd. The farm has developed extensive grazing programs including winter grazing for the cow herd. They also run a back-grounding feedlot and offer a custom yearling grazing service. The farm is currently in transition to the next generation. David and Cheryl are very proud of their three children and seven wonderful grandchildren.



David's experience in cattle politics began in 1981 as a delegate to the Alberta Cattle Commission. He served on various committees and chaired the Promotion Committee during the 1988 Olympics when the "If it Ain't Alberta it Ain't Beef" promotion was initiated. He later chaired the Finance Committee and was Chairman of the ACC (now the Alberta Beef Producers) in 1993\94. David was named Cattleman of the Year by the Alberta Beef Congress in Red Deer in 1993.

David served as a director to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association from Alberta and was chairman of the Foreign Trade Committee and a member of the executive. He was elected President in 1996, a position he held for two years. During this time the CCA was involved in several successful trade actions with the US, Australia/New Zealand and Europe. David received an award for leadership from the International Livestock Congress in Houston, Texas in 1997.

David has been a consultant for several beef industry organizations over the years as well as on agricultural policy for Delta Waterfowl, a conservation organization promoting water management and wildlife habitat. He has also been appointed to several government boards and councils including The Water Management Review Committee, Bow River Water Quality Council, Utilities Consumers Advocate Advisory Committee, Alberta Irrigation Council, Livestock Gentec (University of Alberta), and the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency.

David and Cheryl continue a long family tradition of being strong community supporters, volunteering on many projects and organizations. David is Chair of the Brooks and District Community Fund and is looking forward to serving on the CFSEA Board of Directors.

### 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Michael Anctil, Chair**  
**Ajit Atwal, Vice Chair**  
**Robert Belau, Treasurer**  
**Cheryl Pocsik, Secretary**  
**Pam Lehr, Director**

**David Andrews, Director**  
**Frances Barnes, Director**  
**Suzanne Curtin, Director**  
**Cody Ibbotson, Director**  
**Jim van der Sloot, Director**

**Neil Maser, Director**  
**Greg Niwa, Director**  
**Myrna Stark, Director**  
**Tracy Stroud, Director**  
**Matthew Lofgren, Director**



## FUND HIGHLIGHTS

An Agency Endowment Fund is a safe and simple way for organizations to establish their own endowment.

Along with Agency Funds we also have a number of open funds that have been established by donors who have designated the distributions to a variety of charities. Below is a list of open and Agency Funds for local organizations. By making a donation to one of the following funds, you will be investing in the future of that charity and can be sure your donation will continue to support the organization forever!

### **HALO**

**REDI Enterprises Society**  
**Brooks Public Library**  
**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
**Medicine Hat Health Foundation**  
**Les Pearson - Prairie Gleaners Society**  
**City of Medicine Hat (Arts & Heritage)**  
**Canadian Mental Health Association**  
**Medicine Hat & District Food Bank**  
**United Way of Southeastern Alberta**  
**Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society**  
**Rotary Club of Medicine Hat Music Festival Society**  
**Jason Mauch Memorial Fund (CORE Association)**

### **SPCA**

**KidSport Medicine Hat & Redcliff**  
**Brooks Food Bank Foundation**  
**E.I.D. Historical Park**  
**CORE Association**  
**Medicine Hat Santa Claus Fund Society**  
**YMCA of Medicine Hat**  
**The Mustard Seed**  
**Friends of Medalta Society**  
**Medicine Hat Public Library**  
**Medicine Hat Family Service**  
**Ronald McDonald House**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**March  
14**

**BOARD LEADERSHIP** - Medicine Hat College  
Featuring keynote speaker, Yvonne Chenier

**March  
16**  
12 pm

**SMART & CARING GRANT**  
Application Deadline

**May  
15**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**  
Application Deadline

**May  
20**

**LEAVE A LEGACY** - Medicine Hat Lodge  
Featuring guest speaker, Paul Nazareth

**June  
12**  
4-6 pm

**FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC** - Medicine Hat Brewing Co.  
Sponsored by Pritchard & Co.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Stay tuned for more information!*

**Wednesday, May 20th**



# Paul Nazareth Planned Giving

- 20 years' experience in the Philanthropy industry
- Vice President, Education & Development at the Canadian Association of Gift Planners
- Philanthropic advisor with a national Wealth Management firm working with Donor Advised Funds

Brought to you by:

MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT  
HEALTH FOUNDATION

 COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of Southeastern Alberta

## SPECIAL EVENTS



# Training Event for Board Members

A training event involving a series of workshops for board members of voluntary / non-profit organizations to enhance their knowledge and skills on topics that will help them improve their board's strategic and operational effectiveness.

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Medicine Hat College**

**Medicine Hat, AB**

Register online at [www.boardleadershipsouth.com](http://www.boardleadershipsouth.com) or Eventbrite.ca

The logo for the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta features a stylized sun with rays in yellow and green to the left of the text "COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Alberta" in white uppercase letters.  
A graphic of an open calendar with a yellow sticky note that says "Save the date!" in black cursive script.  
The "WE GIVE" logo features a white icon of two hands holding a heart above the text "WE GIVE" in bold white uppercase letters.  

June 12, 2020  
FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

Join us as we celebrate the Spring 2020 Grant recipients!