

A Message from the President

Too often when discussing community foundations we hear about the size of the endowments or the growth in earnings, and certainly these are important measures of their success. But perhaps a far more important measure is the assistance that these foundations provide to their communities, the grants that help dreams come true.

With this in mind, we're very pleased this year to bring you stories about donors to the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan and about grant recipients who benefit from the foresight of those donors and the earnings from their endowments.

Since the financial challenges of the 2008 recession, our foundation has rebounded to almost \$12 million in funds under management. Our investment returns continue to be above average (10.1% in 2012) and ongoing donations from both new and existing donors add to our financial strength.

Most importantly, these donations and earnings allow the Foundation to participate meaningfully each year in support of dozens of worthy community projects, activities and scholarships.

In 2011 the Foundation undertook the first Vital Signs Report, a community report card reflecting what citizens thought about key area indicators including health, education, seniors, employment, housing and six others. Your Foundation is currently producing the follow-up report which will be published and available to the community in October.

The Community Foundation of the North Okanagan is one of 192 community foundations across Canada, almost 1700 worldwide, stewarding endowments entrusted to them by citizens and other community groups. We welcome your enquiries about establishing new endowments and our Fund Development Officer, Leanne Hammond, would be pleased to meet with you.

I would like to express appreciation for the contributions throughout the year from our Board of Directors, our Executive Director, our volunteers and, of course, our valued donors.



Mike Tindall, CFNO President

Teen Junction Drop-In Centre Supports Area Youth

At Teen Junction, we see the potential of every youth who walks through our door, says Executive Director, Debbie Schiller. We see how resilient they are in the face of adversity. We know they want to be good they want to be great! Teen Junction is the place that helps to make that happen.



About 40 teens drop in every month. Five nights a week, they can count on a hot meal and healthy snacks, nonjudgmental and friendly staff and a space meant just for them.

In this space, youth 13 to 18 years old can express themselves through music and the arts, exercise on gym equipment, access free computers and the internet and get rid of anger by shooting baskets, kickboxing or skateboarding.

The Junction building is only eight years old, says Schiller, but staff concerns about bullying and youth safety, led to the need for critical renovations. We turned to our community for support and we were not disappointed!

Community Policing provided a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design audit and specific recommendations for changes to the interior and exterior of the building. Gavin Parsons, a local contractor offered his services to manage the renovation and bring on his construction partners to provide in-kind services. The Community Foundation of the North Okanagan and its commitment of \$7,000 was the final link needed to move ahead with the project.

In the future we can expand our summer hours, says Schiller, open earlier during the school year for 13 to 15 year olds who have quit school and continue to respond to the changing needs and great potential of all North Okanagan youth.

A Jewel of the North Okanagan gets back its shine

by David Hockley

The Lumby Museum, operated by the Lumby Historical Society, is clearly one of the Jewels of Lumby and some say of the North Okanagan.

Until recently though there was one thing that clearly didn't shine, its bathroom! The bathroom was in the basement down a dangerous set of stairs and it was old, unpleasant and not at all fit for public or staff use.

Georgie Hay, of the society, explains the Museum plays a vital role in telling the story of this community named after Moses Lumby. Each year hundreds of people come through the Museum to experience its hands-on displays, its animal stuffies (taxidermy), antique household items like carbon paper, old toasters, and typewriters both electronic and manual. Along with these smaller items are, of course, the artifacts of the woods industry that has sustained Lumby through the years.

Georgie lights up when she talks about the school children coming through and discovering a world long before they were born, and beams with pride at the story of this tenacious town on the edge of the wilderness told to travellers from around the world and right down the road.

With all these visitors, having a clean, functional and accessible bathroom is critical. Now, with the help of local volunteers, Brian Gray, Rainer Hops and others and a \$1035 grant from the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan, the museum has a new bathroom and this jewel of the North Okanagan will shine a little brighter!



Georgie

Community Foundation Welcomes Fund Development Officer

Leanne Hammond joined the Community Foundation team in late 2012 in the area of donor relations/resource development. The Foundation manages almost 150 endowment funds which, this year, will return in excess of \$350,000 to the community.

Leanne has an extensive background in the not-for-profit world as executive director at Central Okanagan Foundation for 6 years, and leading Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Okanagan for 10 years prior to that. Leanne holds bachelors and masters degrees in sociology from UBC and integrates her understanding of social issues into her work.

Her specialties are Fund Development, Donor Relations, Media Relations, and Social Enterprise. Her proudest moments were being nominated to a position on the board of Community Foundations of Canada, and

being named as a member of a provincial advisory group developing Human Resource tools for Social Enterprise in the non-profit sector. She is a member of the Vernon Estate Planning Council, the Kelowna Round Table, and Kiwanis Community Services Society.

Leanne says the common thread throughout her work is making the world a better place. She describes her style as donor-centred and encourages you to give her a call at the foundation office 250-542-8655 to discuss ways that you can give back to the community we call home.



Leanne Hammond

Grindrod Hall Furnishings Aided by Community Foundation Grant



The new Grindrod Community Hall will officially open August 10 during the annual Grindrod Days Event, replacing the aging hall with its 50 seat capacity. The Community Foundation of the North Okanagan provided a \$3000 contribution toward tables and chairs for the new hall which will seat 150 people and will, according to Project Manager, Herman Halvorson, serve the needs of the community for years to come.

Community Foundation Supports Pregnancy Care Centre

When the North Okanagan Pregnancy Care Centre opens its doors in early 2014, sexually active youth and community members in Vernon will have a safe, confidential place to access both sexual health services and long-term support for unplanned pregnancy and parenting. Aided by a \$4,000 grant from the Community Foundation, the Centre will begin providing medical confirmation of pregnancy and provide screening for sexually transmitted infection, assessment and treatment in an environment of care and compassion where clients can address significant life decisions.

Due to the sensitive nature of their circumstances, Centre clients may avoid seeking medical help and primary care early in their pregnancies. With in-house medical services clients will be able to make healthy choices particularly during early fetal development stages.

By combining medical services with their current outreach via our trained peer support worker programs, clients can work through the complex reasons why they are engaging in behaviors that put them at risk for STIs. This empowers clients to address root causes, not just symptoms.

Vital Signs is Back!

Two years ago, with the help and guidance of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), the Community Foundation of the North Okanagan (CFNO) undertook a study which looked at the community's overall health. Just as we would visit our doctor to determine the health of our bodies, it is equally important to analyze the health of our communities. Our 2011 Vital Signs Report did just that!

The goals of the study were:

Highlight areas of community need

Encourage cross-sector thinking and initiatives

Build community capacity through shared knowledge

To achieve these goals, CFNO invited representatives from key Vernon organizations and local government agencies to participate in workshops. The idea was to develop a series of ideas and solutions which could contribute to achieving our goals. Additionally, local citizens were invited to participate in a survey process to provide the general public's perspective.

Using data from Statistics Canada, BC Stats, Regional District of the North Okanagan (RDNO) and the City of Vernon, the study team gathered information in 11 key areas: Learning Housing Safety Seniors Arts & Culture Getting Around Environment Work Belonging & Leadership Health & Wellness and Gap Between Rich and Poor.

To see the entire 16 page document go to www.cfno.org and click on the North Okanagan Vital Signs link. You can download the document to your computer for viewing at your leisure.

So what's next? CFNO has already started the process of updating this report. Students and Faculty at Okanagan College and a group of Grade 12 high school students have already done many interviews to get the general public's view. The CFNO team is searching out the latest research data available to update our findings for 2013.

In early October, 2013 CFNO plans to deliver its second version of Vital Signs which will be of interest to Vernon & Area citizens.

WATCH FOR IT!



Community Foundation Donor Profile

Bill Irwin was active in his community all his life whether it was coaching kids on the ski hill he and his wife, Mary, built in Fort William (now Thunder Bay), serving as a ski instructor for the troops in World War II or participating as a member of the Vernon Rotary Club.

Bill's lifelong love of skiing began at age eight, when his grandfather gave him a pair of skis for Christmas. Bill persevered at the Amber Ski Club in his hometown of Princeton, eventually mastering cross country, downhill, slalom and ski jumping and went on to represent Canada in the 1948 Olympics in all four disciplines!

Bill and Mary left Princeton for Winnipeg before making Thunder Bay their home and, in 1956, creating the Loch Lomond ski area out of a tree-filled mountain. The area was a great success fostering a number of National Team coaches as well as numerous ski racers, and the family thrived. Their four children, Dan, Doug, Dorothy and Dave all skied and all three boys were members of the national ski team. Dave went on to become a member of the "Crazy Canucks" in the 1970's.

The Irwin's sold their ski area in 1979 and retired to Vernon where Mary tragically passed away from cancer two years later.

Bill became a member of the Vernon Rotary Club and it was during a meeting of the club that Bill found a different way to help his community.



Bill and Mary Irwin June 1981

Another Rotarian, Bob Passmore, was giving a report to the club about the Community Foundation which the Vernon Club created and sponsored for many years.

The club was trying to increase the value of the Foundation and, in his report, Bob detailed how a person could purchase an annuity that would pay the premiums on a life insurance policy. The premiums paid by the annuity would be tax deductible to the insured each year and, upon the death of the insured, the face value of the insurance would be paid to the foundation.

Bill thought it was such a good idea that in 1988 he purchased an annuity and a life insurance policy and named the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of the insurance. He also created an endowment fund to be managed by the Foundation and donated \$10,000 over a period of time.

Bill remarried in 2004 and he and his new wife, Deanna became golf fans both in the Okanagan and in their winter home in Yuma Arizona. Bill continued to ski, at least once a year, at his son, Dave's fund-raiser in Alberta.

When Bill passed away in February of this year his forward thinking and community-minded action resulted in a \$100,000 donation to the Community Foundation, the value of the life insurance policy purchased 25 years earlier.

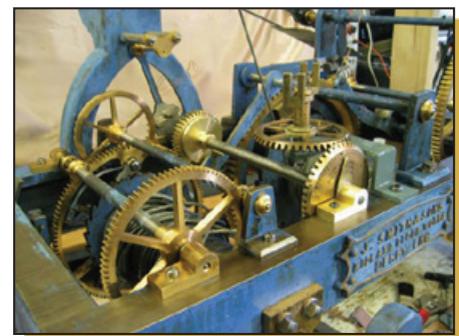
Old Post Office Clock Restoration Project

In 1912, Vernon opened a beautiful new post office complete with a British made tower clock. The building and clock lasted until 1959 when the post office moved and the clock was rescued by the owners of the Allison Hotel in Vernon who thought it too valuable to be consigned to the scrap heap. The clock and its dials languished in storage for ten years while its owners looked for a way to put it back in operation. Then, in 1971, the entire clock was acquired by the Vernon Centennial Committee. However, the dials and mechanism were separated with the dials being installed in a new "centennial" clock tower located outside the museum and operated by an electric motor. The mechanism found its way to storage at O'Keefe Ranch. Forty years later, in 2011, the Vernon Museum became the new owners of the entire clock and the clock restoration project began.

With the assistance of two \$5,000 grants from the Community Foundation, the main clock mechanism has been completely refurbished including a



thorough cleaning of the clock mechanism, the fabrication of a gear and bearings, and the fitting of a replacement pendulum that came from the original manufacturer in England. The clock's dials and connecting linkages are now undergoing restoration and will be fitted to the clock's mechanism once a support tower is constructed. This will be a delicate operation in itself as the four clock dials, linkages, and supporting framework will weigh in at over 1,000 pounds. This 8-foot ½ ton square unit will then be lifted 13-feet in the air and fitted to the tower.



Once the tower is built and the dials installed, the clock will be on permanent display and continue to operate in the museum. Its giant mechanism will be on view for all to see. This will prove to be a unique viewing experience, as the mechanism to most operating tower clocks is not readily visible to the public. The clock, a vital part of Vernon's history, will once again be a source of pride for the community.

