

Burns Lake & District Community Foundation

President's Report – 2020 Annual General Meeting

2020 has had its challenges. Due to the restrictions imposed by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, activities were severely curtailed. Several projects that were funded by the Community Foundation were unable to be completed and so the deadlines for completion were extended. Interest earned on the principle of the two funds held by the Community Foundation was very limited; hence a decision was made to cancel the granting opportunity for the Spring of 2020 and sponsor only the two scholarships awarded to two Lakes District Secondary School graduates.

The Foundation currently has an eleven-member board of local volunteers who direct the activities of the society. One new director, Sharon Marr, was welcomed to the table at the last AGM.

A change that will be made this coming year, will be to appoint a representative of the youth in the Lakes District to the Board of Directors. This decision was made due to the guidelines of the larger of the endowment funds. The emphasis of the Dick & Marilyn Nourse Legacy Fund is on the youth and youth activities. The appointment and participation of a youth director will give insight into some of the local needs of the youth in our community and provide direction in the allocation of funding opportunities directed towards the young people. I feel that this is a very positive step for this board to take and I look forward to working with this young individual.

Since 2008, more than \$225,000.00 has been shared with a wide variety of local community organizations. It is not just the dollar amounts that are impressive, but also the number of organizations that have been supported by the Community Foundation. To date, assistance has been given to more than thirty different applicants with some of these applicants receiving funding multiple times over the past thirteen years.

There is still the concern that because the municipality is no longer acting as a qualified donee for the Foundation that there is not an easy route to grant funding to the non-CRA registered societies in the Lakes District. This concern is not just ours, but is being recognized in several other communities across Canada. Community Foundations of Canada is working now on a potential solution with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canada Revenue Agency. That decision will not come quickly.

United Way was planning to enable us to disperse funds in this 2020 year to the non-CRA registered societies in the Lakes District, but because the events scheduled to

receive funding were cancelled, there was no longer a need for the services of United Way. Hopefully, that opportunity will present itself again in the year to come so that the granting opportunity will be available to more non-CRA registered organizations within this region.

Last year, the Burns Lake & District Community Foundation joined with the Fort St. James Community Foundation, the Vanderhoof Community Foundation and the Fraser Lake Community Foundation to work with School District 91 to establish an opportunity for the Staff of School District 91 to contribute monthly to the Community Foundation located in their area. To date, in the Lakes Area of School District 91, there are only three employees who donate monthly but, hopefully, this number will grow in the years to come.

As with every year that I have made this report, I would like to sincerely thank all of the directors for their interest in and support of the Burns Lake & District Community Foundation Society. It is because of your time and efforts spent, that annual grants can be made readily and easily available to many non-profit organizations within the Lakes District.

Sincerely,

Bernice Magee, President,
Burns Lake & District Community Foundation (Fund) Society