

Foundation helps Rivers become 'smart, caring community'

BY DONNA MORKIN

November is Philanthropy Month in Manitoba and the beginning of the Endow Manitoba campaign. What better way to begin November than with grants for our community and area from the Rivers and Area Community Foundation?

On Nov. 6, we had our annual granting evening in the Behlen Curling Lounge in the Riverdale Community Centre.

This year was very special in that we began a new fund, the Leonard and Gladys Burt Family Fund.

We also became the first community foundation in Manitoba to provide a grant to the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation philanthropy program for the placement of Automatic External Defibrillators within communities in the granting area.

The Burt Family Fund story began at the National Conference of Community Foundations of Canada, held in Winnipeg June 5-8, where 192 community foundations from across the nation came together.

The voices were loud and strong, from people passionate about their communities and helping them develop. Gov.-Gen. David Johnston was a keynote speaker and he encouraged those in attendance to become "smart and caring communities."

Great sessions were held and it was at one of those sessions, "Shaping Our Worldview — The Power of Storytelling," that I met Karen Guth from MacGregor.

I stood up and told the story of how the Rivers and Area Community Foundation began, with a bequeath by Bernard and Iola Goekoop. After I had finished, Karen — representing the North Norfolk-MacGregor Foundation — came over to me.

She knew all about Rivers and had a connection with the town — her grandparents, Leonard and Gladys Burt. Karen spent a lot of her life in Rivers, visiting and staying with the Burts.

Leonard and Gladys were very involved in events within the community, as well as working and participating on various committees. Karen decided that she wanted to start a family fund for her grandparents to honour their legacy and thus our next chapter begins.

We are very excited about announcing the Leonard and Gladys Burt Family Fund. This is now the second fund our foundation will look after,



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Some members of the Burt family (L-R): Brian Burt, Karen Guth (holding a photo of Leonard and Gladys Burt), Marg Burt, Linda MacDougall, Marlene Genung and Syl MacDougall. Below, inset: Leonard and Gladys Burt.



At left, the Rivers and Area Community Foundation presented a grant of \$2,500 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, which in turn awarded the money to the Rapid City Golf Course for the acquisition, installation and training for an Automatic External Defibrillator. Pictured are (L-R): Nicole Durnin from the golf course; Sean Crawford, manager of philanthropy for HSF Manitoba; and Ian Dyer, vice-president Rivers and Area Community Foundation. (Submitted)

foundation, hopes to inspire others to do the same.

The next part to this amazing evening was the presentation of a grant of \$2,500 to the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba.

Sean Crawford, manager of philanthropy at HSF Manitoba, sent in an application to our foundation for the acquisition and training for an Automatic External Defibrillator for a community within our granting area.

Our board of directors approved the application, with the Rapid City Golf Course being the recipient of the AED and the training program.

The Rivers and Area Community Foundation works for the good of our community and area. Through the charitable donations we receive, we do "smart and caring" investing in our community and watch it grow!

For further information, check our website at: www.riversareacommunityfoundation.com

» Donna Morkin is the president of the Rivers and Area Community Foundation.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

While the Rivers and Area Community Foundation received requests exceeding \$30,000, it was able to provide more than \$11,000 worth of grants to the following:

- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba — \$2,500
- Rivers Band Parents Association — \$500
- Riverdale Community Daycare — \$2,000
- Riverdale Community Complex — \$1,000
- Rivers Elementary School — \$800
- Rivers Collegiate Institute — \$500
- Rivers Palliative Care — \$1,400
- The Air Cadets League of Brandon — \$500
- Tri-Town Minor Hockey — \$1,800

alongside the Society of Friends of Rivers Collegiate that provides a scholarship for a local student to enter university.

This will carry both the Rivers and Area Community

Foundation and the North Norfolk-MacGregor Foundation on towards becoming "Smart and Caring Communities." Karen, as a member of the latter

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