

Saugeen Cottagers Endowed Fund Update

July 2016

I am pleased to provide everyone with an update on our very exciting Community Foundation Grey-Bruce ("CFGB"), Saugeen Cottagers Endowed Fund ("SCEF"). Despite this being early days for the fund, we currently have \$58,844 invested as of December 31, 2015 and CFGB matching of \$29,415 for a total of \$88,258. Of the \$58,844, \$4,800.00 is from private donors. The fund has only been invested since last September so the first funding round to Saugeen band students is scheduled to take place spring 2017. CFGB will continue to match all donations up to December 31st of this year or to a maximum of 40k.

As you may remember, a selection committee will be formed including the SCOI President, Education Director from the Band, an elder from the Band, the Chief and a staff member from CFGB. This committee will meet once a year to review submissions for funding put forth by potential recipients. The Education Director from the Band will be assisting the candidates with writing their submission and awards will be made based on needs and a good probability of completing their grade 12 equivalent so they can go onto entering a college or apprenticeship program.

We plan to report to the membership on the progress of the fund and an annual listing of recipients. As the program matures, we hope to have the ability to track the recipient's success as well.

On May 20th the CFGB held a luncheon with His Excellency, David Johnston, Governor General of Canada as the keynote speaker. I attended this event with numerous other CFGB grant recipients, fund donors as well as dignitaries from the area. The Governor General spent much of his career as an academic at various Canadian Universities and maintains a strong focus on education to deliver his pledge for a "country that is smart and caring".

He highlighted that among the 34 nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD"), Canada is viewed to have among the best the best education system and that the top 80% of our students are at the very top of the scale. The bottom 20% of our students however, are at the very bottom of the scale. He mentioned that the high school dropout rate of First Nations children and young adults is staggeringly high and as a society and a country we must work to change this. He commended CFGB for its education focus and challenged everyone in attendance to work to make a difference and help make Canada a better country.

As an organization we can hold our heads very high that the Saugeen Cottagers Endowed Fund does just that - IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We would encourage members to make tax deductible donations to help make a difference and at the same time taking advantage of the 1:1 matching program. Donations can be made at <http://www.communityfoundationgreybruce.com>. There is a link to canadahelps.org where you can make an online donation and all donations over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt.