



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

Foundation

NEWS

Winter/Spring 2018

Scholarships right on the button

West Kildonan Curling Club Leaves a Lasting Legacy for Students.



When one thinks of scholarships, “curling” may not be the first word that comes to mind.

For the West Kildonan Curling Club, however, scholarships are a way to give back to the community that they had been part of for almost 100 years.

“The West Kildonan Curling Club was first situated on Scotia Street, then spent the years from 1938 to 2018 on Enniskillen Ave,” explains former

manager, Denis Laliberte. “We had a ladies curling league who called themselves the Seven Oaks Ladies and we also had the Seven Oaks Teachers league for many years.”

“Our curling club provided a wonderful venue for social interaction, conversation, competition and fun,” says Laliberte. “It’s where you met people and these relationships grew over time. It made for better developed people, who were more

aware of their community, who made better students and later more rounded and community minded adults.”

As most people in the community know, the Club made the difficult decision to close its doors and sell the building in September 2017.

While the closure truly marked the end of an era, the members decided to use the closure to create opportunities for students in the

community who share their love of the sport.

The Club had already decided to donate all proceeds of the sale of the building to the community. As part of that, the Club also decided to create not one but two scholarships with the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.

“When we received the proceeds of sale of the Curling Club in 2017 we were determined to help out young people among others,” says Laliberte. “We had always tried to support Junior Curling. We had paid for banquets, prizes and also reduced fees in an effort to get youth to eventually join the Club as they got established.

“We ended up phoning the Seven Oaks School Division office and talking

to Wayne Shimizu about donating funds towards scholarships. I also talked to a former Maples Collegiate teacher, Debra Boyko, who told me about the scholarship selection process and I was happy that each high school had a committee.”

After talking with Wayne, the Club decided to establish two \$500 scholarships, one for male students and one for female students, alternating between the three Seven Oaks School Division high schools each year.

The main criteria are that students are pursuing further education at a college, university or in a trade while simultaneously showing exemplary volunteerism and/or community/school spirit.

The inclusion of students pursuing trades is of particular significance to the Club.

“Our Curling Club always had a lot of working class people, so we want to pay homage to the potential tradesman just as much as the future scientists and PhD candidates. “ explains Laliberte.

“As for wanting to encourage young people who demonstrate community spirit, those are the students most likely to volunteer their time to the community - the same as so many people have volunteered their time to make our many Curling Clubs and Community Clubs a success.”

Though its doors are closed, the West Kildonan Curling Club can take pride in knowing that their generosity will make a difference in the lives of many students in the years to come – and that the spirit of community that the Club embodied will continue.

Talent in Abundance

Seven Groups Come Together to Make One Great Fundraising Event

By Fran Taylor

This year at the SOEF 7 Oaks Got Talent fundraiser on February 2nd, we had seven acts volunteer their time for the cause.

All of these incredible groups had Seven Oaks staff and friends performing together. Most of the staff are repeat performers from over the course of several years at our fundraiser and we want to recognize them for the time they've given to supporting this favourite annual fundraiser.

We started out the night with Scott Main and Genevieve Norberg. Genny is Grade 1 & 2 multiage teacher at Riverbend Community School while Scott is a grade 5 teacher at Amber

Trails Community School. Both are in their 9th year teaching in SOSD and have been jamming together with a group of teacher friends for a couple of years. When they can squeeze it in, they meet in the studio (the stairwell at Amber Trails) where the acoustics are fantastic! They love to sing together and every once in a while, they say, it's nice to have an audience

Maple Syrup consisted of Maples Collegiate teachers and admin who have been meeting early mornings before class over the years to sing and occasionally perform. The group this year have a combined 175 years as employees in Seven Oaks School Division! This year's version of the





group were: Band/Jazz BandChoir teacher Jaclyn Loganberg (22 years in SOSD), Chemistry teacher Nicole Russell (9 years), Chemistry/Physics teacher Chris Buffie (14 years), Math teacher Jennifer Harrison (32 years), Biology teacher Jenn Humeny (11 years), Vice Principal, Susan Kurbis (26 years), Film/Theatre/ELA teacher Saul “ Basso Profundo” Henteleff (6.66666 years), Math/Science teacher Ralph Abetria (5 years), Retired teacher Barb DiCurzio (37 years), Math/Science teacher Elizabeth Schachter (3 years) and ELA/Theatre/ Film teacher Lindsay Brown (10 years). Talk about a supergroup!

Next up: Heidi Presingular & Dan Bresner, who have been performers at 7 Oaks Got Talent since it’s inception. Heidi is at Amber Trails (10 years in SOSD) as a Learning Support Teacher & Dan is at OV Jewitt as a grade 8

teacher and has been in SOSD for 14 years. In the past, the two have also performed with a band that called themselves Brian & The O’Learys. (We always wonder who is the Brian & who is an O’Leary!) Either way, they are always fun and entertaining!

The fourth band of the night was Lewis & the Lips. All the guys in the band currently have or had kids in the Seven Oaks School Division and live in the district. They have known each other since junior high school and have been playing together since the mid 80’s! The band mates and long time friends are Darryl Taylor (a custodian at West Kildonan Collegiate for 9 years) on guitar\vocals, Tony Brenda on guitar, Dean Drimes on bass, George Lazic on drums and Bryan Lamirande, also on guitar.

I Want to Give to the Seven Oaks Education Foundation Because

There are many reasons to donate to the Seven Oaks Education Foundation, and many ways to give. We invite you to donate AND share with us your reasons for donating!

- I want to establish a scholarship
- I want to establish an award
- I want to donate through a payroll deduction
- I want to leave a bequeathal
- I want to make a one-time donation
- I donated online

Visit 7oaks.org/Resources/SOEF for more information on how to donate or to make an online contribution.

The Foundation provides tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more.



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Johnny Utah and the Breaks hail out of Garden City Collegiate. Learning Support Teacher Stephan Carson, who has been with the Division for 10 years put it all out there with his band mates, as they have over the last few years. Stephan, once again, brought in a band with exceptional talent that got the audience up dancing. The lead singer of the band, Joey Potter, is the tireless head coach of the GC boys rugby team.

Rob Wrigley, an educational assistant for 15 years currently at West Kildonan Collegiate, brought us one of the many bands that he plays in with long time friend, Tim Longbottom. Look out for Rob and his bands playing around the city, province & across the country under names The Robert Allan Wrigley Band, Stony Point Trio or, the band he plays with his two fiddling sons, Luc & Aidan, his pride and joy,

Double the Trouble. Make sure to catch any one of his bands - you won't be disappointed.

Finally, we had lead singer and English teacher out of West Kildonan Collegiate (14 years, he thinks) PJ Burton on lead vocals & front man with the Chocolate Bunnies from Hell since 1984. As always, PJ put it all out on the floor for an amazing and fun act with his band mates. Rob Waiteon was on drums, formerly with Harlequin and Streeheart. Bass guitarist Much Bee just won a Manitoba Country Music Association Award for "All-Star Band off the Year - Bass." Adding to that already impressive list of talent was Allyson Krawic on keyboard and vocals, Vito DeStephan on Guitar/vocals, Ian Cameron on accordion(!) and vocals, Neenah Barkley, vocals & stage presence and Doug Wilson on sax! Whew!

The band has several gigs lined up around the city over the next month or so. It's worth the price of admission, for sure!

As is obvious and appreciated, we had a talented bunch of people give the audience a series of great performances again this year at 7 Oaks Got Talent. A special shout out to the Principal at West Kildonan Collegiate, Howard Kowalchuk & Vice Principal at Maples Collegiate, Susan Kurbis for emceeing the night, as well as my partner in planning the event - and my great friend - Principal of Edmond Partridge, Jane Romio. Between the 4 Administrators (including me!) we are just shy of 100 years combined in the Division.

Thank you to everyone who made the 7 Oaks Got Talent night a resounding success!



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

Seven Oaks Education Foundation Inc.

invites you to attend the

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Canad Inns Destination Centre Garden City
2100 McPhillips Street
(Refreshments Provided)

Vision

A supportive community where all students believe they can continue their education and training beyond high school.

Mission Statement

To make post secondary education accessible for as many students as possible by engaging the financial support of the Seven Oaks Community.

We value education beyond high school, community, sustainability and inclusion.