



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

Foundation

N E W S

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Honouring Legacies by Shaping Futures

Memorial scholarships are a way of remembering an individual, but they are also a great deal more.

Each memorial scholarship tells one person's story while helping someone else write their own. A memorial scholarship keeps an individual's passions for education and community alive by helping someone else with those same passions.

This year sees four new scholarships established with the Seven Oaks Education Foundation, each in the name of someone who valued both education and community. Here are the stories behind three of those four scholarships.



The Andrew A. Ban Fedorkiw Memorial Scholarship

Shared courtesy of Luba Fedorkiw, Andrew's Mother

When Andrew first arrived at Garden City Collegiate, he came to school having been the President of the student body at Meadows West Middle School. At the new school, he found many of the assignments in English Language Arts challenging, but never let it get him down.

He had especially fond memories of belonging to the high school peer community, and of Mr. Steve Medwick, who was the principal at that time.

Andrew was active in soccer, swimming, skating, curling and piano (he completed the Grade Five Royal Conservatory level). But he was also extremely active in his Ukrainian community, as a member of Plast (Scouting), air cadet (Mynarsky Squadron) and altar boy at the Cathedral of Sts. Vladimir and Olga.

As he got older, Andrew's passion for carpentry led him to sub-contracting work, window and door installations, general construction, and renovation. But his real dream was always to restructure his business and remain self-employed. It was something he would often talk about with his Garden City peers when they got together to socialize.

In everything he did, Andrew embodied a love of life with a forward-looking mindset, living it on his own terms.

The Andrew A. Ban Fedorkiw Memorial Scholarship honors my son's love of life and its challenges.

As an Alumnus of Garden City Collegiate, I know he would be honored to have it open to a deserving student who excelled in the Vocation Program or with plans to pursue post-secondary studies in a skilled trade program of their choosing. He understood what it was like to have a dream for the future.



The Ann Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Shared courtesy of Mike Peterson, Ann's Son

My mother, Ann, actually began her Seven Oaks career as a volunteer at Forest Park School after being laid off from a job in the insurance industry.

She was later hired as an educational assistant there before moving to Margaret Park, which is where she spent the remainder of her years. In fact, at the time of her passing, she had been working at Margaret Park as an education assistant for 24 years; the longest serving employee there.

Ann was paired with children with high needs, who faced a lot of challenges. She was often the main source of support for those students, their calming force in storms of trying times. She also ran the bussing program, and - for over a decade - ran the school's entire lunch program herself. (She always made cheese toast and smoothies for all the kids who needed it.)

They're naming the kitchen at Margaret Park in her memory. Growing up, there were magnets on our family fridge that said, "Ann's Kitchen." We've donated them to the school where they will be incorporated into the plaque commemorating her. It feels like the right place for them now.

I myself have been a counsellor at Garden City Collegiate since 2012, and I am part of the committee that chooses scholarship winners at Garden City Collegiate. I couldn't imagine a better way to honour my mom than to establish **the Ann Peterson Memorial Scholarship**.

The scholarship is not marks-based, but it is for students wanting to study early childhood or elementary education, children with exceptional differences, or for those interested in the educational assistant program. These were her passions and I know she would be proud to be part of helping others follow in her footsteps.

The Helen Himick Memorial Scholarship

Shared courtesy of Diane Novakowski, Helen's Daughter

Our mother, Helen, was a mainstay of the Seven Oaks community. She was born in Old Kildonan in 1930 and grew up with her four sisters on a farm near what is now the corner of McPhillips and Leila. In fact, she lived there until she married and moved to Transcona with her husband - my father - Julian, a shops teacher during his career at Jefferson Junior High and Garden City Collegiate.

Helen was a full-time mother and homemaker raising four daughters. She believed education was important not just for the traditional academic learning but in how it could open your eyes to the world around you. She believed education could help you explore possibilities for the future and to meet new people and learn different perspectives on life. She was the one who taught my sisters and me to ask questions and to learn from our experiences - to be curious for life. Our mother's thirst for knowledge had been an important part of her upbringing, and that was, in turn, the model for us.

Supporting education and sharing knowledge was very important in our home. Each of my three sisters have been academic professionals at some point in their careers. Several years ago, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to honour our father by establishing a SOEF Scholarship to help students pursuing continued studies in the Technology & Applied Arts field. We are again fortunate to now honour our mother in the same way.

Our mother was very nurturing and loved to be around young children, they were the joy of her life. And that's what inspired us to establish **the Helen Himick Memorial Scholarship** for graduating students pursuing studies in Early Years education.

While the scholarship is modest financially, we know every little bit helps. And we hope this scholarship will show recognition and encouragement to future graduating students. A scholarship like this feels appropriate to our family's roots in the community, but especially to the things our mother believed in and loved. She'd be pleased to know there is this support being offered in her name.