

# 2015-2016 COMMUNITY UPDATE



Est. 1992

Published December 2017

# HISTORICAL PROFILE OF THE VIRDEN AREA FOUNDATION AND ITS FOUNDERS

The roots of the Virden Area Foundation can be traced to the early 1950s when Murray and Jean Thomas came to Virden and purchased the Pontiac Buick dealership. Over the years they also made many successful real estate investments in Virden and elsewhere. Throughout the years Murray and Jean were active members of the community. In 1974 Murray Thomas passed away at the age of 55 years, and Jean passed away in 1988. They had no children.

Shortly after Jean's death, the Council of the Town of Virden was advised that Mrs. Thomas had bequeathed her substantial estate of approximately \$600,000 to the Town with the direction that it "be used for a suitable community project or purpose of a long or lasting nature, which can be designated as a memorial to my late husband (Murray F. Thomas) as the Council of the Town shall decide".

After a year of deliberation, the Council established the Thomas Fund Board with a mandate to make recommendations for the distribution of the estate's earnings and the expenditure of the capital funds on a suitable major project. In the spring of 1991 and 1992, the Thomas Fund Board issued grants totaling \$174,025 to 56 worthwhile projects in the Virden community while the capital fund remained completely intact.

The task of choosing a suitable major project on which to use the estate funds was indeed monumental. After receiving advice and guidance from the Winnipeg and Killarney Foundations it became clear to the Thomas Fund Board that the formation of a community foundation to be known as the Virden Area Foundation, and the use of the Thomas Estate as its founding fund would be a most suitable purpose.

On July 17, 1990 the Council of the Town of Virden unanimously approved this recommendation and the estate funds were transferred in July of 1992 once the Virden Area Foundation's administrative infrastructure was in place, the Foundation went on to make its first grants in 1993.

Clearly the founding of the Virden Area Foundation with the Thomas Estate funds has resulted in a long lasting memorial to Murray and Jean Thomas. The generous bequest to the community will be held by the Foundation and generate funds to meet community needs in perpetuity.



## ABOUT US . . . .

Virden Area Foundation Inc.  
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[www.virdenareafoundation.ca](http://www.virdenareafoundation.ca)

A member of Community Foundations of Canada

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Virden Area Foundation is comprised of volunteers noted for their community involvement and knowledge of the area and its needs. Directors serve without compensation for a maximum of two consecutive three year terms. The following people served as directors during the years 2015 – 2016 which are covered in this report.

Ray Cochrane	since 2012	Alex Renard	since 2016
Sheila Byers	since 2012	Michelle Piwniuk	since 2016
Fran Bayliss	since 2014	Perry Kalynuk	2012-2015
Doug Heritage	since 2014	Shelby Rampton	2010-2016
Pam McLeod	since 2015	Garth Johnston	2010-2016
Gwenda Hayward	since 2015	Jacy Whyte	2010-2016
Glen Grieve	since 2016	Don Angus	2010-2016

The Constitution of the Virden Area Foundation provides for the appointment of directors by means of an Appointing Board. The Appointing Board consists of the holders of the offices of the Mayor of the Town of Virden, Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Wallace, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Virden, Chair of the Fort La Bosse School Division, and President of the Virden Chamber of Commerce.

## Grant Information

The objectives of the Foundation are to provide care for the needy men, women, and children, and in particular for the sick, aged, destitute, and helpless; to promote educational advancement; to promote conservation of human, natural and heritage resources; and to provide for such other charitable, educational, or cultural purposes that, in the opinion of the Board, are desirable and are intended to benefit primarily inhabitants of Virden and the surrounding area as now and hereafter constituted.

If you have a project that fit our criteria:

Check out our website for grant applications:  
[virdenareafoundation.ca](http://virdenareafoundation.ca)



## GRANTS

During **2015** the Virден Area Foundation made grants to support the following projects in the community:

### Art, Culture & Heritage

The Costume Closet	Construct new costumes	\$1,500
Elkhorn Restoration Club	Install security fence	<u>\$2,000</u>
		\$3,500

### Education

Jean & Murray Thomas Memorial Scholarship Awards for Student Citizenship – 2015		
Recipients	Nicole Weir & Erin Chapman	\$2,000
Virден Junior High ASCL	FM System within classroom	<u>\$1,792</u>
		\$3,792

### Health & Social Services

Sherwood Handi-Van	Purchase new 2015 van	\$10,000
Canadian Diabetes Association	Information session on diabetes	\$ 500
Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba	Community based parenting programs	\$ 1,000
Elkview Lodge Tenants Association	Cushions for benches	\$ 500
Strays that can't pay	Buy and erect storage shed	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
		\$13,000

### Sports & Recreation

Virден Area Wildlife Association	Expand walking trails & wildlife Observation area	\$ 5,000
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**Total grants paid in 2015 from Undesignated funds** **\$25,292**



## GRANTS

During **2016** the Virden Area Foundation made grants to support the following projects in the community:

### Art, Culture & Heritage

Virden Pioneer Home Museum	Rebuild white fence & electrical work	\$4,000
Breadabane Church Restoration	Restore window frames & repair entrance	\$3,500
Aud Theatre	Paint on Screen Projection	<u>\$1,000</u>
		<u>\$8,500</u>

### Education

Jean & Murray Thomas Memorial Scholarship Awards for Student Citizenship – 2016		
Recipients	Taylor Nahachewsky & Laura Wallace	\$ 2,000
Mary Montgomery School Playground Committee	Replace existing play structure on south side	\$ 5,000
Goulter School Advisory Cttee	Replace Basketball court	\$ 5,000
Reston & Area Early Learning Centre	Build Outdoor natural playground	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
		<u>\$17,000</u>

### Sports & Recreation

Wasagaming Foundation	Rebuild deck at Camp Wannakumbac	\$ 3,500
Reston Minor Baseball	Replace damaged backstops, dugouts etc	\$ 5,000
Elkhorn Spray Park	Build a spray park	\$ 5,000
Elkhorn District Community Centre	Replace chairs in curling rink viewing area	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
		<u>\$18,500</u>

Total grants paid in 2016 from Undesignated funds	\$44,000
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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Since the Foundation was established, its assets have grown substantially from \$614 135 in 1992 to \$1 949 670 in 2016. Investment income of \$73 816 was received in 2016 of which \$19 745 was spent on operating expenses. This left \$54 068 available to be paid as grants.

Total grants paid since inception in 1992: \$1 124 827 numbering approximately 377.

The Foundation's audited financial statements can be viewed at [www.virdenareafoundation.ca](http://www.virdenareafoundation.ca)

## ***STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL***

Thomas Memorial Fund – founding fund	Millennium Dance Fund
J & M Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund	Della & Ian Cameron Fund
Keith Heming Fund	S.G.R. Allison Fund
Myrtle Lane Fund	Emily Moffatt Memorial Fund
Hargrave Order of Foresters #1242 Fund	James Bratton Memorial Fund
Todd Andrew Memorial Fund	Audrey Brummitt Fund
S.B. Montgomery Fund	Ward Agencies
Paul & Laura Heaman Memorial Fund	Don Collier Memorial Fund
Don & Lynn Cameron Fund	Glen D. Gardiner Memorial Fund
Woodnorth Reunion Fund	2000 MTS MB Summer Games Legacy Fund
John & Helen Godolphin Fund	Anonymous Fund No. 1
Rolla Lund Fund	Anonymous Fund No. 2
S.Ross Poole Memorial Fund	Robert J. Andrew Memorial Fund
Kola Church of the Advent Fund	Virden 100F Lodge #113 Legacy Fund
Keith & Ada Kinnaird Fund	Robert Chapman Memorial Fund
Gerald & Jean Gatey Fund	Joe & Lucy Younge
Robert & Rita Eslinger Fund	Rodney Shepherd
William Jago Fund	James McGill Fund
I.O.F. Harmony Court Fund	Allen Family Fund
Glen & Ruth McLean Fund	John Lund Memorial Fund
Cawston Family Fund	Virden Historical Society Fund
Health District No.10 Legacy Fund	Virden MSOS Games Legacy Fund
J.Cameron Electric Fund	Virden Optimist Club
Irma McDougall	Lynda Giannotti
Sybil O'Neil	Eric & Judith Lister
Tim Hortons	Tundra Oil & Gas Partnership
Jack Forsyth	Virden Millennium History Book
Larry & Jeannette Logan	Virden Kin Place
Virden Cemetery Improvement Fund	Prairieland Chorus
Don Penny	David Fridd
John & Louise Leask	Keith & Audrey Forster
Lynn Rookes	Irene Nelson
Holly Forsyth	Kathy & Jack Welsh
Gladys Angers	Merv Smith
No Name Ball Team	Pat & Marie Angers
Westman Communications Group	Jeannette Madill
Mary Lou Reid	Laurette & Ray Bonner & Family
Lenore Old Time Dance Club	Gilbert Sodor

**Total Contributed Capital to December 31, 2016:**

**\$1 448 477**

## ***Community in Memoriam Fund***

The Foundation had received gifts to its Community in Memoriam Fund in memory of the following individuals:

*Alex Gabrielle  
Jack Templeton  
Ann Tonopa  
Lorne & Gertrude Mitchell  
Mrs. Rene Gabrielle  
Buster Watson  
Les Biccum  
Eric Freeman  
Richard Murphy  
Isabel Gilmour  
Earl McGill  
Bob Stewart  
Kevin Wong  
Marg McAuley  
Jim Heslip  
Elizabeth Cameron  
Della Cameron  
Louise Smith  
Don Heritage*

*Harvey Gabrielle  
Greta Cruickshank  
Roy Hayward  
Dr. R. S. Harris  
Vivian Myers  
Neva Finch  
Bob Prochazka  
Albert Kernel  
Glen Gardiner  
Ivy Hawkins  
William Carefoot  
Ray Bonner  
Bill Barrett  
Tom Ames  
Duncan Welch  
Anne Schur  
Viva & Walter Cox  
Ames Family  
Douglas Cameron*

*Chad Heaman  
Gladys Parsons  
Grace Freeman  
Verda McDougall  
Wayne Freeman  
Bill Quinn  
Leo Langlois  
Don O'Dell  
Evelyn Bains  
Ken Seafoot  
Vi Sinclair  
John F. Higginbotham  
Arnold Jones  
Ralph Colli  
Hugh Sinclair  
Thomas Smailes  
Howard Good  
Margaret Hayhurst*



## **Types of Funds**

By establishing an endowment fund within the Virden Area Foundation, a donor enables one contribution to address a wide range of human and community needs. The gift work in perpetuity because only earned income is disbursed as grants, and the original gift remains untouched.

Donors may choose from several types of funds with varying degrees of flexibility:

### **Undesignated Fund**

This is the most flexible type of fund since it can respond to the changing needs in the community both during and after the donor's lifetime. Earnings from an undesignated fund will support an unlimited range of charitable needs in the community. Because this type of fund is not tied to any specific agency or area of interest, the Foundation Board is able to address the changing needs of the community, now and in the future.

### **Designated Fund**

When creating a designated fund, the donor selects a specific charitable organization that will benefit from the gift. Annual earnings from a designated fund will be automatically granted to the chosen charity.

### **In Memoriam Gifts**

A gift to the Virden Area Foundation in memoriam of a friend or loved one will provide a lasting tribute and ongoing benefits to the community. These gifts become part of the Community in Memoriam Fund unless they exceed \$500.00 or are directed to a specific named fund.

## **Investment of Funds**

In the fall of 1999, the Foundation transferred the care and investment of its assets to the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Winnipeg Foundation where our investment objectives can be met by more cost effective means. The Virden Area Foundation also maintains some fully secured deposits at the Sunrise Credit Union in Virden.

The Foundations investment objectives are to maintain the purchasing power of the contributed capital through capital appreciation and the capitalization of a portion of interest income and to maximize income returns within the constraints of prudent investment.





# About Community Foundations

## What is a Community Foundation?

Canada's Community Foundations do three key things to build community vitality:

- Vitality depends on long-term resources for long-term solutions—so we work with donors to build endowment funds that ensure vital futures for communities.
- Vitality comes from all corners of a community, so we grant funds to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.
- Vitality needs leadership, so we bring people together from all parts of our communities to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

## Our Approach

And while there are many organizations working for better communities, a few important factors make our approach special:

- We bring donors to the table as community builders, and help them formulate and realize their philanthropic goals, matching their interests and concerns with community needs and organizations, and finding innovative and responsible ways to give their investments lasting impact.
- We take the broadest view of what a community is and what it needs to succeed. This is why our grants support everything from shelter, sustenance and care for those most in need, to recreation, the arts, and the environment.
- We take the long-term view for our communities: we identify long-term needs and opportunities and invest in sustainable solutions, helping our communities become resilient, resourceful, and ready for the future they want.



# Put down roots. Grow your community.

Help your community flourish forever!

Make a gift to your community foundation's unrestricted fund on one Saturday in November during the **Endow Manitoba – 24-Hour Giving Challenge** and your gift will be stretched, with support from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Province of Manitoba.



## HOW TO HELP

Gifts may be made to the Foundation by means of cash, charitable remainder trust, securities, life insurance, bequest through a will or an in memoriam donation. All gifts are acknowledged by an official receipt for income tax purposes. See your professional advisor for specific assistance. Recent tax changes make it even more attractive to gift securities to the Foundation.

**YES!**

I would like to contribute to the Virden Area Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my tax deductible donation to the Virden Area Foundation Inc. in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be held by the Foundation as capital in perpetuity. I

would like my gift to be used:

\_\_\_\_\_ Where the need is greatest

\_\_\_\_\_ Designated to the following charitable purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like further information about the Foundation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering.

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to be treated anonymously

Please mail to:

The Virden Area Foundation Inc.  
P.O Box 2319, Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0

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[www.cra.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra.gc.ca/charities).

The Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of this publication:



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A member of the Community Foundation of Canada