

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT OF PINAWA**  
**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**



**April - June 2021**

**[www.pinawa.com](http://www.pinawa.com)**

## **From the Council Chambers**

*by Mayor Blair Skinner*

We are now into April and COVID continues to be a major concern for Manitoba with many other provinces already having to lockdown due to the rapid spread of the UK and South African variants of the virus. This is obviously a priority issue for your Council and we are monitoring the restrictions to ensure our Community is compliant and our residents are protected. Please continue to follow the basics and we should be able to get back to the new normal once most of us are vaccinated some time later this year. Remember the By-election for the vacant Council position will be held at the Pinawa Community Centre on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 8 am to 8 pm. The advanced poll is on May 1, 2021, 8 am to 8 pm at the LGD Administration Office. Sealed envelope voting is an option which is already available at the LGD Administration Office.

Please check the Pinawa Community Development Corporation portion of the Quarterly Newsletter for updates on economic development activities for Pinawa.

### **BETTER EDUCATION STARTS TODAY AND THE MASTER AGREEMENT**

On March 15, 2021, the Honourable Cliff Cullen, Minister of Education announced the Education system overhaul entitled Better Education Starts Today. In that announcement, the 37 school districts, excluding the Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine, will be amalgamated into one Provincial Education Authority. The Whiteshell School District is included as one of the school districts to be amalgamated. This announcement, of course, has created anxiety all across the province including the residents of Pinawa.

The issue for the Province with regards to Pinawa will be that the Province signed the Master Agreement in 1960 which included the establishment of the Whiteshell School District. The Master Agreement does not contain an exit clause. Since AECL announced the closure of the Whiteshell Laboratories in the mid 90s, your Council and all Councils since that announcement, have maintained an ongoing dialogue with our legal Counsel on the Master Agreement since the Grant-in-Lieu of taxes accounts for approximately 40% of the LGD of Pinawa revenue and 57% of the Grant-in-Lieu is forwarded to the Whiteshell School District. Our legal have consistently informed Council no one party can unilaterally terminate the Master Agreement. It can only be renegotiated into a new agreement and that would involve what is being forecast as a very lengthy negotiation between AECL, the

Province of Manitoba, the Whiteshell School District, and the Local Government District of Pinawa.

Twenty years ago, the Province made a similar announcement regarding amalgamations in 2001 and that announcement also included the Whiteshell School District. However, meetings were held with the Minister at that time, the Honourable Drew Caldwell, where the implications with regards to the Master Agreement were discussed, in particular, the important fact that a significant portion of the budget of the Whiteshell School District is paid by the Federal Government through the Grant-in-Lieu of taxes and that burden would shift to the Provincial Government. With the facts provided, the Provincial Government chose not to proceed with amalgamation of the Whiteshell School District at that time. It is way too early to conclude what the outcome of discussions will be this time. Council is optimistic the Province will reach a similar conclusion as it did in 2001/2002.

Be assured that your Council and the Whiteshell School District along with our legal Counsel, if necessary, will work together to protect the education system for our children. We are very well prepared to deal with this issue. The most important first step has already taken place. On March 23, Whiteshell School District Board Chairperson Lorraine Nelson, in consultation with the Council of the LGD of Pinawa, wrote an excellent letter to the Honourable Cliff Cullen providing the important details as outlined above. The letter requested the Provincial decision be reversed with regards to the Whiteshell School District. The Minister was also offered the opportunity to meet and discuss the matter further. We will continue to work to ensure our schools continue to provide the education that makes Pinawa a desirable place for families to choose to live.

### **SMALL MODULAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION UPDATE**

Council is very pleased to report important positive steps forward with StarCore Nuclear and the Provincial Government continue to take place. Accordingly, StarCore Nuclear has already renewed discussions with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) about the proposed project. As reported before, in 2018, CNL established a 4-stage process for siting a Small Modular Reactor on an AECL owned CNL managed site. StarCore Nuclear submitted a proposal for Stage 1 that stated the Whiteshell Laboratories site is their preferred location for their demonstration reactor. CNL provided Stage 1 approval in September, 2018. Once the Stage 2 application is approved by CNL, the project can begin to work through Stage 3, which will lead

to the opportunity to submit a CNSC License application, currently planned to be initiated in 2022.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL PROJECTS**

Council has awarded the contract to complete the paving project of Vanier Avenue from the Coop Station to Willis Drive (\$83K). Council has also awarded the contract to replace the watermain on Grey and Cauchon at a cost of \$1.2 million. We will receive provincial funding for 50% of this important infrastructure renewal project. Council has also awarded a smaller contract to complete a sewer line repair on Devonshire (\$39K)

## **TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE**

It is very evident the tourism business is growing in Pinawa. Your Council has had many meetings over the winter months planning and prioritizing next steps for infrastructure development and improvements to ensure the best experience for visitors and residents during the busy tourism season. It is our goal to better manage the logistics of the visitors coming to our community while maintaining access to our many attractions for our residents. For this year, we are planning to implement a boat launch fee that will apply to visitors using our main boat launch and the secondary boat launch. Residents will continue to be able to use these boat launches for no charge. The revenues received will be used to hire employees to ensure visitors have paid their fee and all users are using the boat launches as per the posted boat launch etiquette. Recently, I received an email from a resident who heard we were planning to remove the “old boat launch”. This is not true. In fact, we are planning improvements to the boat launch to make it more user-friendly including extending the dock. Furthermore, we are taking further steps to direct other users such as visitors with canoes and kayaks so they will not interfere with people launching motor boats. Again, our primary goal is to protect the recreational uses our residents have traditionally enjoyed.

Please check out the Pinawa Community Development Corporation portion of the Quarterly Newsletter. PCDC is planning to undertake the development of a Tourism Strategy. This project has a specific goal to develop a long-term comprehensive parking strategy to accommodate the influx of tourists with the goal of minimizing the impact of tourist traffic on our residents. For 2021, we are planning to install a new parking lot opposite the pool to accommodate pool, beach, and the new waterpark users. The tentative plan is to create a 50-space parking lot on the west side of Willis Drive. The design of the parking lot has not yet been completed. Signage will be posted to direct users of those attractions to the new

parking lot as in the past, many beach users have been using the Pinawa Club parking lot, which should only be used by members and customers of The Pinawa Club.

For the Channel Float, Council has been developing plans for an improved and more efficient use of the land at the end of Highway 211 from Willis Drive East to the Winnipeg River, as well as improvements at the Suspension Bridge end. This year, there will be security personnel at both ends of the Channel Float. They will be collecting \$10 per vehicle, 7 days a week from the end of June to Labour Day at both ends of the Channel Float. Residents will continue to have free access to these parking areas. We are currently developing an organized plan for parking spaces at both ends. Council arranged for the land at the end of Highway 211 to be surveyed so we would have accurate dimensions of the area we have to work with. The plan will include a buffer to allow safe passage of users of the golf course, designated parking area for users of the driving range (no cost), designated locations for the Channel Float vendors and a plan for unrestricted access for the Channel Float vendors to be able to efficiently provide their services to their customers. We also plan to install reduced speed limits in this area to minimize the risk of an accident with the large number of pedestrians and golfers in this area. At the Suspension Bridge, we have expanded the parking area and are in the process of drawing up an organized parking scheme. There will be reserved spaces for visitors to the cemetery and there will be no parking allowed on the roadway (Alice Chambers Trail). Spaces will be designated for the Channel Float vendors to meet their customers as they exit the Channel Float. These are significant changes to try and make the Channel Float a safer and more enjoyable experience. We will be monitoring the impacts of these changes with a view to making further improvements during the summer months, if necessary.

## **RESIDENT CARD**

The influx of tourists to the community has created the need to differentiate between residents and visitors using our amenities. Last year, we introduced the “Resident Card”, which was distributed to residents by the LGD administration office. The 2021 Resident Card is available to be picked up for all local residents, including seasonal campground residents, and is to be displayed in your vehicle to allow access to the parking areas, boat launches and landfill at no extra charge.

## **CANADA’S RADIOACTIVE WASTE POLICY REVIEW**

In the last newsletter, the topic of the review of Canada’s Radioactive Waste Policy was introduced. This topic is of particular importance to the Local Government

District of Pinawa. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories current decommissioning plans include the In-Situ Decommissioning (Entombment) of the WR-1 reactor and the permanent storage of Low- Level Radioactive Waste in several clay lined trenches. To be clear, these are proposed plans and neither of these parts of the overall project has been approved by the CNSC. The Mayor has been continuing to participate in meetings regarding the review. The NRCAN Policy Review process gives everyone a chance to have a say. To get involved, check out the website by entering Modernizing Canada's Radioactive Waste Policy into your internet browser and you should see the link to the website. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me. The deadline for input into the review has been extended to May 31, 2021. There will be a further chance to have input when a draft of the revised policy is issued for comment sometime in the fall of 2021.

### **OFF LEASH DOG PARK**

Recently, it has been noted that there has been a renewed discussion amongst some residents about the desirability of Pinawa having an off- leash dog park. Council would like to encourage the people having these discussions form a committee, and develop a proposal including a plan to fund the construction and maintenance of an off-leash dog park. Council has a long history of working with various volunteer committees who have a vision for improvements to our Community and we would certainly do the same for an off-leash dog park committee.

Your input into these or any other issues is always welcome. Please feel free to call me at (204) 753-2199 or contact any of the Councillors, or Resident Administrator, Gisele Smith at (204 )753-5105.



## **PINAWA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Suite S16 • W.B. Lewis Business Centre  
P.O. Box 234**

**Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0  
Ph: (204) 753-5172; FX: (204) 753-5180**

**April 2021**

### **Economic Development Update By Chairperson Blair C. Skinner**

The Board of Directors and staff of the Pinawa Community Development Corporation is pleased to provide an update on the progress we are making towards people moving to Pinawa to start a business, growth of local businesses, and other economic development activities. The previous effort to lay the groundwork for creation of new jobs is now beginning to be realized and is growing. The Board of Directors conducted a virtual board meeting in March, 2021. At that Board meeting, we agreed to defer the Annual General Meeting until COVID restrictions allow for an in-person meeting. The most important reason is we will need to conduct an election for three positions on the Board of Directors.

### **PINAWA UNPLUGGED ECO TOURS**

We are pleased to report that Pinawa Unplugged Eco Tours is expanding their business. This tourism-based business has purchased 2 Commercial lots from the LGD of Pinawa in the Michener Road development. The two lots face Bessborough Avenue between Michener Road and Burrows Road. The Local Government District of Pinawa has entered into a Development Agreement for a two-phase development on the first lot that fits very well with the LGD of Pinawa Downtown Secondary Plan for mixed use. The first phase will be to construct a retail office space primarily for Pinawa Unplugged's Channel Float tubing business. A residence will also be constructed as part of the building as a secondary use of the property as permitted by the LGD of Pinawa Zoning By-Law. The second phase of the development will include the construction of 2 to 4 rental cabins. As Pinawa Unplugged grows, they will create more job opportunities. Congratulations to Pinawa Unplugged. For more information, check out [www.pinawaunplugged.com](http://www.pinawaunplugged.com).

### **HOOPLA ISLAND – INFLATABLE WATERPARK**

The development of Hoopla Island was previously reported in the October, 2020 PCDC report in the quarterly newsletter. 21 Ventures is one of the North Forge East clients

that has chosen to start their business in Pinawa. Gabriel Verrier is the President of 21 Ventures and his parents have lived in Pinawa for over 12 years. Over the past 2 summers, they have successfully operated an inflatable WaterPark in Kenora. The planned WaterPark will be located outside of the swimming buoys at the beach and access will be limited to the east side of the beach area. This area is seldom used by visitors to the Beach. The number of participants is limited to ensure proper supervision by the 2 lifeguards on duty at all times, therefore the impact of traffic around the beach area should be small. Upgrades to the Beach washroom facility were already underway and the Council of the LGD of Pinawa have committed funds for a parking lot on the west side of Willis Drive opposite the pool. Signage for visitors to the pool, beach, and WaterPark will be installed. The Seasonal Vendor fees we will collect from 21 Ventures ensures this new attraction is a partner in the cost of the necessary infrastructure improvements we make plus the new business will add jobs to the community. For more information, check out [www.hooplaisland.com](http://www.hooplaisland.com). You can also visit the PCDC Facebook page [@PinawaCDC](https://www.facebook.com/PinawaCDC) to find the latest post for Hoopla Island that includes a Business Introduction Letter from Gabriel Verrier. From Gabriel: “We are enthusiastic to bring this new activity here to Pinawa and do our part to support the local business community, to contribute to its tourism industry, and to provide summer jobs while strengthening Pinawa’s image as a place to discover.” This new business is estimated to create between 7 and 10 full time direct seasonal positions and will provide spinoff benefits as many visitors will also check out our restaurants, food trucks, and other businesses.

## **GILLAM RENTALS PURCHASE**

The Council of the LGD of Pinawa has accepted the offer from Gillam Rentals to purchase approximately 100 acres of land west of Willis Drive West between the Great Trail and Highway 211, subject to successful rezoning and entering into a Development Agreement. Gillam Rentals is another North Forge East client who has chosen to move to Pinawa to start their business. Their proposal is to create a wedding venue, rental cabins, seasonal campground, and temporary RV camping to support venue use. The property is at least 100 feet from the Great Trail to ensure a minimum buffer is maintained. Work is underway on both the rezoning and the required Development Agreement.

## **MICHENER ROAD REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

As a result of the excellent work of the Tourism Committee to develop the concept for possible future development of Michener Road (currently undeveloped street) and the LGD of Pinawa land owned between the Pinawa Motel and Bessborough Avenue, the LGD of Pinawa has issued the Request for Proposals (RFP) as of January 28, 2021 with the deadline for proposals for April 30, 2021. The RFP allows for alternative layouts to the conceptual plan as long as it is consistent with the vision of “a resort like

development with outdoor activities.” Developers also have the flexibility to submit proposals for a portion of the property.

## **IMPROVED INTERNET ACCESS**

As reported in previous quarterly newsletters, we are working with Valley Fiber to bring a dedicated fibre connection to every home and business that wants to subscribe. On March 26, the Canadian Infrastructure Bank announced a \$130 million dollar investment in the Southern Manitoba Fibre project to provide improved fibre optic internet access to an estimated 49,000 rural Manitobans. The investment is matched by Valley Fibre partner DIF Capital Partners. The LGD of Pinawa is included in the scope of the project. Implementation was originally planned for this summer but may be delayed depending on the availability of contractors to do the work. For more information on the March 26 announcement including a video check out [www.valleyfiber.ca/news](http://www.valleyfiber.ca/news) and click on the “Read More” link for the announcement.

## **TOURISM STRATEGY**

PCDC has entered into an agreement with MiTacs to develop a tourism strategy for Pinawa to be completed in 2021. MiTacs is an organization that matches organizations with researchers and provides 50% federal funding for the project. The research will be conducted by the University of Manitoba and will include consultation with our residents and businesses to identify the type of tourism businesses we would like to attract to Pinawa. The project includes a specific request to develop a comprehensive parking plan for the community including parking related to the Channel Float, downtown parking, particularly for the marina and the potential new Michener Road development project, etc.

## **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

The Vanier Information Kiosk located at the north end of Vanier Avenue has undergone a major refurbishment including a new map and new advertising from our local businesses. Visitors to our community will find the Kiosk much more useful for finding their destination and finding out what our business community has to offer.

The Marketing Committee is continuing work on the Pinawa Wayfinding Signage Project. The implementation will greatly assist visitors and new residents to our community navigating around Pinawa to the various tourism attractions and amenities. The Committee is continuing to work with our contractor, Stephanie Joyce, to optimize the cost of fabrication and installation. We have been insisting on signage that will last for many years, require no maintenance, and allow for easy modification as amenities and tourism attractions change or new ones are added to our community. EDO Ben Shantz has submitted funding applications seeking grants to help pay for the implementation.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As described for specific projects above, the hard work of Our Senior EDO, Shane Li, is now resulting in North Forge East clients choosing to develop their new business and create jobs for our local economy. We also want to express again our appreciation for the ongoing financial support from the Canadian National Energy Alliance through Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. They have provided annual funding for the first 5 years of North Forge East. The financial support from CNEA/CNL is leading to diversification of our economy and job creation. The investment has also enabled North Forge East to develop pathways for international entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to find their way to establish or help grow new businesses in Pinawa. North Forge East has established a partnership with the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program, a membership in National Angel Capital Organization (NACO), and a partnership in the Federal Government Start Up Visa program.

Shane is now working on developing partnerships in the Clean-Tech and Sustainable Environment business sector including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, and BizforClimate. Shane has also been developing a relationship with Futurpreneur Canada (see [www.futurpreneur.ca](http://www.futurpreneur.ca)). Futurpreneur Canada can provide a source of grant funding for start up businesses to assist with working through the business start up process. Futurpreneur Canada has already referred two new clients to North Forge Technology Exchange.

North Forge East has worked with 34 clients since inception and 21 of those clients remain in the program. As reported above, North Forge East has enabled local businesses to grow and brought new businesses from elsewhere in the province to move to Pinawa. We have business development momentum and fully expect to be making similar announcements in future quarterly newsletters.

## PINAWA FACEBOOK PAGE

To get the latest economic development information, you can follow and like the PCDC Facebook page at [@PinawaCDC](https://www.facebook.com/PinawaCDC). EDO Ben Shantz is regularly posting current information.

**REMEMBER TO  
SHOP LOCAL!**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

General Inquiries	204-753-5100
Toll Free	1-855-761-4650
Resident Administrator <i>Giséle Smith</i>	204-753-5105 smithg@pinawa.com
Assistant Resident Administrator <i>Tannis Lodge</i>	204-753-5100 assistantra@pinawa.com
Accountant <i>Crystal Stanley</i>	204-753-5102 accountant@pinawa.com
Office Administrator <i>Pat Sullivan</i>	204-753-5108 sullivanp@pinawa.com
Public Works Manager <i>Rob Corden</i>	204-753-5106; Cell 204-340-1672 pwmanager@pinawa.com
Pinawa Community Dev. Corp. Sr. Economic Development Officer <i>Shane Li</i>	204-291-8108 (cell) edo@pinawa.com / sli@northforgeeast.ca
Economic Development Officer <i>Ben Shantz</i>	204-753-5172 shantzb@pinawa.com
Communications Coordinator <i>Courtney Geddes</i>	204-753-5170 edoadmin@pinawa.com
Building Inspector <i>Rudi Klassen</i>	204-471-5000 buildinginspector@pinawa.com
Assistant Building Inspector <i>Denis Verrier</i>	204-381-0654
Recycling Depot	204-753-2491
RCMP	
General Inquiries	204-753-2217
Complaints/Emergencies	204-753-2919
Fire Chief <i>Shawn Elcock</i>	204-345-3621 pinawafire@gmail.com
By-Law / Dog Control Officer <i>Brock Visca</i>	enforcement@pinawa.com 204-232-4876
Municipal Emergency Coordinator <i>Craig Oversby</i>	emo@pinawa.com 204-213-2200

### **TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Regular Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm

### **MEETING DATES**

May 11<sup>th</sup>

June 8<sup>th</sup>

### **TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Friday  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

### **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Municipal Office and  
Public Works will be closed:

*May 24 Victoria Day*

### **MAYOR**

Blair Skinner  
204-753-2199 C: 204-345-3899  
skinnerb@pinawa.com

### **DEPUTY MAYOR**

Rhonda Henschell  
H: 204-753-2358 C: 204-340-5825  
henschellr@pinawa.com

### **COUNCILLORS**

Paul Crosthwaite  
H: 204-753-2045 C: 204-340-6293  
crosthwaitep@pinawa.com

Clay McMurren  
H: 204-753-8841 C: 204-232-6711  
mcmurrenc@pinawa.com



## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 5, 2021**

**POLLS OPEN 8 am – 8 pm**  
**Pinawa Community Centre**

### **ADVANCE POLL**

May 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 am – 8 pm  
Council Chambers – Municipal Office

*Please bring Government issued Photo Identification*

Information and forms for voting by mail can be obtained at the Municipal Office  
(Photo Identification **MUST** be provided)

**Yard Waste Collection starts Monday, May 3, 2021.**

***Reminder – No Yard Waste Collection on Statutory Holidays***

## The Margaret & Alfred Wikjord Family Fund

The Pinawa Foundation is pleased to announce that a new unrestricted fund was established in November 2020 by the Wikjord Family in honour of Margaret. The Wikjord family has been a generous supporter every Philanthropy Day and 2020 was no exception when they chose to open the newest unrestricted fund.

An unrestricted fund allows granting for any area of interest. This fund joins our other two unrestricted funds: General and the Smart & Caring. In 2020 the grants from these funds supported all the groups in Community Project Month, as well as the Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) grants, and grants for fencing at Iron Gardens Elders Home and for new stage curtains at the Community Centre on behalf of Pinawa Players.



## Philanthropy Week November 9 – 15, 2020

Changes due to Covid restrictions saw Philanthropy Day stretched from one day to a full week. It was a great success. Thank you to everyone who added to our unrestricted endowment funds that week. The Foundation added \$122,799 to our endowment (this includes \$4,000 in grants from the Province of Manitoba and The Winnipeg Foundation).

The value of the Foundation's endowment funds at the end of 2020 was \$1,168,210.

**Congratulations Pinawa you have built a \$1,000,000 endowment fund in 10 years.**

The same week-long format will be used for 2021. Donations on-line may be made starting Monday November 8, 2021 through to Sunday November 14, 2021. Cheques payable to the Pinawa Foundation should be received by Saturday November 13, 2021.

## **Youth in Philanthropy**

The students' request for grant applications were sent out in early 2021 with a March 31 deadline. Decisions will be announced at the Foundation AGM in June (fingers crossed).

The students with Mrs. Krupka are recruiting for new members.

## **Community Project Month - May 2021**

The following groups are participants in 2021 Community Project Month.

Survivor's Hope Crisis Inc. – "Improved Services for East Man". Goal: \$5,000

Pinawa Tennis Club – "Repurposing/Resurfacing Tennis/Pickleball Courts". Goal: \$110,000

Two Rivers Seniors – "Covid Expenses Recovery" Goal: \$6,000

Pinawa Art 211 – "Sculpting Equipment – Metal Shelving/Lighting". Goal: \$1,000

Whiteshell Winter Arts Festival - "Activity Equipment (Shuffleboard, Mini Golf)". Goal: \$1,200

Pinawa Lions Club – "Burrows Park Playground Upgrade". Goal \$50,000 (over 2 years)

Pinawa Secondary School – "Guitar Program". Goal: \$1,400

Pinawa Hospital – "Security Card Access for Hospital Pharmacy". Goal: \$10,000

Pinawa Public Library – "Sit 'n Read (Sofa & Nordic Noir Collection)". Goal: \$6,000

Children's Place Day-Care – "Day Care Renovations". Goal: \$50,000

Whiteshell XC Ski Club – "Ski Trail & Track Maintenance". Goal: \$2,000

Pinawa Christmas Committee – "Town Holiday Lights" (owned not rented): Goal: \$1,000

Orville Acres Arena - "LED Light Replacement". Goal: \$12,656

The Pinawa Foundation will stretch community donations by 40% (to a maximum of \$2,000 per group). One cheque can contribute to all or any of the participating groups. Tax receipts issued for donations \$25 and over.

This year has been challenging for all our local groups and the usual fundraising activities to support their budgets have not happened. Please support them if you can.

## **Pinawa Foundation Celebrates Tenth Anniversary**

The Pinawa Foundation recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Most people believe their community is special; usually because of the people or the setting or the clubs and special

events that make their town a home. Pinawa is no exception. The Pinawa Foundation was established in 2010 as a non-profit organization focused on supporting charities, groups, and clubs in Pinawa.

“The Foundation was started by dedicated volunteers led by Lynn Patterson and Jane Sargent” said Chris Saunders, the Chair of the Board of Directors. “Over the past 10 years, we have been able to help many local groups with important projects, thanks to the generosity of our community and our corporate and government partners. We have distributed over \$500,000 to support these projects, and we have built our endowment fund to over \$1 Million so that we can continue to support the community for years to come.”



Some of the memorable projects for the Foundation over the years include the first project to get residents to sign up to be organ donors, donating mittens to the students in Pinawa to celebrate the Vancouver Olympics, the annual community project month in May, conceived and led by Carol Findlay, where the Foundation partners with as many local groups as possible to collect and top up the donations for them, publishing and distributing two books on local history and a community resource guide, and the recent programs to help local groups manage the challenges of Covid-19. The Foundation has also funded many projects at the local hospital (upgraded WiFi and cellphone service; new equipment for Cancer Care), the Pinawa Club (new equipment for both the golf course and the curling club; new flooring for the clubhouse) and the Whiteshell School Division (12 scholarships; new scoreboard, ukuleles, and other equipment; graduation display; history display; Youth in Philanthropy Program). The Ironwood Complex has also benefited from the Foundation with a new walk-in tub, fencing for the Ironwood Garden's Elder's home, and Covid-19 supplies.



In addition to our donors, the Foundation would like to thank several groups that have helped us over the years, including the LGD of Pinawa and Mayor Blair Skinner, the Winnipeg Foundation, our investment partner, the Thomas Sill Foundation, and Community Foundations of Canada, a national body that provides advice and support. They would also like to acknowledge all the people that have volunteered their time and skills to the Board of Directors over the years, including over 20 people that have participated as board members. The current board includes Chris Saunders (Chair), Carol Findlay (Treasurer),



Connie Hamon (Secretary), Cindy Litke (Communications), Lisa Krupka (Youth in Philanthropy Leader), Alf Wikjord, John Tait, Don Kerr, and Chuck Vandergraaf.

Saunders also said “We have a dynamic board, committed to the work and Pinawa, but we can always use more volunteers. We need people that help create action around community opportunities and challenges. If you think you can help, please contact the Pinawa Foundation at 753-2446, email to [info@pinawafoundation.org](mailto:info@pinawafoundation.org) or mail to Box 100, Pinawa, MB, R0E 1L0.”

## **Community Futures Winnipeg River Names Chris Saunders as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year.**

Chris was recognized by CFWR as a dedicated volunteer and hard-working community supporter. Chris moved to the community in 1980 and in no time, he got involved in various local activities. Forty years later, Chris is still an active, engaged volunteer in Pinawa. His early involvement in the community stemmed from his love for sports. Chris was very involved with minor hockey and served many roles including coaching, managing, and refereeing. Chris has always been a willing volunteer at many local sporting, fundraising, and Lions Club events. Over the years he has participated on numerous boards and committees. Chris was part of the team to form the Pinawa Foundation and has served as Chairman since its inception. Chris has great pride in his hometown, and he works hard to make Pinawa a better place. For Pinawa's 50th Birthday in 2013, Chris helped create two history books to capture the first 50 years of history in both the community and the Whiteshell Laboratories. Chris also continues to support the community through his own business by sponsoring many local events and fundraisers. Chris gives back to the community so the community can continue to strive and grow. Chris can often be heard to say “How can I help?”



*For more information about the Pinawa Foundation, or to make a donation, visit us at **[pinawafoundation.org](http://pinawafoundation.org)** or check us out on **Facebook**.*

***For our Good. For our Future.***