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LdB Foundation allocates spring grants

By Arlene Davidson

The Lac du Bonnet Foundation held its annual general meeting on May 23 at the Legion Hall where they announced the successful spring grant recipients.

Grant committee chair Mitch Walker announced the grant recipients included Centennial School (\$1,500), the Winnipeg River Arts Council (\$500), the Rotary Club of Selkirk (\$1,000) and Mrs. Lucci's Resource Centre (\$500).

Dave Ogren and Andrea Maxwell accepted the grant for Centennial School, which will be used to fund a shade structure in their developing playground and outdoor classroom.

Jennifer Hudson-Stewart said the Winnipeg River Arts Council will be putting funds toward the cost of a travelling theatre production they will be presenting this summer.

Sharon Moolchan of the Rotary Club of Selkirk accepted a \$1,000 grant that will help fund a diagnostic Echocardiography program at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre, which serves residents of the North Eastman region.

In 2017, the Lac du Bonnet Foundation helped establish a Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program at the Lac du Bonnet Senior School with funding support from the Thomas Sill Foundation. Kaitlyn Mitchell, Marina Milne and Taylor Dufault of the YIP committee were pleased to award their first community grant of \$1,500 to Karen Kost of Mrs. Lucci's Resource Centre earlier this month.

The committee members were present at the AGM when the organization received an additional \$500 from the Lac du Bonnet Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase recreational items for Lucci's newly opened location on 3rd Street in Lac du Bonnet.

This summer, the foundation will also be allocating two educational grants to graduates of Lac du Bonnet Senior School.

Walker announced the fall grants will be allocated after the September deadline and he invited eligible organizations to submit their applications online.

Foundation president Gerry Arbez provided a brief history of the organization



Photo by Arlene Davidson

The Lac du Bonnet Foundation allocated \$3,500 in grants to community organizations at their May 23 AGM. Pictured back row left to right: Mitch Walker, Mauri Rutherford, Gerry Arbez, Sharon Moolchan, Andrea Maxwell, Dave Ogren and Jennifer Hudson-Stewart. Front row left to right: Karen Kost, Taylor Dufault, Kaitlyn Mitchell and Marina Milne.

that was established in the early 2000s and reported they are doing very well and growing at a good pace.

Arbez announced that the endowment has reached the \$500,000 mark and the Foundation will be hosting a Donor Appreciation Day on July 14 from the booth at the Lac du Bonnet Farmers Market to celebrate the milestone accomplishment. Arbez explained the foundation is required to grant 3.5 per cent of their endowment every

year, and this year they have increased that amount to four per cent as a result of the healthy endowment.

"This is also a tough year for the Foundation because we will be losing four of our long term members who will be missed very much," said Arbez who identified these members as chair Mauri Rutherford, past president John Barnard, Rolly Simard and Gus Wruck, who will all be retiring on June 30. Arbez said the Foundation is currently

interviewing potential candidates to fill these vacancies and was delighted to report that Gary Rollins will be the first of the new members to join the board.

As Rutherford prepared to close the meeting, members of the Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa Bridge Clubs came forth and made a donation of \$820 to the Foundation's Health and Seniors fund. The money was raised at their annual charity duplicate tournament, which took place on May 4.

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