



Celebrate Philanthropy Month, Make a Difference

November was Philanthropy Month in Creston. And, while the word often carries connotations of financial giving, the original Greek meaning of the word is simply “love of humanity.”

In a time of growing financial uncertainty, unrest and struggle for many Canadians and families in Creston, it is vital to define philanthropy simply as an act of selfless giving. What individuals can give depends entirely on their situation and capacity – and time really can be as good as money. While money is always needed and welcome for local groups, when money is short, consider shifting your philanthropic goals to giving some time to a cause you believe in.

There is widespread agreement that volunteering helps build safer, stronger communities and that social networks can ultimately make all the difference when systems are strained. About 22 percent, or two in ten Canadians, are expecting to rely on essential charitable services in the next six months, according to Nicole Danesi from Unite for Change.

This November, the Creston Valley Community Foundation saluted donors and volunteers in our community who provide everything from invaluable services at the Gleaners stores and Food Bank; the organization of the Blossom and Fall Fairs; parades, trails, gardens, parks; community planning support; beautification projects; and that intangible feeling of belonging. Without them, our town would be a quieter, sadder place to live.

Throughout the pandemic, local volunteer groups took on unprecedented burdens. Dutch researcher Paul Dekker argued that there is simply “more voluntary work to be done today than in the past.” There are more older people to visit; schools more often seek the help of parents; there are more areas to clean up; more families are struggling; and so on.

Essentially, there is already a problem if the number of volunteers simply remains the same. In smaller communities, this is especially true as more services and amenities are provided by the contributions of grassroots local groups. Individual capacity, availability and skills may change, but the need for help remains or grows.

Continued on page 2



CVCF members worked to create a display in honour of Volunteer Appreciation Day on December 5.

In a year marked by rising interest rates and cost of living, local volunteers soldiered on and accomplished wonderful things, from cleaner, thoughtfully designed recreation spaces, to services for marginalized populations and summer programs.

This holiday season, the CVCF salutes everyone who gave of their finances, time, energy, and creativity.



Continued from page 1

In a 2021 opinion from the European Economic and Social Committee, rapporteur Krzysztof Pater stated: “It is time to open our eyes and say that the future... will not be built by decision-makers, politicians or civil society organisations, but by active citizens and volunteers – by people who devote their free time to the benefit of society.”

Throughout November we challenged our members, friends and the community to consider what future we all want to build ... and then to take another step, no matter how small, in building it.

A Very Special Shout-out to Our Regular Donors

Many of you keep your good deeds private. Some have contributed to the CVCF for years, quietly and unassumingly, and your regular donations have become a much larger whole. In 2022, the CVCF attained and surpassed \$1,000,000 in total grants issued since our inception.

There are many things in this world that cannot be rushed: remember the construction of the Great Wall of China (2,000 years), the aging of a fine wine or cheese, the life rhythm of a garden, and the growth of wisdom and understanding. The same is true for the footprint the best people leave in this world, which is often the sum of many small acts of kindness.

If you read this (and we hope you do), you know who you are. Thank you so much! We hope your holidays are filled with warmth, kindness and the knowledge that you made a difference this year, again.



Foundation Donates to Tutor Jet

In July 2022, a Tutor Jet repainted with the colors of the 1967 Golden Centennaires was installed in the north parking lot of Millennium Park. The memorial stands in honor of both Creston's C.B. Lang, who led the centennaires, and Creston resident John Huscroft, who acquired the jet in 2010 and dedicated more than a decade of his life to the dream of publicly displaying it.

The installation was completed with support from donor-advised funds at the Creston Valley Community Foundation. The CVCF would like to thank our private donors who believed in John Huscroft's vision and helped make it a reality.

There is only one other Golden Centenaire Tutor jet on display, at the Southport airport in Manitoba where the group trained for their 1967 programs.

Want to get involved?

The Community Foundation provides a number of ways to get involved!

Have you considered joining a committee, or becoming a volunteer to help with specific tasks? If so, let us know or request more info:

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