



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Launch of the Temagami Community Foundation
- Message From the President
- List of Donors
- Our First Grantees
- Message from the CFC



*Prayers Endings*

## 2002 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2002

## Amid High Winds, Rain and Sunshine, an Enthusiastic Crowd Gathers for Launch of TCF



©2002 Abby Cote Bear Island, ON

JULY 28th, 2002—In an unprecedented combining of nations and cultures, the residents of Bear Island and the Municipality of Temagami launched the Temagami Community Foundation. This organization is unique in its makeup, having a board comprised of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people representing three nations—First Nations, Canadian and American citizens. The Foundation serves the entire 2,300 square miles of the Municipality of Temagami.

As Bear Island is only accessible by water, over 150 people braved Lake Temagami, crossing in high winds and periods of severe rain to attend the launch and celebration held in a large outdoor tent, and in the Recreation Center. Opening prayers were given by elders Mary Katt and Lorne Pacey, followed by a haunting acapella rendition of "Oh Canada" sung in Ojibway by Teme-Augama Anishnabai member Bobby Maxwell. The Vice Regal Salute was exquisitely played by Denise Cracknell, a young virtuoso violinist from Marten River.

Special guest and key-note speaker was to have been the Honourable James K. Bartleman, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Unfortunately, due to the severe weather he had to cancel his appearance. He did, however, fax his speech, in which

he stated: "It is good to see a new kind of collaboration flourishing in this region... Creating a community foundation is an ideal way to recognize and enhance your interdependence. This initiative is rooted in a sense of neighbourliness and concern for the region as a whole... As the Queen's representative in this province, I wish the supporters of the Temagami Community Foundation every success in ensuring good stewardship of this beautiful place now and in the future."

Representatives of the Community Foundations of Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Temagami Public School (recipient of one of the first grants awarded by the TCF),

A touching moment during the ceremonies came when an emotional lifelong Bear Island resident, Barry McKenzie with tears in his voice, publicly thanked the Ontario Trillium Foundation for providing the grant funding needed to purchase the Elders' new pontoon boat—the "K che biy yak Chii maan", which simply means the "Elders' Boat".

At the end of the day, June Twain and friends from Bear Island prepared a fabulous luncheon for the festivities, and Hugh McKenzie put aside his artist's cap to play guitar for the social interlude. The day was also an opportunity for local artists and craftspeople to showcase and sell their wares.



TCF Board Member Lorne Pacey and the late Temagami First Nation Elder Bill Twain at the launch on Bear Island

The first two grants awarded by the Temagami Community Foundation were announced by the Chair of the Board and Founding President Victoria McKenzie Grant.

"The Foundation believes that cooperation, respect and community accountability can provide perpetual stewardship for the land," stated Ms. Grant. "By working together we can find

opportunities to build and sustain a strong and healthy community, one that we will all be proud to share."

We can all look forward to the opportunities the Foundation will provide.



## Profile of a Donor

### Victoria Grant Interviews Carol Rykert

*"It is good to see a new kind of collaboration flourishing in this region..."*

Ontario Lt. Gov.  
James K. Bartleman



**GRANT  
APPLICATIONS  
AVAILABLE  
FEBRUARY 1ST,  
2003 &  
SEPTEMBER  
1ST, 2003**



*"...a vision that has been made possible by the generous funding grant that has been given to us by the Temagami Community Foundation."*

D. Porter  
Principal, TPS



*"On arriving... I knew I was home..."*

Carol Rykert,  
reflecting on her first visit to Temagami

The Temagami Community Foundation would like to honour and show our appreciation to Mrs. Carol Rykert for her most generous donation. Carol, a tall, striking, warm and generous woman, came to Canada from the United States in the fall of 1954 to enroll in Teachers College. She had lost her parents and was responsible for her 15 year old sister, so she came here to be closer to her Canadian family. That very winter, she was invited to go downhill skiing in Collingwood, and was asked to do the driving because she owned her own car, a "Nash Rambler". She, with her cousin and two friends set off for a weekend of skiing. That evening she met a most handsome, tall, attentive man, John Rykert, and there began her tie with Temagami.

The beginning of the Rykert family connection to Temagami could be described as a beautiful love story. Harold Rykert was born in 1904. In the mid 20's he was interning as a doctor, and came to Camp Temagami to serve as camp doctor. At the same time, the Gundy family owned a boathouse on Camp Chimo island. The Gundys had a daughter, Aimee, who was born in 1907. The family took

their meals in the camp dining room. Camp Chimo was the hub of the social scene on the lake in those days. Many of us have heard stories about the dances, games, and fish fries and the fun people had at Camp Chimo.

The young men from Camp Temagami sometimes

joined in these festivities. One summer during those times, young Dr. Harold met and fell in love with Aimee. They were married in Toronto in 1929.

In 1934, Aimee and Harold and their son John returned to Temagami. They acquired a 99-yr lease of islands 307 and 308. The original cottage was designed by a friend, Jack Ryrie and built in the summer of 1934 by a local contractor.

Dr. Harold Rykert and his family went to Temagami every summer (except during the war years of the 1940s when he was seconded to England along with many other Canadian doctors). While in Temagami in the summer, Dr. Harold Rykert would visit Bear Island to provide medical aid and physicals to the community. I'm sure he would have had many visits to his island from the community when people needed emergency medical attention. That was just what people did.

In 1952, Dr. Rykert had built a boat; "The Shiningwood", a beautiful mahogany 28-foot in-board cruiser, named to recognize the location of the islands at the entrance to Shiningwood Bay. He died (a young man) in 1954.

His son, John, spent his early years at Camp Temagami as a camper. Not long after their Collingwood meeting, Carol and John were engaged. In the summer of 1955, before she married, Carol's first visit to the lake was with John and her future mother-in-law, Aimee, and Aimee's cook Thyme. Partly, the visit was to help Aimee through the recent loss of her husband and to get to know Carol. To quote Carol, "On arriving, I knew I was home - love of John and Temagami blended... only long afterwards did I wryly admit that had I not loved Temagami, the marriage might not have been. Temagami was a deep core to being for John Rykert." She and John were married in Toronto in August of 1955. Every summer after, she and John with their family would be in Temagami for three weeks. Serena was born in April 1958 and came to Temagami in July that very summer. Serena's sisters Liz and Pam and brother John all arrived within the next five years. John Sr. passed away in 1981.

Today, Carol visits Temagami in the capacity as guest, a position she thoroughly enjoys. Her children have taken over the responsibilities of looking after the cottage.

Thank you, Carol, for taking the time to explain the Rykert connection to Temagami. May the memories and joy you and your family experience in Temagami stay with you forever.

Your donation of \$25,000 to cover administrative costs for each of our first 3 years has been, and will be, greatly appreciated by the Board and the community.

Thank You for believing in the Foundation.



## Expressing Our Appreciation

*\*ANONYMOUS \**

*\*SCOTIABANK TEMAGAMI \**

*\*NORTHWATERS/LANGSKIB \**

*\*WALTER & DUNCAN GORDON  
FOUNDATION \**

*\*MRS. CAROL RYKERT \**

*\*CATHERINE POTTS \**

*\*LAIDLAW FOUNDATION \**

*\*KIM KRECH \**

*\*WALTER ROSS \**

*\*JUNE KEEVIL \**

*\*RICHARD GRANT \**

*\*DICK CRUM \**

*\*WILLIAM REID \**



*We would like to  
acknowledge all of  
our donors and  
express our  
appreciation for  
investing in the  
Foundation, which  
is an investment in  
our community.*

*\*BILL & BILLIE KITTS \**

*\*MARGIE & ED HUYCKE \**

*\*PAMELA MORGAN \**

*\*DR. PETER FOWLER & LIBBY FOWLER \**

*\*MR. & MRS. ROBERT GRANT \**

*\*MR. & MRS. WALTER ROSS \**

*\*COLMAC HOLDINGS \**

*\*NIKI & BILL PLUMSTEAD \**

*\*CATHY & KIRK SMITH \**

**TOTAL DONATIONS  
RECEIVED TO DATE**

**\$129 500**

## Our First Grantees

### Profile

As the Christmas season approaches, the pupils and staff of the Temagami Public School look forward to the change of seasons with a new sense of expectation and excitement! We know that with the change of seasons our school comes closer to realizing a vision that has been in the making over the past year.

This vision is the re-greening of the Temagami Public School—a vision that has been made possible by the generous funding grant that has been given to us by the Temagami Community Foundation. The concept for this project was developed by the staff and pupils during the late winter and spring of this year.

Planning was then carried out with the professional guidance and support of the Temagami Garden Center. The funding application was considered and granted by the TCF during the summer. We had originally hoped to begin Phase One of the project this fall, but weather conditions proved unfavourable and the decision was made to put off any developments until spring.

Phase One of our project includes the construction of an inter-loc raised bed and garden and the planting of two groups of trees. This development will be located in the area of our schoolyard between the basketball court and kindergarten area.

Phase One will provide a shaded rest area in which the children can sit and relax. The children will be able to read, play quiet games, or simply talk quietly away from the more vigorous playground activities. We are planning to have the pupils participate in the planting of perennial flowers in the raised bed.

The children have already planted seedlings along the perimeter fence. The participation of the children gives them "ownership" of the project and helps to instill a sense of pride in the school and community.

Phase Two of the project is currently being developed to expand Phase One with the

addition of more trees and garden areas.

The whole school is looking forward to the positive developments that are coming to our schoolyard in the spring.

We owe a huge thank you to the Temagami Community Foundation for their support of our project.

We invite all members of the community to keep an eye on the developments in our schoolyard this spring, and welcome everyone to visit and enjoy our new green spaces.

**D. Porter**  
Principal,  
Temagami Public School



### Temagami Area Fish Involvement Program

To assist with the repairs of the rearing pond for the fingerling fish that are raised annually to restock the waterways of the Temagami area.



### Temagami First Nation – Youth Art Camp

Youth from Bear Island and the Municipality of Temagami will have the opportunity to attend an art camp on Bear Island in the summer of 2003.



### Temagami Community Based SFL

The Temagami First Nation & the Municipality of Temagami are collaborating to acquire a community managed Sustainable Forest Licence from the Province.



### Re-greening of the Temagami Public School

The school will create a garden and green area for students providing a quiet shady, recess area and an opportunity for study and hands on participation.







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*we would like to thank  
the Trillium Foundation  
for their support*

Temagami Community Foundation Website URL:  
<http://www.community-fdn.ca/temagami>  
<http://temagamifoundation.ca>

  
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THE TEMAGAMI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION . . . BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

## A Message From the TCF President

On behalf of the board, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who have contributed, volunteered, participated and supported the Foundation to this date. Without your support we would not be able to grow this community asset.

This has been a big year for us with the launch and celebration at Bear Island, the opportunity to provide a granting cycle, and to begin building our endowment fund. A Community Foundation takes time to grow and to flourish. It needs to have people who believe in the idea, the dream and are willing to make an investment in it. The Temagami Community Foundation has a number of donors who have given us an opportunity to begin this journey. We have received an anonymous donation of \$50,000 enabling us to make grants in our first two years. Another donor has given us

\$25,000 for each of our first three years to cover all start up and administrative costs. These two donations and the other generous contributions that we have received means that we are well on our way to building a permanent endowment fund. To date, our endowment fund is \$49,500.

The other side of that same coin is the grants. It is important that the grants be directed to community oriented projects that will help make a difference. We want to work with community groups to let them know what the Foundation can do for them, and how they can apply for funding for their various projects. The Temagami Foundation has had the opportunity to provide grants to the community in our first two granting cycles totaling \$27,500 and we look forward to more in the future. To the volunteers who participated in the

Celebration and Launch at Bear Island, I would like to acknowledge and again say "Meegwetch" (Thank You). Everyone played an important part in the success of the day and what a day it was. Some would say "Just a reminder about what Mother Nature can do in Temagami." We have also achieved another milestone: the Temagami Community Foundation website. The addresses are on the side of this article. Please visit and provide us with feedback. We welcome your comments.

On closing, and on behalf of the Board and myself, I wish you all the Best for the Holiday Season. May you be safe, happy and in the company of family and loved ones.

TCF  
President

*Victoria Grant*



## A Message from the Community Foundations of Canada

As a new foundation gets down to its serious work, one group can make or break its success. That's the Board of Directors. Their role is to create a vision, set a plan and drive it to success, bring the community close to the foundation, and make sure the foundation is responsive to the priorities and issues of the people it serves.

I was privileged to attend the launch of the Temagami Community Foundation, and I recall how struck I was when the Board came forward and was introduced. It truly reflected the makeup of the community.

The challenge now will be to make sure the various voices and perspectives are really heard. Never easy, the Board will be called on to be open and

accountable to the community, to be respectful of ideas and approaches that may feel more comfortable for some than others, to make sure that what they do is in the best interest of the whole community—not just its parts. Those are the challenges of every community foundation, and some have figured out ways to successfully tackle them, while others are still looking for ideas.

I have a sense that the Temagami Community Foundation may be one community foundation that can set an example for others. Sharing your experiences (both the successes and the challenges) is one way we in the community foundation world can learn from you. On the

other hand, you can expand your own thinking by connecting with your colleague foundations in various ways.

At the end of the day, we all want to strengthen our communities. Community foundations do that by building permanent funds, making great grants to community organizations and being a catalyst for the community to come together and build on its strengths and potential for the benefit of all. The Board is making all that happen. The Temagami Community Foundation is off to a great start!

*A Message from  
Monica Patten,  
CEO & President,  
Community Foundations of Canada  
(Ottawa, Ontario)*

