



Community  
Foundation  
*of Whistler*

# Annual Report

2014 - 2015

# Our Vision

We imagine a community where everyone thrives. All residents feel a sense of belonging and participate in community life in the way they want whether working, learning, sharing, recreating or volunteering. Community members feel confident that their community can adapt and overcome challenges.

## What is a Community Foundation?

We are a charitable organization driven by volunteers who have local knowledge and a shared passion for our community. A community foundation allows donors to support the local charities they love through the creation of permanent endowment funds.

Through the Community Foundation of Whistler, donors create personal legacies that support the full range of community life; including arts, culture, health, education, youth, the environment and more.

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## Message from the Board President and Treasurer

It's been a pleasure to be a part of the Community Foundation of Whistler Board since 2008. I have met so many great Board and committee members over the past 7 years who have a great commitment to Whistler and Pemberton and beyond. The Community Foundation has reached greater than 5 Million dollars in endowments in 2015. This is a great milestone. Our goal is to expand our community impact by granting out at least \$250,000 annually by the year 2020. Thank you for your commitment to the community and I look forward to the growth of the Community Foundation of Whistler endowments today, tomorrow and forever.

**– Kevin Creery President 2012-2015**

We were very pleased to welcome John Walker to the Finance and Investment Committee in the fall of 2014. John brings extensive business and financial expertise to the Foundation.

The committee met with the fund manager in the fall of 2014, as we do each year. The fund manager applies an endowment approach to the long term growth of the portfolio. While a basket of funds is set aside to provide for the shorter term cash flow needs of the Foundation over a 3-4 year period.

Since 2012, we have modified our strategy, allowing for a slightly greater equity allocation. Cypress was able to use this shift in allocation to make a significant difference in the portfolio, generating 2.9 % extra return over the period 2013-2014. Our investment returns have been above the benchmarks set for our portfolio.

The committee is grateful to the board of directors for their support and confidence over the past year. I am pleased to have John Walker taking over the role of Treasurer for 2015-2016. **– Robin Douglas, Treasurer, incoming President**

Total Granted  
in 2014  
**\$172,313**

**26**  
Funds

Total Granted  
out since 1999

**\$1.3**  
Million

Total Value of assets  
as of December 2014

**\$5.3**  
Million

**25**  
Community  
Organizations  
Supported

# Our Stories

## A Counseling Assistance Program Like No Other.



The Community Foundation of Whistler's 2013 Community Needs Assessment identified access to mental health as a priority issue in Whistler. With waitlists for government-run mental health services growing, Whistler Community Services experienced an explosion of demand for their counseling assistance program.

*"I was lucky enough to be helped by Whistler Community Services Society when I was in my most dire need for help. I was sexually assaulted and it took a week before a friend referred me to WCSS. It was the longest, blurriest week of my life, and when I met my outreach worker some of the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders.*

*She was a huge help and the biggest help was assisting me to see a Counsellor. I was able to choose one that I felt safe and comfortable seeing, and was told I could change at any time if I wasn't feeling comfortable with that particular Counsellor. Straight away I was worried about the cost. I had two part-time jobs; one that earned minimum wage and one that earned a couple of dollars more an hour. I couldn't afford to spend money on something unexpected like this. I can't emphasise enough how much this program helped me. I would hate for anyone else in a similar situation not to be able to see a Counsellor just because of money. I can't imagine how much harder that situation would've been to cope with if I hadn't had access to affordable counselling." - Program Participant*

Through the program, financially restricted individuals are able to access counseling at a subsidized rate. Clients have the option to choose between different types of counselors so they can find the best option for them. This empowers individuals to direct how they help themselves. The program also connects clients to counselors immediately, removing the barrier of waiting lists.

Jill Ackhurst Social Action Grant \$2,500

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## Feast for Change



Along Portage Road in Pemberton one finds bountiful crab apple trees planted in memory of local veterans. These beautiful trees attract bears into the populated area, resulting in human-bear conflict and putting the bears at risk. For public safety concerns and to protect the bears, the Village of Pemberton was urged to remove the trees but the Stewardship Pemberton Society came up with a solution to preserve the trees and reduce human-bear conflict.

The Feast for Change program got community groups involved in harvesting the fruit and creating preserves. In late summer and early fall 2014, 145 children, 5 youth mentors, and 15 adults from 6 different community groups participated in picking the fruit and gathering in the Community Centre Kitchen to learn about

canning. The age of the participants ranged from 3 to 70 years.

During this first year of the program the groups found themselves overwhelmed by the amount of fruit. It was too much to process! So, they got creative and sold fruit to local businesses, at the Farmer's Market, and donated fruit to community members who wanted to make their own preserves.

The project also created youth employment and youth mentorship opportunities.

*"I learned a lot about how important it is to give back to your community, and how good it feels in the process. Furthermore, I learned all about the hard work/dedication it takes to make crabapple sauce/jelly. Being able to spend lots of time outside in nature and helping younger kids become passionate about the world we live in has really open my eyes to how crucial it is to experience nature and give back to the planet." –Erin Duncan, youth mentor*

Pemberton and Area Community Grant \$1,500

## Easter Seal House Vancouver



Photo is from the family's Children's Wish Vacation: an Alaskan Cruise on the SS Zandaam.

Mary Protter recalls a time when she would take her developmentally disabled baby daughter Morgan to Vancouver for treatment at BC Children's Hospital and they would have to stay in cheap hotels. "They were seedy hotels above bars, far away from the hospital and completely lacking the facilities needed to care for Morgan, who is unable to walk, talk, or attend to her personal needs."

With no relatives in Vancouver, Mary thought this was her only option until one day, a social worker at the hospital told Mary about Easter Seals House.

*"I don't know what I would have done without Easter Seals"*

Easter Seals Vancouver House provides a home away from home for children and their families who require care at BC Children's Hospital. For as little as \$20/night Easter Seals Vancouver House provides clean, safe, affordable accommodation close to the hospital.

The Protter family, who are long term residents of Whistler, have used Easter Seals House often over the past 17 years and they still rely on Easter Seals House. Because of Easter Seals House, they have been able to remain in their home town of Whistler and their children can experience the quality of life in the community. Mary believes that the family may have had to move to Vancouver had Easter Seals Vancouver House not been available to them.

On June 10, 2015 Morgan celebrated her 18th birthday. Of all the special needs support organizations the family has used, only Easter Seals House has pledged that Mary and Morgan will always be welcome to stay and use their service. Most support organizations limit eligibility to the child's 18th or 19th birthday.

Community Grant \$2,500

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## Wendy Thompson's Legacy lives on



Wendy Thompson was just 33 years old when she died tragically in a BC Ambulance Service medivac flight crash at the north end of the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1995.

Wendy was a ski patroller in Whistler, a paramedic in Whistler and Vancouver, and a volunteer for the RCMP. She loved the outdoors and was an active mountain biker and hiker. She also loved children and young people. At the time of her death, she was on the ambulance service's Infant Transport Team.

Her parents Shirley and Michael Thompson searched for ways to create a continuing memorial to their daughter that reflected her values. They worked

with the Alpine Club of Canada to build the Wendy Thompson Hut in the alpine above Duffey Lake.

In 2005 the Thompsons worked with the Community Foundation of Whistler to create the Wendy Thompson Scholarship Fund to support Sea to Sky students in Outdoor Leadership Programs.

Megan Dewar is Outdoor Recreation Leadership Student at Howe Sound Secondary School and the recipient of a Wendy Thompson Bursary in 2013. The bursary paid for Megan's program fees, allowing her the opportunity to participate in the program.

*"Last week our program went on a ski touring trip to the Marriot Basin. We went as a group of six students that had been in the program for three years. This made the trip very special and memorable for the group, but even more so for me because we were able to spend two nights in the Wendy Thompson Memorial Hut.*

*It was a very unique experience for me being in the Wendy Thompson Hut due to the fact that what got me there was a bursary in her honour. I felt as if it was the perfect location to pay my respects to Wendy Thompson and her family. I had a wonderful experience there and wanted to give you a heart felt thank you."* - Megan Dewar, Student

Wendy Thompson Bursary \$500

## Sea to Sky Invasive Species



Natural ecosystems in the Sea to Sky Corridor are under threat from invasive species such as Scotch Broom, Japanese Knotweed and Yellow Flag Iris. They out-compete native plants, negatively impact property values, and the economy.

Our Environmental Legacy Grants Committee wanted to make addressing the threat a priority and granted over \$45,000 to the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council to conduct on-the-ground inventory, control and removal. In addition, the grant supported the invasive-free certification program for horticulture companies and community outreach and education.

SSISC was attempting to address the problem with funding directed towards particular land parcels or particular species. With the grant from the Community Foundation of Whistler, they were able to overcome this piecemeal approach and develop an overall strategy for the region and direct their programs and field crews to the areas of greatest need.

*Environmental Legacy Grant \$46,876*

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## AWARE: Whistler's Environmental Voice



### Celebrating 25 Years

Healthy forests, clean air, clean water, beautiful places for recreation; all of these can likely be found on the top ten list of reasons why locals choose to live in Whistler. But who speaks for the value of the environment we love when decisions are made? Over the last 25 years, it has been AWARE fighting to preserve these values.

As AWARE celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2014, the Community Foundation of Whistler is reflecting on how the two organizations are closely connected. The Foundation has played an important role in the history of AWARE and AWARE played an unwitting role in creating the story of the Community Foundation of Whistler.

The story begins in the late 80s when AWARE began asking questions about the local landfill and community waste. It was AWARE that promoted the creation of a community recycling program. With caring for the environment rising in the community consciousness, The Resort Municipality of Whistler began setting aside tipping fees collected at the landfill into a separate fund. This fund was intended to be a legacy for the community. But how

could this fund be separated from the municipal finances and guaranteed to give back to the local environment forever?

The solution lay with the creation of the Community Foundation of Whistler, a separate charitable foundation whose purpose is to manage endowment funds. The Community Foundation of Whistler was formed in 1999 and with the gift of the landfill tipping fees, its first endowment fund, the Environmental Legacy Fund was created. It was most certainly the groundwork done by AWARE that created this sense of responsibility to protect our natural environment for future generations.

Leading up to the 2010 Olympics, with so much else going on in Whistler, AWARE almost ceased to exist. However, Environmental Legacy Grants from the Foundation helped AWARE reform, create a new strategy, and rebuild community programs.

*"The Community Foundation of Whistler has played a pivotal role for AWARE. The value lies in an ongoing relationship with a funder that understands our goals and recognizes the value of the AWARE's projects. Some security of funding allows AWARE to go out and get more money and bring other partners to the table. The support of the Foundation has allowed us a continual stream of projects and the Foundation understands how those projects contribute to the bigger picture of increasing the voice for the environment. Their support generates great value for the money."* - Claire Ruddy, Executive Director of AWARE

**Over the years The Community Foundation of Whistler has granted over \$108,000 to AWARE.** This investment has generated a more vibrant community where voices speak to preserve our clean air, clean water, forests, wildlife and important alpine ecosystems.

*Environmental Legacy Fund*

## Kelty and Riley Dennehy Scholarship Fund



On March 2, 2001, Kerry and Ginny Dennehy lost their 17 year old son, Kelty, after a short battle with depression. Devastated by the loss of their beautiful son and determined to prevent others from traveling the same journey, the Kelty Patrick Dennehy Foundation was created that same year. The Kelty Patrick Dennehy Foundation helps those that suffer from depression, as well as their families and friends by helping them better understand the disease.

Tragedy hit the Dennehy family again in 2009 when they lost their daughter Riley. When Kelty took his life, this loving and gentle soul not only lost her brother, she lost her best friend. In a family, when a member suffers with depression, the whole family is affected and suffers along with them. Riley developed an eating disorder and faced challenges with alcohol as she fought the pain that she carried with her. Riley went on to graduate from the Vancouver Film School, but at 23, she had finally found peace and solace in yoga. While traveling in Thailand to further her yoga studies, Riley died of a heart attack

from strong medication prescribed to manage the pain for a separated shoulder.

Through their foundation, the Dennehys have raised millions to benefit youth and their families struggling with mental illness in British Columbia. However, the Dennehys wished to create a legacy that would specifically benefit the local community. The scholarships are intended to support local students who stand out in unique ways, beyond academics.

*“We are dedicating the money to kids who don’t have the highest marks in school because we don’t think that is important. As a matter of fact, studies show that savvy kids make much more in adulthood than the ones with the highest marks,”* says Kerry Dennehy.

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## Richard Martin’s Legacy



Richard Martin loves Whistler. As both a local business man and an avid skier, Whistler has provided him with a place to thrive and call home. When it came time to plan his estate, Richard wanted to leave a legacy that would support local youth in sports. While local culture is much focused on sports such as skiing and biking, for many resident youth there are barriers to participating in sports. Through a bequest in his Will, Richard’s legacy will be an endowment fund that will help remove barriers to youth participating in physical activities, whether they are financial, physical, cultural, or other barriers. Richard has designated through his Will the creation of a fund that will benefit the Whistler Search and Rescue Society, as he values the work they do in the community.

## Citizen of the Year



Congratulations to Anne Townley on receiving the 2015 Whistler Citizen of the Year Award.

Award presented by

The award was presented at the 2015 Whistler Excellence Awards. We congratulate our top 3 nominees for the award: Chris Dickinson, Marg Pallot and Anne Townley. All are deserving of recognition for outstanding community service.



# How you can help your community

We are the only local opportunity for you to create your personal legacy that will give back to the community in your name year after year, forever.

Donations to an endowment fund are safely invested and professionally managed. The income generated each year is granted to support community organizations.

## Give the Way you Want

You can create your own fund or give to one of our existing funds. Give now or plan your donation for the future. You can be sure that your donation is used to support your interests in the community.

## List of Donors

- |                                  |                              |                                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Ackhurst                   | Diana Lamplugh               | Tessa Sweeney                    |
| Peter Alder                      | Heidi Kym-Lieberherr         | The Adventure Group              |
| Hans and Nancy Alwart            | Tracy and Bill MacDonald     | The Grocery Store                |
| Robert Barnett                   | Mika Matsudate               | Britni Troy                      |
| Douglas Barnett                  | Mountain Youth Society       | TD Private Giving Foundation     |
| Burnt Stew Computer Solutions    | John Nadeau and Mary Scott   | (David Kirk)                     |
| A.R.G. Douglas                   | Claire O'Brien               | Telus                            |
| Caroline Duncan                  | Pasta Lupino Gourmet Ltd.    | Thornhill Real Estate Group      |
| Karen Emond                      | Pemberton Valley Supermarket | United Way of the Lower Mainland |
| Corree Francisco                 | PSAV Presentation Services   | Vancouver Foundation             |
| Gibbons Hospitality Group        | Race and Company LLP         | Nancy Wilhelm-Morden             |
| Dr. Glen Harrison                | RBC Royal Bank               | Whistler Blackcomb Foundation    |
| Houssian Family Foundation       | Jaqueline Rohde              | Whistler Valley Trail Run        |
| Kelty Patrick Dennehy Foundation | Joanna Runciman              |                                  |
| Sheila Kirkwood                  | Bradley Sinclair             |                                  |

# Summary of 2014 Grants

## Community Grants Program

1. **Zero Ceiling Society of Canada:** Grant \$1,500
2. **Easter Seal House Society:** Grant \$2,260
3. **Whistler Adaptive Sports Program:** Grant \$1,022
4. **Whistler Community Services Society:** Grant \$1,500
5. **Whistler Off Road Cycling Association:** Grant \$818

The Community Grants program is supported by the Community Fund, the American Friends of Whistler Fund, and the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Fund.

## Environmental Legacy Grants Program

1. **Squamish River Watershed Society:** Grant \$4891
2. **Get Beat Smart Society:** Grant \$10,000
3. **AWARE: Old Tree Trail Map** Grant \$7,800
4. **AWARE: Outreach and Growth Year 2** Grant \$15,000
5. **Whistler Naturalists Society: Whistler BioBlitz** Grant \$12,000
6. **Whistler Naturalists Society: Fungus Among Us Mushroom Festival** Grant \$2,000
7. **Whistler Naturalists Society: Birds List** \$600
8. **Signal Hill Elementary School PAC:** Grant \$5,000
9. **Spring Creek Community School/Ecole La Passerelle:** Grant \$10,000
10. **Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council:** Grant \$15,462
11. **Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council: Education and Outreach** Grant \$15,462
12. **Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council: Inventory and Control** Grant \$21,464

## Jill Ackhurst Social Action Grants

In 2014, the Jill Ackhurst Social Action Grants program focused on mental health issues in the region.

1. **North Shore Schizophrenia Society:** Grant \$2,000
2. **Whistler Community Services Society:** Grant \$2,500

## Whistler Youth Foundation Grants

1. **Whistler Community Services Society:** Grant \$1,000
2. **In-SHUCK-ch Services Society:** Grant \$500

## Pemberton and Area Community Grants

1. **Stewardship Pemberton Society:** Grant \$1,500
2. **Pemberton and District Museum and Archives Society:** Grant \$2,000
3. **Spo7ez Cultural Centre and Community Society:** Grant \$700

## Kathy Barnett Leadership Grants

1. **Clare O'Brien,** Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
2. **Shana Murray,** Howe Sound Women's Centre

## Scholarships

Wendy Thompson Scholarships and Bursaries:

1. **Gordon Borchert** \$2,000
2. **Shannon Sorenson** \$2,000

Whistler Scholarship Society Scholarship:

1. **Chantal Deane** \$2,000

## Charity Fund Disbursements

1. **Whistler Arts Council** \$9,000
2. **AWARE** \$200
3. **Big Brother Big Sisters Sea to Sky** \$175
4. **Whistler Animals Galore Society** \$214
5. **Whistler Adaptive Sports Program** \$865
6. **Whistler Museum and Archives Society** \$350
7. **Whistler Public Library** \$227
8. **Whistler Search and Rescue** \$16,500
9. **Zero Ceiling Society of Canada** \$250

## Whistler Employee Fund Grant

1. **Howe Sound Women's Centre** \$700

## Marlene Seimens Callanish Society Grant

1. **Callanish Society** \$375

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$36,978	\$80,963
Receivables	\$1,368	\$2,720
Investments	\$5,259,438	\$4,736,825
	<b>\$5,297,784</b>	<b>\$4,820,508</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$14,044	\$12,995
Grants payable	\$54,628	50,155
Deferred contribution	\$4,405	\$1,405
	<b>\$70,077</b>	<b>\$64,555</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Endowment Funds	\$5,145,623	\$4,672,740
Restricted flow-through funds	\$4,920	\$30,885
Unrestricted	\$77,164	\$52,328
	<b>\$5,227,784</b>	<b>\$4,755,953</b>
	<b>\$5,297,784</b>	<b>\$4,820,508</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donations	\$169,089	\$236,163
Interest and dividends	\$147,787	\$128,476
Gain on investments	\$418,722	\$558,341
	<b>\$735,598</b>	<b>\$922,980</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grants	\$172,313	\$144,998
Administration	\$91,531	\$96,593
	<b>\$263,844</b>	<b>\$241,591</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>\$471,754</b>	<b>\$681,389</b>

# Board Members

## 2014-2015

Kevin Creery  
Robin Douglas  
Nicole Shannon  
Debbie Smythe  
Lyn Stroshin  
John Walker  
Maureen Wale  
Karen Williamson  
Norm McPhail  
Craig Beattie

## Thank you Lyn and Kevin

Kevin served on the board from 2008-2015  
Lyn Stroshin from 2009-2015.  
We thank both for their contributions to the  
Foundation.

# Sponsors



PAN PACIFIC  
*Whistler*

Whistler  
Chamber



# List of Funds

## Community Funds

- American Friends of Whistler Fund
- Community Fund
- Pemberton Community Endowment Fund
- Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Fund

## Field Of Interest Funds

- Environmental Legacy Fund
- Whistler Youth Foundation Fund
- Emergency Fund
- Kathy Barnett Memorial Fund

## Donor Advised Funds

- Whistler Employee Fund
- Jill Ackhurst Social Action Fund

## Donor Designated Funds

- Marlene Siemens Callanish Society Fund
- Ackhurst Family Rotary Club of Whistler Fund

## Charity Funds

- Arts & Culture Legacy Fund
- AWARE Environmental Fund
- Whistler and Pemberton Big Brothers Big Sisters Fund
- Whistler Adaptive Sports Endowment
- Whistler Animals Galore Fund
- Whistler Museum and Archives Society Fund
- Whistler Public Library Fund
- Whistler Search and Rescue Fund
- Zero Ceiling Society Fund

## Scholarship Funds

- Grad 2014 Legacy Scholarship Fund
- Kely & Riley Dennehy Scholarship Fund
- Sarah McSeveney Scholarship Fund
- Wendy Thompson Scholarship Fund
- Whistler Scholarship Society Fund



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