



2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada

Canada 

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New Sign Installed in CFWR Office June 2015

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Community Futures Winnipeg River (CFWR) is dedicated to community economic development and our activities help build capacity at the local and regional levels strengthening the communities we live in. Our services have helped entrepreneurs start new businesses and create employment, and have helped organizations improve the economic and social conditions of their communities.

CFWR's service area is more than 13,000 square kilometers, reaching from the city outskirts to the Ontario border and from the Trans-Canada Highway to the east side of Lake Winnipeg as far north as Seymourville. It encompasses a culturally diverse population and has a varied economic base that includes agriculture, forestry, mining, tourism, retail, and various service agencies.

Our organization is part of the larger network of 269 Community Futures offices operating across Canada that support community-based economic development projects, business development and training to entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations. In Manitoba, there are 16 Community Futures offices that employ 65 people and are directed by 216 Board volunteers. In 2013-2014, 5,476 loans totaling \$278,619,123 were disbursed from CF's in Canada, generating 45,844 jobs. Manitoba accounted for 163 loans totaling \$6,434,401 and generating 756 jobs.

CFWR has a governing Board comprised of 13 Directors and employs 4 full time staff members. Due to the municipal elections in October, the Board experienced a high turnover. Three existing Directors agreed to remain on the Board as "members at large" to ensure a smooth transition in governance.

- 428 business services were provided to 129 clients and resulted in 20 new businesses, 47.5 full-time jobs and \$279,100 leveraged from other funding sources.
- 4 business training sessions were delivered to 123 people.
- 3 loans were provided for a total value of \$101,000. Lending services resulted in 3 new businesses, 3 full-time jobs, 4 part-time jobs, and \$67,159 leveraged.
- The Self-Employment Program had 10 participants with 6 completions.
- Our community economic development services included involvement with 18 community based projects, 7 strategic plans, 55 consulting services, 5 training sessions delivered to 89 participants, and \$73,136 leveraged into the region.
- An extensive review and updating of the by-laws, policies and procedures.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our staff and board members who bring expertise, energy and dedication to providing services to entrepreneurs and our communities. I would also acknowledge our ongoing partnership with Western Economic Diversification Canada and thank them for their continued support and commitment to the Community Futures program.

Bill Dowbyhuz, Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

Community Futures Winnipeg River (CFWR) is a regional non-profit corporation whose mission is to pursue continued growth and prosperity for the North Eastman region by supporting sustainable community economic development. CFWR serves a large geographic region including eleven municipalities, three Northern Affairs communities, one First Nation, and two provincial parks.

The Corporation has been in operation since 1988 and is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of representatives of our member communities and Directors at Large. The Directors bring considerable expertise to the organization. Their participation on our Board ensures that the needs of their community are reflected in our planning and the development of our programs and services.

Community economic development is what defines CFWR. The core services provided fall within the areas of business development and community development. The types of people we serve are aspiring entrepreneurs with a new business idea; existing businesses that hope to expand; a person or group with a new project idea; a community group wanting to examine their direction; and boards/businesses requiring training to enhance skills and knowledge.

Business Development Services

- Business loans up to \$150,000
- Business planning and counselling
- Entrepreneurial training and development
- Accessing business resources
- Self Employment Program

Community Development Services

- Strategic and operational planning
- Board training and development
- Project development assistance
- Non-profit corporation development
- Regional partnership development

In addition to our core services, we also host a regional resource library for the World Trade Centre Winnipeg (previously Canada/Manitoba Business Service Centre); maintain two community access computers for public access to high-speed internet; and house a Service Canada outreach site every Thursday.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) for their continued commitment to the Community Futures Program. We are also fortunate for the continued partnership with Manitoba Jobs and the Economy for the Self Employment Program. Valuable alliances formed with provincial and federal government departments, various sectors, local governments, Chambers of Commerce, Community Development Corporations and other local organizations have also contributed significantly to the work of advancing community economic development in our region.

Community Futures exist to strengthen the capacity of businesses, volunteer groups, communities, and the region as a whole to improve the economic and social conditions of their communities. Our region is as strong as its people and the combined efforts of all sectors. This Annual Report highlights the major activities and accomplishments of Community Futures Winnipeg River over the past year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bill Dowbyhuz, Chairperson	RM of Whitemouth
Florence Campbell, Vice-Chairperson	Member at Large
Cathie Brereton, Secretary-Treasurer	RM of Lac du Bonnet
Ken Lodge	Town of Lac du Bonnet
Bob Bodnaruk	RM of Springfield
De-Ann Holmes	RM of Reynolds
Roland Dandeneau	Member at Large
Garry Berthelette	Town of Powerview-Pine Falls
Hermann Saxler	Member at Large
Rhonda Henschell	LGD of Pinawa
Debbie Litke	RM of Brokenhead
Art Berry	Town of Beausejour
Vacant	RM of Alexander
Vacant	Community of Seymourville
Vacant	Community of Manigotagan
Vacant	Community of Bissett
Vacant	Sagkeeng First Nation
Vacant	Whiteshell Provincial Park

STAFF:

Sharalyn Reitlo	Executive Director
Lindsey Otto	Business Development and Self Employment Coordinator
Kandace Nagy	Financial and Self Employment Administrator
Kim Oswald	Office Administrator (May-November)
Pam Habing	Community Development and Marketing Coordinator (February-present)

Board members provide the direction and leadership that is instrumental to the success of the Community Futures Program in the region. They are to be commended for their dedication to the Corporation. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, they contributed 444 hours of volunteer time to promote and advance community and business development for the betterment of the region.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following past Board members who worked with us during the past fiscal year:

- Karen Lalonde, RM of Springfield
- Gord Watson, Town of Powerview-Pine Falls
- Clay McMurren, LGD of Pinawa
- Gus Wruck, RM of Lac du Bonnet
- Glen Dudeck, RM of Brokenhead
- Norm Plato, Town of Lac du Bonnet

Clay, Norm, Gus and Glen have been with CFWR for many years and we sincerely thank them for their long term contributions of time, energy and expertise shared with our organization.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are vital to advancing community economic development within the region and much of what we have accomplished this year was possible because of the support and involvement of many partners, including:

- Western Economic Diversification Canada
- Manitoba Jobs and the Economy
- Community Futures Manitoba
- Community Futures Triple R
- Community Futures Southeast
- The World Trade Centre Winnipeg
- Aboriginal Business Service Network
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
- MB4youth
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning
- Entrepreneurship Manitoba
- J.U.S.T. Training Corporation
- Women's Enterprise Centre
- Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation
- First Peoples Economic Growth Fund
- Louis Riel Capital Corporation
- Business Development Bank Of Canada
- Sunova Credit Union
- Royal Bank Of Canada
- Futurpreneur Canada
- Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- Manitoba Local Government
- Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Manitoba Innovation, Energy & Mines
- Community Connections
- Service Canada
- Manitoba Model Forest
- Winnipeg River Learning Centre
- Fillmore Riley
- Sunrise School Division
- School District of Whiteshell
- AIM For Work
- Winnipeg River Arts Council
- Interlake-Eastman Regional Health Authority
- Eastman Tourism Association
- CBDC Restigouche Inc.
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
- Network for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities
- Literacy Partners of Manitoba
- Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation
- Pinawa Community Development Corporation
- St-Georges Community Development Corporation
- Grand Beach and Area Development Corporation
- Seymourville Community Development Corporation
- Whitemouth Community Development Corporation
- Odibayndan Development Corporation
- Beausejour & District Chamber of Commerce
- Lac Du Bonnet & District Chamber of Commerce
- Falcon, West Hawk & Caddy Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Pinawa Chamber of Commerce
- Blue Water Chamber of Commerce
- Whitemouth Chamber of Commerce
- Eastman Regional Assessment Committee
- Manitoba Youth Job Centre
- Conseil De Developpement Economique Des Municipalites Bilingues Du Manitoba (CDEM)
- Canadian Community Economic Development Network
- Economic Developers Association of Manitoba (EDAM)
- Manitoba Marketing Network
- Volunteer Manitoba
- Local Governments within our Region

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Community Futures Winnipeg River provides technical assistance to entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding a business. Our staff has extensive background and experience in market research, business planning, financial forecasting and analysis, and business counselling. This expertise allows our staff to work one-on-one with clients so that their specific needs are met. They put particular emphasis on monitoring and aftercare to ensure success of new business ventures. During the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, we provided 428 business development services to 129 clients, including general information services, technical assistance and advisory services. Our business services contributed to the creation of 20 new businesses and 47.5 full-time jobs. In addition, 4 business training sessions were delivered to 123 people.

Community Futures Winnipeg River acts as a service provider for the Provincial Youth Entrepreneurs Program, and during the fiscal year we assisted one client in the preparation and submission of financing applications under the program.

Our staff continue to serve as an information and pathfinding resource for clients, and as such several clients were able to access services and/or funding through Manitoba Jobs and the Economy, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, World Trade Centre Winnipeg, Business Development Bank of Canada, Entrepreneurship Manitoba, Aboriginal Business Service Network, Futurpreneur Canada, First Peoples Economic Growth Fund and Louis Riel Capital Corporation. During this past year, our business services helped clients successfully leverage \$279,100 in funding through other sources.

INVESTMENT FUNDS

The Corporation also manages investment funds that are used to provide business loans to help finance business start-ups or expansions. During the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, 5 loan applications were received. One application was withdrawn prior to submission to the Investment Review Committee. 4 loan applications were approved, but one client decided not to proceed. The remaining 3 loans were disbursed by March 31, 2015 and totaled \$101,000. An additional \$67,159 was leveraged through financial institutions and owner equity. Funds borrowed from the Corporation over the past year helped to create or maintain 3 full-time and 4 part-time jobs in the region.

Our Loans Program is operated as a revolving fund, with repayments on loans being reinvested for other entrepreneurs to start or expand their business. The total principal and interest reinvested in the loan fund during this fiscal year was \$275,682. The loan fund made a positive net cash change of \$174,682 this year.

Since its inception, Community Futures Winnipeg River has approved 272 loans valued at \$9,909,640 that helped to create or maintain 800.5 jobs.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT FUNDS

INCEPTION TO MARCH 31, 2015

LOCATION	DOLLARS LENT	OTHER FUNDS LEVERAGED	JOB'S CREATED/ MAINTAINED
Alexander/Powerview-Pine Falls	\$855,520	\$1,139,798	73.5
Beausejour/Brokenhead	\$1,722,623	\$4,762,169	131.0
Lac du Bonnet (Town & RM)	\$2,541,388	\$2,451,146	151.0
Manigotagan/Seymourville/Bissett	\$171,295	\$230,003	25.5
Pinawa	\$1,169,606	\$1,298,586	98.0
Reynolds	\$561,578	\$618,500	58.5
Sagkeeng First Nation	\$121,000	\$140,900	13.5
Springfield	\$968,263	\$1,493,800	82.5
Victoria Beach	\$174,375	\$185,000	24.5
Whitemouth	\$893,912	\$1,893,440	72.0
Whiteshell Provincial Park	\$567,080	\$1,695,466	53.5
Other	\$163,000	\$621,575	17.0
Total	\$9,909,640	\$16,530,383	800.5

SELF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SE)

Our Corporation, on behalf of Manitoba Jobs and the Economy, administers the Self Employment Program (SE) for the North Eastman region. The program provides an opportunity for unemployed individuals who are EI-eligible to start their own business while still being able to collect their employment insurance benefits. SE clients work with our Business Development Coordinator who assists them with business plan development, marketing, and financial analysis, and provides counselling and monitoring for the full term they are on the program.

Over the past year, 203 services were provided to SE clients in the areas of business planning, monitoring, and counselling. In addition, SE clients participated in the 3-day Manitoba Business Start Program, bookkeeping training, and entrepreneurial training sessions via webinars.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, there were ten clients active on the program and six successfully completed the program. As a result of the Self Employment Program, 7 full-time jobs and 4 part-time jobs were created through new business enterprises. Since we began delivering the SE Program, 275 people have participated in the program.

SE Program activity was down this year because the Province paused the program from December to March due to insufficient funds.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Community Futures Winnipeg River provides assistance to local governments, Chambers of Commerce, Community Development Corporations, and other community groups located in the region to build strong organizations and to help ensure that community projects are realized and sustained. Our staff help with coordination and development of community projects, facilitate strategic and operational planning sessions, and deliver workshops and training related to board development and community capacity. We also act as a liaison and connecting agency to bring communities, various levels of government, and local group together to address challenges and opportunities. Our office also has current information available on various funding programs and resources that may be of benefit to community groups working on specific projects or aiming to increase their capacity.

Over the past year, Community Futures Winnipeg River has:

- Participated and provided various support to 18 new and ongoing community-based projects in the region.
- Provided 55 consultation and/or resource services to aid groups with various organization improvement activities and development projects. Consultations were provided in the areas of human and financial resources, constitution and bylaws, marketing, defining purpose and goals, and project planning.
- Facilitated or assisted 7 local groups with strategic/community planning.
- Participated in 4 regional committees and made numerous connections among groups to help advance regional partnerships and initiatives.
- Delivered 5 community development workshops/presentations to build skills and knowledge within social, economic and other non-profit groups. 89 participants attended the workshops delivered on the topics of effective boards and committees, strategic planning and proposal writing.
- Developed a new resource package to assist businesses and non-profit organizations to better market their agencies. The guide walks you through marketing principles, social media and website development.
- Provided assistance in developing and administering 3 surveys/studies in the region.
- Provided project planning assistance to 2 groups.
- Assisted 5 community groups in preparing and strengthening funding applications for their projects.
- Helped to leverage \$73,136 for community based projects in the region.

CFWR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the course of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, staff have been involved with numerous projects throughout the region. The following section provides some of the project highlights from over the past year.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

On the heels of a Regional Labor Market Study headed by the Winnipeg River Learning Centre (WRLC) in 2013, a new committee was formed in January 2015. The committee was established by the WRLC and the Deputy Minister of Education and Advanced Learning. The objectives of the regional group are:

1. To identify training needs based on high demand occupation trends and needs of employers.
2. To collectively plan ways to address labor market opportunities in the area.

CFWR is participating as a committee member along with key sector, business, and community representatives.

NORTH EASTMAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS (REAP)

CFWR partnered with Manitoba Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) and the Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation (BBDC) to conduct a REAP within the North Eastman region. The report was developed by MAFRD and presented at the Regional Municipal Forum in February. The report included statistics and recommendations for opportunities to explore for regional economic development. The report identified business strengths within sectors of strength, potential business opportunities, and sectors of comparative strength in relation to the province. The next step is to utilize the information gathered in a Regional Economic Development Planning Forum that CFWR will host in October. The end deliverable will be a Regional Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan that identifies the regional priorities and collective actions to move forward with. The full North Eastman REAP Report is available through our office.

LAC DU BONNET HARBOR FRONT MARINA RESEARCH PROJECT

CFWR assisted a group of local citizens in forming a working committee to conduct research that would determine if a future development of a community harbor/marina would be feasible and viable in Lac du Bonnet. Should the research results be in favor of development, the group will then work to develop a project plan that will be proposed to the Town and Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet. The committee was formally established in January 2015, with some actions completed prior. A local petition had been circulated to assess community interest in the concept. Over 600 residents were in favor of the idea, giving the committee the motivation to formalize the group and to proceed with more in-depth research activity.

CFWR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PRE-ELECTION SEMINAR

A new seminar titled “What to Expect When You’re Elected” was developed and implemented in September, just prior to the municipal election. The seminar was geared to people that considered running for council in their community. Workshop content includes council roles and responsibilities, teamwork, communication, and effective governance. Existing/past council members comprised a panel that talked about what it was really like to be on council including the expectations, time required, qualities needed, working with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), etc. The workshop was met with good response. 31 people from communities around our region attended and an additional 5 people requested information. People left the seminar with a good sense of whether running for council was right for them.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (EDAM) FALL FORUM

CFWR in partnership with Community Futures Southeast, hosted the fall educational gathering of Manitoba economic development practitioners. The Forum was held at South Beach Casino from November 5-7, 2014. 49 delegates were in attendance from all over the province. The program featured sessions on innovation, evaluation, business success stories, and peer roundtable learning.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK EVENT

CFWR hosted a Small Business Celebration Wine & Cheese Networking Event on October 28th at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre. 50 people were in attendance to hear guest speaker Tyson McMurren speak about ways that businesses can be more resourceful. A panel of business resource agencies highlighted services and tools available to assist new and growing businesses. The event was conducted in partnership with Sunova Credit Union, Business Info Centre/ World Trade Centre Winnipeg, Entrepreneurship Manitoba, Women’s Enterprise Centre, Futurpreneur Canada, Young Entrepreneurs Program, Aboriginal Business Service Network, and the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program. CFWR was able to effectively promote our various services available to develop and strengthen businesses.

FINANCIAL LITERACY SEMINAR

CFWR partnered with Community Futures Manitoba’s Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, SEED Winnipeg and the Toronto Dominion Bank to host a train the trainer seminar on financial literacy. The seminar was held in Powerview-Pine Falls on September 23rd with 9 participants. The seminar provided participants with the resources and education to better assist clients requiring enhanced financial knowledge in areas of financial planning.

2014-2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, Community Futures Winnipeg River honors outstanding business clients and community initiatives.

The **Business of the Year** is given annually to a client of the Corporation who has demonstrated success in the development of their business, and who has shown initiative and commitment to the community. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of local businesspeople and award recipients embody the positive attributes of an entrepreneur such as determination, passion, and commitment not only for the development of their business, but to their community as well.

The **Self Employment Award** is an entrepreneurial recognition given to a participant of the Self Employment Program who has demonstrated above average effort and success during their year on the program. Success is not only based on the financial bottom line, but more importantly on the achievement of set goals, and the innovation, judgement and skill used in dealing with obstacles along the way.

The **Community Initiative Award** is given annually to a community organization in recognition of their outstanding efforts in the area of community development, and which has shown initiative and commitment to the community. The recipients of this award portray dedication and cooperation throughout the work they do to advance a project or cause that improves the social and economic well-being of our region.

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** recognizes and celebrates the outstanding volunteer contributions made by a resident of the region that impact economic growth and social wellbeing in their community. The CFWR Board of Directors selects the award recipient from nominations that are received from groups and residents of the region. Recipients of this award demonstrate initiative and leadership and have contributed significant service to their community on a volunteer basis.

Community Futures Winnipeg River is very pleased to acknowledge the winners of this year's awards:

- **Community Initiative Award:** Oakbank-Springfield Kinsmen Seniors Complex Inc.
- **Business of the Year:** Spectrum Agricultural Inc. (David Prystupa) – LGD of Pinawa
- **Self-Employment Award:** Brent Strelezki (Strelezki Mechanical Services) – RM of Brokenhead
- **Volunteer of the Year Award:** Murray Gillespie - Dugald, Manitoba (RM of Springfield)

OAKBANK-SPRINGFIELD KINSMEN SENIORS COMPLEX INC.

They are a non-profit locally based organization whose mission is to provide seniors with living spaces and services that address daily living needs and positively influence quality of life. This organization manages a 14 unit independent living complex in Oakbank called Kin Place. In 2014 they added the responsibility of managing an additional new facility called Springfield Place that consists of 12 independent living suites and 12 supportive housing units. The group was instrumental in assisting Manitoba Housing with the facility building project and in coordinating the supportive housing services and staffing needs with the Regional Health Authority. The new complex opened its doors on September 1, 2014 and is completely full! The new facility has met a great need for seniors housing and care in the region.

2014-2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CFWR worked with this nonprofit organization in 2014-2015 to strengthen its organizational structure in preparation for operating and managing the new seniors housing complex. The care and diligence of the board and staff of the Oakbank-Springfield Kinsmen Seniors Complex Inc. ensures that both housing complexes are managed effectively. They extend these efforts because they have a collective vision...

Seniors can age comfortably in our community because a range of safe, affordable, quality housing and services exist to accommodate various income levels and living needs.

SPECTRUM AGRICULTURAL INC. (DAVID PRYSTUPA)

The business was established in 2000 by Dr. David Prystupa and operates out of the LGD of Pinawa. Spectrum Agricultural Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Spectrum Scientific Inc. (“SSI”), and is a company formed to commercialize technologies developed by SSI and which are applicable to the agricultural sector. The Company exploits high value-added technology based on optical methods, including visible, ultraviolet, near infrared, infrared and Raman for a variety of uses. The objective of Spectrum’s research is the development of easy-to-use, fast and accurate instrumentation for a variety of uses in the marketplace.

An example of one of the company’s inventions is the technology that was developed for the removal of Fusarium. Wheat and other grains are subject to fungal infestations such as Fusarium and Ergot. The presence of a few % of Fusarium damaged kernels (FDK), or a trace of Ergot reduces the grade received and lowers the market value considerably. The purpose of Spectrum’s technology is to physically remove Fusarium and Ergot damaged kernels, thereby improving the grade and restoring value. With assistance from CFWR, Spectrum was able to commercialize the technology for sale in the marketplace.

BRENT STRELEZKI (STRELEZKI MECHANICAL SERVICES)

Brent Strelzki established a business as a mobile heavy duty mechanic in 2013 and completed his participation on the Self Employment Program in the fall of 2014. The business is based in the RM of Brokenhead, but with his service truck Brent travels to customers all over the province including Flin Flon where he has done a lot of work for mining companies. As a mobile mechanic, Brent is available onsite at any hour of the day to repair anything with a gas or diesel engine, hydraulic systems, wiring issues or any failure that may occur and needs technical assistance. Equipment repaired could be farm, construction or mine exploration equipment.

Brent’s first year in business was quite successful and he was able to secure a few contracts which provided steady employment. He completed the 3 Day Business Planning Workshop as a component of the Self Employment Program and always maintained regular contact with CFWR during his time on the program. His drive and passion for what he does helped him start the business off right and ensure that Strelzki Mechanical Services will be a success for years to come.

2014-2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MURRAY GILLESPIE (RM OF SPRINGFIELD)

Murray is known in Dugald for his steadfast and generous support of the community in which he has lived his entire life. Over the years, his numerous volunteer roles that have helped the community progress in both social and economic ways. Murray has served on many local Boards including the Community Club, Pool Elevator, Curling Club, Agricultural Society, Canada Day Committee, Seniors Housing Committee and Dugald Projects Committee. Murray has also been very involved with volunteering at many local fundraisers in Dugald and area. You can quite often find him in the local hall kitchen flipping pancakes, cooking spaghetti or doing dishes. Through his various volunteer efforts, Murray can proudly look back and know that he has made a positive impact in his community and rural municipality.

Highlights of Murray's accomplishments include...

- Years ago Dugald had a problem getting water for a hockey rink. Murray found a solution and flooded the local rink himself so activities could continue.
- When the Community Club decided to build a new clubhouse and hall in 1969, Murray volunteered to be Project Manager which included hiring and supervising tradespeople.
- Working heavily on the Agriculture Society's Annual Fair.
- Helping raise funds and erect Welcome to Dugald signs.
- Working with a group of residents to spruce up the town which included new benches, flower pots, a toddler playground and a skateboard/BMX park.
- Building and repairing equipment at the hall.
- Researching senior housing needs in the area.

Murray never tires of being involved and he works hard to get others to volunteer as well. He has a way of making it a fun and helping you feel pride in what is accomplished. He can always be counted on to lend a hand, provide advice, and to act as a friendly, welcoming community leader. A quote by S. Thorsteinsen best describes Murray's attitude and actions by which he lives his life and helps his community. He said, "If you would do good then do it today. Do it gratis nor linger around for your pay. Let the deed be a gem that you cast overboard, not a hook that is baited to fish for reward." Murray's efforts and strong character are noticed, appreciated, and now today, honored.