Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 13th at the Pioneer Club in Lac du Bonnet. The event was well attended and CFWR would like to thank everyone who came out for the evening to help us celebrate. During the event, numerous awards were handed out.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - Winnipeg River Arts Council**

In 2009, artists and representatives from the Fire & Water Music Association and recently defunct Manitou Rapids Arts Council Board came to Community Futures with a vision of developing a regional arts council to serve north eastern Manitoba. With consultation and support from Community Futures, the dream evolved from concept in 2009, to an incorporated non-profit organization with a Board of Directors in 2011, and has steadily been increasing the quantity and quality of arts programming since 2012.

The Winnipeg River Arts Council Inc. (WRAC) is the central arts organization that connects and represents a united arts community in the region. The organization exists to enhance quality of life in north eastern Manitoba by advancing arts and culture. Political leaders, artists and interested individuals worked hard to make this dream a reality. Initial support for development came from a variety of partners including the Town of Powerview/ Pine Falls, Town and Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, Rural Municipality of Alexander, Local Government

Cont’d on page 2...
District of Pinawa, Winnipeg River Community Adjustment Committee, Manitou Rapids Arts Council, Data Helps, Sevinson Design and Community Futures Winnipeg River.

Today, WRAC has built a membership network consisting of about 100 artists and arts enthusiasts. WRAC provides various opportunities throughout the region that allow people to experience literary, visual, and performing arts.

A few highlights include...
- Hosted 3 Royal MTC Productions, most recent play was The Hound of the Baskervilles in Lac du Bonnet.
- Partnered to host Eastman Judged Arts Exhibit in 2015.
- Partner with libraries to host regular storytelling and musical programs.
- Widely promote upcoming arts and culture events and programs through a Monthly Arts Newsletter.
- Showcase the region’s talented artists and their products monthly in local media.
- Match experienced artists, musicians and writer with young artists for mentorship.

WRAC supports and encourages the development of new artists, talents, and collaborations through training, mentoring and networking activities. The development of WRAC has resulted in economic growth to the region through the promotion of the region’s arts and cultural assets to residents and tourists.

**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**Next Faze - Tannis Reichert, Lac du Bonnet**

Tannis Reichert purchased Next Faze, an established business in Lac du Bonnet in 2014, with assistance from CFWR. The business offers clothing and unique gift items for sale. One of Next Faze’s biggest selling items is their Lac du Bonnet themed hoodies which are a huge hit with both tourists and residents alike and they also promote the area. The business also offers consignment of gently used clothing.

Prior to purchasing the business, Tannis was an employee at Next Faze for four years where she learned all aspects of the business. When the owner of the business decided to retire, it was a natural fit for Tannis to purchase and take over the business, as she truly loved the business and had already developed a rapport with many of the clients.

To keep the store stocked with unique items, Tannis purchases merchandise from the USA and Asia as well as Canada. She also stays up to date on the latest fashions and continually changes stock and dresses the display windows to match the seasons and special occasions.

The continued success of Next Faze through the transition of owners is a great example of a positive business succession story. Tannis has made the business her own and looks forward to serving Lac du Bonnet and the surrounding areas for years to come.

**SELF-EMPLOYMENT AWARD**

**Brookstone Renovations, Steve Newransky, RM of Springfield**

Steve Newransky established Brookstone Renovations in 2015 and completed his participation on the Self Employment Program in April 2016. The business is based in the RM of Springfield. Brookstone Renovations provides a renovation contracting service which caters to the higher-end customer willing to pay for the full-services of an interior designer, and an ace team of sub-contractors as required. Steve also has disposal bins available for rent. These bins are used for jobsite waste collection and clean up and have made up a large part of his business over the past year.

Steve’s first year in business was quite successful. 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. Steve is an entrepreneur that is always focused on learning more about business and his industry. At the initial start-up stage he enlisted the help of a business coach that assisted him with branding, marketing strategies and networking advice. Since then he has participated in various training workshops and business networking events and will continue to do so in the future as he feels that this is an important part of running a successful business. Steve has been a model participant on the SE program, and with his first year of business behind him, he is well on his way to establishing a profitable business.
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD -
Gerry Arbez

Gerry Arbez is the President of the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association (LDBWA), an organization that he resurrected 7 years ago, from a small membership to about 450 today. This organization’s vision for the future is “To make north eastern Manitoba a better place to live, hunt and fish by protecting and enhancing our wildlife and fishery habitat and resources.” Under Gerry’s leadership, the LDBWA undertook the Wildlife Ponds Project which developed 70 acres of crown land just north of Lac du Bonnet into a wildlife park setting which features a very well stocked trout pond with aerators for winter survival, 3 fishing/observation pods, a parking lot, interactive hiking trails, a large granite sign, picnic tables and washrooms. Through Gerry’s tireless drive, grants and donations were secured to cover the $160,000 project.

The Ponds is already a very popular attraction attracting about 3000 visitors per year from far and near. The Ponds is quickly becoming widely known as a first class trout pond. On average, anglers and hunters spend about $298/trip so this project has great potential to drive economic activity in the region.

Gerry has initiated many other activities through the LDBWA and his volunteer efforts which include:

- Developing the Reel Solutions Program to expose local youth to the joys and challenges of angling and outdoor recreation each spring.
- Ensuring LDBWA participation in the Nopiming Park Planning Process to ensure reasonable public access to the unique habitat of the park.
- Sitting on the Moose Management Committee of the Manitoba Model Forest to assist the Moose Recovery Program to reopen moose hunting and develop wildlife resources in the area.
- Active board member on the Lac Du Bonnet Charitable Foundation.
- Instrumental in establishing the Night Watch Program in the Manitoba Wildlife Federation to eliminate the dangerous practice of “spotlighting” in Manitoba.

Gerry’s unselfish dedication to preserving wildlife is highly notable. His passion and commitment to make the area a better place to live, play and enjoy all aspects of nature and wildlife is commendable.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!
Economic growth in a country is measured by the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or the total value of all the finished goods and services produced in one year. The GDP tells how rich or poor a country is and if the economy is getting better or worse. Raising the GDP of a country can improve the country’s quality of living.

In order for a country to have an increasing GDP, it must invest in both human capital and capital goods. Products and services must be developed that have value to be sold within the country or exported.

There are four key factors that impact a country’s Gross Domestic Product for the year.

1. Natural Resources - Countries that have a lot of natural resources are able to use them to produce goods and services cheaper than a country that has to import natural resources. If a country has many natural resources, it can also trade them with other countries and make money for the economy.

2. Human Capital - Nations that invest in the health, education, and training of their people will have a more valuable workforce.

3. Capital Goods - To increase GDP, countries must also invest in capital goods needed by businesses to operate and produce such as infrastructure, machines, technologies, equipment, etc.

4. Entrepreneurship - Entrepreneurship creates jobs and lessens unemployment. The more entrepreneurs a country has, the higher the country’s GDP will be. Approximately 80% of growth in rural community comes from internal business development.

Cont’d on page 5...
What Affects Economic Growth? cont’d...

Considering these factors when you think about our province, region and local areas is important and something we can all do. As individuals we make decisions on where we purchase the goods and services we need; whether to seek formal education or skill development; and if we should start a local business. As businesses and organizations, we make decisions on how many people to hire; how much to invest in staff training; whether to expand products/services we offer; and when and where to purchase capital goods required.

Improving the economic growth in your area increases the overall standard of living and vibrancy of a community. Positive affects you may see include better services and infrastructure; increased real estate value; and a wider selection of products/services/programs available.

If you are considering starting your own business please contact Lindsey Otto in our office for valuable information and advice. She can be reached at otto@cfwr.mb.ca or 204.345.8691.

Did you know?

Over the course of the 2015-16 fiscal year, CFWR realized the following accomplishments:

- 474 business services were provided to 116 clients and resulted in 27 new businesses and 47 full-time jobs.
- Our community economic development services included involvement with 28 community based projects, 12 strategic plans, 69 consulting services, 3 training sessions delivered to 32 participants and $91,845 leveraged into the region.

Help us, help you...

**STEP 1**
LIKE our FACEBOOK PAGE

**STEP 2**
SIGN UP for our E-NEWS
Join our e-mail list by clicking the link on our Facebook page. Our quarterly e-news highlights success stories, available resources and helpful tips for business and non-profits.

ENTER to WIN an iPad Air & Square Reader*

*CONTEST RUNS FROM JUNE 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2016. BY LIVING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND SIGNING UP TO JOIN OUR E-NEWS YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE ENTRY INTO OUR CONTEST. CONTEST OPEN TO ALL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CENTRAL REGION. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT OUR OFFICE IF YOU REQUIRE A BUSINESS ID IN OUR REGION. THE CONTEST WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING OUR SMALL BUSINESS WEEK EVENT IN OCTOBER 2016. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN GINTER, TULLABEE FALLS.
Community Futures along with a regional planning team have been working hard to draft a Regional Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan for Eastern Manitoba. At this time the plan is being widely distributed throughout the region to get important feedback from councils, businesses, and social agencies. The purpose of this planning initiative is to strengthen the local areas and the region as a whole so we are better prepared, proactive, strategic and working together in our economic development efforts. As you review the goals, strategies and first actions proposed, feel free to identify any additions or changes you think should be made.

If you are interested in reviewing the plan please email our office for a copy (rietlo@cfwr.mb.ca) or visit our website and/or Facebook page.

This plan requires strong local input and actions by council, businesses and social agencies. Please tell us about actions your organization is willing to do to align with any of the goals and strategies in this plan. By making many efforts in the directions (strategies) identified, we can collectively reach our Regional Mission...

To work together to create a positive and progressive economic future for Eastern Manitoba that is more diverse, sought after and competitive within Manitoba, Canada and the world.

While there is much more to explore through continued local and regional economic development discussions, I believe this plan is a great framework and foundation to build from. At this time, please get involved by doing the following...

- Talk about the goals and strategies at your board and staff meetings.
- Determine ways your agency can be involved and actions you want to take.
- Communicate your ideas and plans with us at Community Futures. As the regional development corporation, we may be able to help you by providing information, templates, referrals, consulting, planning, facilitating discussions, making connections, etc.

Please provide any suggested changes/additions you have for the plan by June 20th by calling 345-2514 or emailing reitlo@cfwr.mb.ca.

---

**CFWR SERVICES:**

**Business Development:**

- Loans up to $150,000 to develop, expand or acquire a business
- Counsel and assistance with business plans, market research & marketing plans, financial analysis and forecasting
- Connections to other business services and training
- Self Employment Program delivered on behalf of Training and Employment Services for people eligible for EI benefits or who have had an EI claim in the past 3 years or been on maternity/paternity leave in the past 5 years and interested in starting a business

**Community Development:**

- Strategic and operational planning
- Building knowledge and skills to enhance leadership, teamwork and planning within organizations
- Project development assistance through research and planning services
- Enhancing regional communication and partnerships between communities, sectors, businesses and social organizations
- Promoting the region, its businesses, organizations and other assets