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## \$100,000 to go to arts, geology

### Alix McNaught

Northern News Services  
Published Wednesday, March 26, 2008

YELLOWKNIFE - Two donations totalling \$100,000 will go towards arts funding and the preservation of part of Yellowknife's mining heritage.

During presentations at the Greenstone Building on Thursday, the Yellowknife Community Foundation was given \$75,000 by the Community Television Society and \$25,000 from the NWT Mining Heritage Society.

Formed in 1993, the Yellowknife Community Foundation is a nationally-registered charity that manages a wide array of grant and scholarship funds. The group covers such areas as post-secondary education in the aviation industry and second languages or culture, as well as for combating breast



President of the NWT Mining Heritage Society Walt Humphries presents Tom Hall of the Community Foundation with a \$25,000 donation, as they stand next to the Walter Gibbons mineral display on Thursday. - Alix McNaught/NNSL photo

cancer, pursuing a variety of sports and the development of leadership skills through wilderness travel.

The \$75,000 donated by the Community Television Society will go into the Fine and Performing Arts Fund, which provides scholarships to NWT residents accepted to recognized arts programs.

"Their contribution is going into the arts fund, so people can apply to post-secondary studies in television studies and anything to do with arts," said Darrell Vikse, vice-president of the foundation. "A lot of the donations are made with a specific request. Others go to a general fund, the Yellowknife Community Fund."

The \$25,000 given by the NWT Mining Heritage Society will be used to launch the Walter Gibbons Memorial Fund.



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Walter Gibbons was a geologist in Yellowknife with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs who, over the course of his work, compiled an extensive rock and mineral collection, which is on display at the airport, the Greenstone Building and the Yellowknife Visitors' Centre.

"When Walter passed away, money was collected to preserve his mineral collection, and we administrated it for a number of years, and then we decided we should put it into a permanent form so that it goes on forever. That's why we donated the money to the Yellowknife Community Foundation," said Walt Humphries, president of the Mining Heritage Society.

"The NWT Mining Heritage Society is going to be looking after the maintenance of the mineral collection, so the idea is the Community Foundation will look after the administration side," said Tom Hall, president of the Yellowknife Community Foundation.

"We'll invest it, administer the fund and then the interest that's earned in that fund will go back to the Mining Heritage Society for the maintenance of the display case and also for geological education in the Northwest Territories."

The Community Foundation is trying to increase its public profile, as members refer to it as "the best kept secret in Yellowknife."

"We manage funds that are dispersed to scholarships and grants," said Viske.

"We take the interest from that; we never spend the principal. The whole intention is you invest the money and the interest that comes off it, so the fund never depletes."

The foundation receives its money from groups and individuals, many of whom set up memorial scholarships.

"Today, the Yellowknife Community Fund actually crossed the \$2 million mark. That will allow us to fund in the range of \$80,000 to \$90,000 worth of grants every year in the community," said Ian Legaree, grants chair for the Community Foundation.

The foundation formed at the instigation of current city administrator, Max Hall, who was the city's community services director at the time.

"He asked a number of interested individuals if they wanted to sit down and see if we could form a foundation. It started off with one donation of \$100, and that's grown to \$2 million now," said Legaree.

According to Viskse, through advertising and ceremonies such as the one last Thursday, the foundation hopes, "people will understand at least what we're doing and can start making applications to the scholarships and the grants. Activities like this raise the profile and make people understand what we do and how we can help them."

