

# Twenty years of community building

*Yellowknife Community Foundation reaches \$3 million milestone*

by Kevin Allerston  
Northern News Services

The Yellowknife Community Foundation (YCF) is celebrating two milestones this month: 20 years of supporting the community and reaching \$3 million in permanent funds.

Throughout those 20 years, the foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants and scholarships in support of post-secondary education, arts, health, trades, sport, environment, aviation, and more.

Foundation president Darrell Vikse said it is all about helping people.

"It helps the community, it helps the individuals," said Vikse. "We're here to help people. That's really what we're here to do."

The foundation has helped set up grants and scholarship programs for many projects, including the Northern Aviation Scholarship, the John Tumchewics Memorial Fund, the Aurora College Scholarship, and the Helping Children Soar Scholarship Fund.

The John Tumchewics Memorial Fund was started by John's father, Robert, after John died in a helicopter accident in Ontario in 2010. It provides funds for things such as equipment and training for aspiring helicopter pilots.

"It might help get them a few more hours of instruction or, you know, possibly a piece of safety equipment, like a helmet, or GPS – those sorts of things," said Robert.

He said he doesn't think he would have been able to start the scholarship without the assistance of the YCF.

Robert was also involved in helping set up the Con Employees' Benevolent Fund in 2011.

"The Con Employees' Benevolent Society was formed back in 1955 to give support to workers who were off work due to non-work-related sickness or accidents. Basically, it was a form of self-insurance," said Tumchewics. "And the few members, or former members, I could round up at the very end figured it would be nice for the funds to last and to keep doing good things for people, so the Yellowknife Community Foundation was a good place to put it. Also, Con Mine really figured quite prominently in Yellowknife's history, so it's a way of remembering all the people who worked at Con as well."

The foundation is also responsible for helping set up the Helping Children Soar Scholarship Fund, which awards two \$500 scholarships annually to help children who have grown up in foster care continue their education.

"Sometimes a lot of kids who grow up in foster care might have learning disabilities or maybe not be able to focus on education because of what's going on in their lives, and they may not qualify for certain bursaries and awards that others qualify for," said Tammy Krivda, executive director of the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT. "So we wanted to set up something specifically for youth that have grown up in care and make it as wide as we can so they can use it for upgrading, some kind of a trade school. Something that would be bettering themselves."

Members of the YCF will be celebrating their milestones at their upcoming Valentine's Gala scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Explorer Hotel.

*Daryl Dolynny, former president of the Yellowknife Community Foundation, and Pat Strus, president of the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT, celebrate with foster children at the launch of the Helping Children Soar Scholarship fund on July 14.*

photo courtesy of the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT



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**NORTHERN FRONTIER VISITORS ASSOCIATION**

## Northern Frontier Visitors Centre 20th Anniversary Celebration & Auction

The Board and Staff of the Northern Frontier Visitors Association cordially invite all founding members, past and present board members, volunteers, committee members and all the members of our community and surrounding area to attend.

**January 20, 2012 6:00 to 11:00 PM – All welcome  
at the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre**

*Auction items include:*

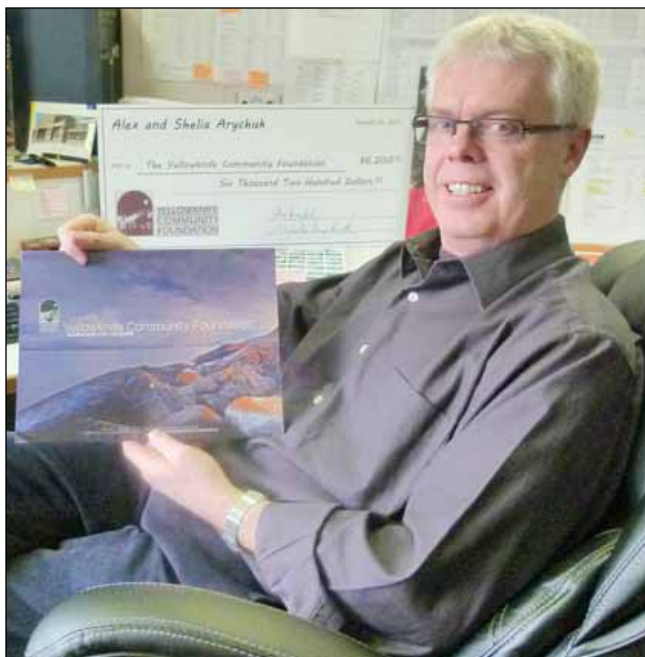
- ★ A trip for two to the Nahanni, flight included  
*(courtesy of Janor B and B, First Air, The Bucket List Tour)*
- ★ Return Airfare for two: Yellowknife - Iqaluit *(courtesy of First Air)*
- ★ Four-hour Great Slave Lake tour – eagle watching and a char lunch included *(courtesy of North Star Adventures)*
- ★ Four-hour guided ice fishing tour in a Snow Bear *(courtesy of Bluefish Services)*
- ★ One-hour guided snowmobile trip for Two  
*(courtesy of YK Outdoor Adventures)*
- ★ Date Night – Dinner, limo service, overnight Henderson's B & B  
*(courtesy of Arctic Ice Limousine, Henderson's B & B)*
- ★ Hay River Package – airfare for two with Buffalo Airways, overnight stay at Ptarmigan Inn; Two hour trip in a vintage Bombardier  
*(courtesy of Great Slave Adventures)*
- ★ Canadian North – a trip for two anywhere they fly
- ★ Aurora viewing by dog sled 3-5 hours for two people *(courtesy of Becks Kennels)*

**Much More To Come!**  
Lee Mandeville will be performing

**Precambrian Sponsors:**



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Kevin Allerston/NNLS photo

**Yellowknife Community Foundation**  
Darrell Vikse as seen in his PSAV Architects office last Friday. The foundation is celebrating 20 years of supporting the community.