

Update

McDOWELL FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

BY JENS NIELSEN

It was a night of fond remembrances while also looking optimistically to the future as the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching celebrated its 10th anniversary January 26 in Saskatoon.

"We have made some great strides in the past 10 years and the footprints are easy to see. We look back and celebrate the exciting growth of the McDowell Foundation from an idea to a real force in making things better for the children of Saskatchewan by means of research into teaching, and through the dissemination of that research," said Derwyn Crozier-Smith, President of the McDowell Foundation.

"The Foundation represents a community that is prepared to invest time, money, interest, knowledge and skill into improving teaching and learning for our children. That is something to celebrate," Crozier-Smith added. "I predict the next decade will be even more exciting and deserving of the research we need in order to continue to build the knowledge base that underlies our profession."

Verna Gallén, Foundation Coordinator, took the crowd of approximately 90 through a slide retrospective, dating back to its actual infancy in 1989 when the now-defunct Future Corporation came through with \$150,000 as the first major contribution. The presentation went on to feature numerous individuals integrally



Dr. Stirling McDowell receives from Harold Schultz the latest McDowell sweater at the Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration in January.

involved with the Foundation, much to the knowing acknowledgment of those in the room.

Gallén elaborated by saying that to date the Foundation has handed out more than \$350,000 toward 68 projects representing over 300 teachers from 80 schools located throughout the province.

Yet despite its immense growth in the last decade, Gallén said throughout, the McDowell Foundation has remained a "family affair".

Wayne Clements, President of the Saskatchewan Teachers'

Federation, said the Foundation has grown to be the envy of teachers from across the country. "Saskatchewan has once again broken new ground in public education," he said.

"It has proven to be a very effective avenue in teaching and learning in the classroom and the Foundation is an important, vibrant part of education in Saskatchewan. It is a significant success that we have all created together," Clements added.

One of those researchers on hand



Top: Some of the many researchers, friends and supporters of the Foundation at the 10th Anniversary "Extravaganza".

Bottom: Cellists from the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra provide entertainment.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to relay her first-hand experience as a classroom researcher was Sharlene McGowan of Regina.

"My experience as a researcher has given me a voice to ask, and a vision to understand," she said, adding that in her daily teaching environment in an inner-city school with at-risk youth "my arms and heart must be wide open when the student comes to my door."

She added that her involvement with the McDowell Foundation "has made me feel part of a professional team committed to classroom

teachers in this province, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for teachers."

Dr. Sam Robinson from the College of Education, recalls his past participation as both a researcher and partner.

"I remember my first experience in 1993 as a researcher, the projects tended to be very tentative. Throughout the 10 years the Foundation has had a great effect on changing teachers in terms of how they view and conduct action research."

"The McDowell Foundation has been a very important force for teachers in the province and it has made a tremendous contribution to the professionalism of teachers. It has also had a profound effect on the faculties of Education in this province, and for that we are very grateful," he added.

Harry Dahlem, one of the earliest donors to the Foundation, said in his presentation that the exhilarating aspect was that it was hands-on, practical research, which reached the children in the classroom. "One cannot help but be impressed by the unselfish contribution so many people have made," he indicated.

The evening's festivities also included the passing of the torch from Harold Schultz to Ernie Dawson, who has assumed the duties as coordinator of fundraising and public relations for the Foundation.

Gallén praised Schultz for his energy and dedication, adding that "you could always draw on his pearls of wisdom, his energy and his support."

For his part, Schultz insisted the experience had been a joy, adding that the work of the Foundation was always well received around the province, whether in boardrooms or classrooms. "It's just something that people can relate to very quickly and they can see the great work being done by teachers."

Schultz also honoured Dr. McDowell, for whom the Foundation is named. "Stirling was the foundation and I have no doubt it was his leadership style and tremendous contribution to public education that made people want to become involved. His style was such that it brought out the best in everything we did."

To a standing ovation, McDowell said simply "there is still much to do, and I invite you all to do as I do, and continue to work in the years ahead."

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

FRED HERRON, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE MCDOWELL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The idea that the teachers of Saskatchewan would some day support a body dedicated to research into teaching and learning was not new in 1991. However, prior to the establishment of the McDowell Foundation, teachers were necessarily preoccupied by other matters in their professional lives. Teachers had little choice but to focus almost all of their energies on teacher welfare issues in the 1930's and 1940's. Activities designed to improve the competence of practicing teachers were virtually non-existent until the 1950's. During the next four decades, participation in teacher improvement programs by teachers allowed the profession to begin to address its objective of strengthening its role in making and shaping educational policy.

Early efforts to foster teacher research were difficult given the lack of support for such endeavors. Teachers had a vigorous debate at Council in 1983 regarding the establishment of a fund to support research, but the time was not yet right. By the late 1980's a growing number of teachers were becoming more insistent on having a greater voice in teacher education and in expanding the profession's knowledge of teaching and learning. Despite the efforts of teachers to become involved, money and time to support such action research remained as stumbling blocks.

It was quite by accident that the Federation became aware that the Saskatchewan Future Corporation, a body formed by the provincial government to celebrate Saskatchewan's 85th birthday, might look favorably on a proposal to establish a foundation into teaching and learning. The proposal was accepted by the Future Corporation and \$150,000 was provided as start-up funding for the Foundation.

Part of the start-up activities included considerable effort to determine the support for the establishment of an endowment fund. The more than \$100,000 in gifts and pledges from the STF Executive and staff provided a strong statement of support and the idea caught fire. The initial major corporate donors included Greystone Capital Management, Gauley and Company, and the Teachers Credit Union.

The success of the McDowell Foundation has depended on the support of many individuals and groups. The STF has provided inkind financial and administrative support. Teachers, superannuates, other educational organizations and corporate sponsors have provided support and funding. Teachers have provided advice and have participated on a variety of committees to support the work of the Foundation.

The lasting success of the Foundation will depend, of course, on the willingness of teachers to make the time and effort to capture the magic that occurs every day between teachers and students in places of learning.

I am confident that the future impact of the Foundation will be enormous and will ultimately play an important role in giving teachers the voice they need and deserve in the decisions regarding teaching and learning. These are the decisions that will ultimately provide the benefit to the most important beneficiaries of the Foundation - the students in our schools.

This Update is published annually by the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research into Teaching for distribution to all donors and supporters.

Board of Directors

- Derwyn Crozier-Smith, President
- Alice Andreas
- Rex Beaton
- Gwen Dueck
- Ingrid Gabert
- Verna Gallén
- Fred Herron
- Rod Holowaty
- Doreen Lloyd
- Earle Robertson
- Michael Swityk
- Gordon Tamblyn
- Boyd Taylor

For further information please contact:

Dr. Stirling McDowell
Foundation for Research into
Teaching Inc.

2317 Arlington Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2H8

(306) 373-1660;
Toll free: 1-800-667-7762
Fax: 374-1122

RESEARCH PROJECTS ADDRESS MANY ISSUES

All aspects of McDowell research expanded in 2000, according to Verna Gallén who oversees the Foundation's research program. "We had a record number of applications for funding, attendance at Learning from Practice reached a new high, and there has been a tremendous jump in the number of completed projects sharing their results through reports and presentations across the province," Gallén stated.

Among the new projects selected for funding this year was a joint study being undertaken by Lakeview and Jubilee Elementary schools in Meadow Lake, where the onus is being put on parents as well as children when it comes to reading and literacy. Also included among the 11 projects awarded a research grant, was a research study in Edmonton, which has become the first McDowell project outside the borders of Saskatchewan. The research awards for 1999-2000 included:

Project Q.E.: Encouraging Habits of Mind, \$8,140, Queen Elizabeth School, Lloydminster

Montgomery Innovative School Project, \$10,000, Montgomery School, Saskatoon

Home Reading Program, \$8,050, Lakeview and Jubilee Elementary schools, Meadow Lake

Moving Together: Understanding the Implementation of the Elementary Physical Education Curriculum, \$5,000, Saskatoon

Learning to Learn in an Information Age, \$8,000, Prince Albert

Beyond Duty: A Compilation of Teachers' Roles and Responsibilities with "At Risk" Youth in Saskatchewan Secondary Schools, \$1,000, Regina

Writing Our Way: A Focus Group Experience, \$5,000, Regina

Reshaping Classroom and School Contexts: Learning from Stories of Aboriginal Children and Families, \$9,000, Edmonton

Teaching Strategies in a Multi-Age Setting, \$10,710, Westmount Community School, Saskatoon



Sharlene McGowan talked at the 10th Anniversary celebration about her recently completed research project "Beyond Duty: A Compilation of Teachers' Roles and Responsibilities with 'At Risk' Youth in Saskatchewan Secondary Schools".

Developing Secondary Students' Mathematical Understanding through Student Interaction, \$7,400, Colonsay and Delisle

Succeeding with Job Sharing, \$1,726, Kindersley

Is Surviving Enough? A Study on Mentoring New Teachers, \$1,000, Eston



Students involved in a McDowell project in Warman.

In planning for its 10th anniversary year, the Foundation is looking at a number of possible innovations in the research program, Gallén noted. "We have great opportunities in this year to expand our recruitment efforts and provide even more opportunities for our researchers to show all that they are learning about the improvement of teaching and learning. It is going to be a banner year."

Verna Gallén, Coordinator

PRINCIPAL WINS McDOWELL AWARD

BY KIM MANNIX OF THE SASKATOON SUN

The principal of Westmount Community School, Jane Macleod, has been honoured with the McDowell Foundation Award for her commitment to research in education.



Jane Macleod

The award, given out annually by the Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation for Research Into Teaching, recognizes the work done by Saskatchewan teachers to improve teaching and learning in the classroom.

“It’s certainly an honour and I’m humbled, because I do believe that so much of the work has come from the staff I’ve worked with,” said Macleod.

Verna Gallén, Foundation Coordinator, said Macleod has been committed to educational research throughout her 20 years as an educator in Saskatchewan.

“As a school administrator, she’s been exemplary in showing how principals can support research within schools and has done that throughout her career,” said Gallén.

“She’s quite a remarkable woman.”

Some examples of the research Macleod has been involved with include a two-year project at Vincent Massey school aimed at helping students manage their own behavior rather than resorting to outside discipline. Macleod said helping students learn to help themselves proved to be a successful project.

Another project she recently facilitated at Westmount Community School involved grouping children in different ways to discover how they can learn best.

The McDowell Foundation was established 10 years ago by the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation as a charitable organization set up to fund teachers’ research in the classroom.

It was named after Dr. Stirling McDowell, a well-known Saskatchewan educator who committed much of his life to research.

Gallén said since the Foundation’s inception, it has funded about 70 research projects throughout Saskatchewan. The annual McDowell Foundation Award has been given out each year since 1998.

Macleod said she is proud to be recognized for her work in a province enriched by educational research.

“I’m thankful because the McDowell Foundation is something we’re lucky to have because we don’t see this in a lot of other provinces where the belief in grass-roots research is supported financially and socially,” she said.

THE FUND IS GROWING

The McDowell fund is showing steady growth and is very near to meeting the short term goal of \$1.5 million. It is gratifying to see the continued support of donors in support of teacher research. While the fund is growing, so are the number of research applications as well. In order for teacher research to move forward a new goal will need to be established. At its recent meeting, the Advisory Committee is recommending the new goal to strive for \$3 million by the year 2008, which will be the 75th Anniversary of the STF. This will be my last *Update* and I want to say thanks to all of you for your support. It has been an honour and a pleasure to work for the Foundation.



Harold Schultz
Retired Public Relations/
Fundraising Coordinator



DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN

A direct mail appeal to all teachers and superannuates was conducted in the fall of 2000. This major initiative was undertaken "in house" this year and the Desktop Publishing group did a great job. The net result of the campaign were donations of \$8,257 and pledges of \$5,211 for a campaign total of \$13,425. Thanks to all donors. Once again one of our corporate donors, namely Greystone Managed Investments, sponsored the direct mail campaign and it is greatly appreciated.

PRIZE WINNERS WERE:

Connie Haukeness of Saskatoon – trip for 2 to an Edmonton Oiler hockey game courtesy of Greystone Managed Investments.

Stephanie Olson of Thunder Creek – digital camera courtesy of ESTI.

Tim Siemens of Saskatoon – trip for 2 to Winnipeg courtesy of Thunderbird Travel.

Gifts and Pledges by Donor Group to June 30, 2000

Donor Group	One-Time Gifts	Total Gifts		Number of & Pledges	Donations
		Pledges			
Corporations/Foundation	\$ 81,870	\$365,000		\$ 446,870	39
Educational Organizations	\$ 66,425	\$ 2,120		\$ 68,545	45
Small Businesses/ Organizations	\$ 1,160	\$ 0		\$ 1,160	8
Educational Partners	\$ 91,423	\$172,779		\$ 264,202	217
Superannuates	\$109,646	\$ 82,081		\$ 191,727	847
Teachers	\$ 25,607	\$ 90,286		\$ 115,893	717
No Information	\$ 2,090	\$ 12		\$ 2,102	37
TOTAL	\$378,221	\$712,278		\$1,090,499	1,948

Gifts and Pledges by Donor Group from July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000

Donor Group	One-Time Gifts	Total Gifts		Number of & Pledges	Average Donation
		Pledges			
Corporations/Foundation	\$ 21,250	\$ 25,000		\$ 46,250	9 \$ 5,139
Educational Organizations	\$ 735	\$ 620		\$ 1,355	4 \$ 339
Small Businesses/ Organizations	\$ 550	\$ 0		\$ 550	2 \$ 275
Educational Partners	\$ 4,828	\$ 1,092		\$ 5,920	32 \$ 185
Superannuates	\$ 2,595	\$ 240		\$ 2,835	15 \$ 189
Teachers	\$ 963	\$ 9,244		\$ 10,207	130 \$ 79
TOTAL	\$ 30,921	\$ 36,196		\$ 67,117	192 \$ 350

Total net assets to June 30, 2000 = \$1,375,878

DONORS

— 2000 —

Adam Shirley
Anderson Iva
Archibald Kim
Archibald Michele M
Armstrong Shannon R
Augustyn Gary James
Avery Duncan Wayne
Avery Patricia Lesley
Baby Sharon Elizabeth
Bacon Jean Ellen
Baerg Connie F
Baldo Elisabeth Helene
Barber Margaret
Barker Wendy Judith Anne
Barrett Susan E
Bassingthwaite Carmen C
Bates Susan
Baylak Mary
Bell Thomas W
Bender Sylvia Marie Ann
Bennee Family Foundation Inc.
Benson Judith Ann
Benson Wendy Roberta Ann
Berntson Ronald N
Best Debra Gaye
Bezanson Maureen F
Birnie Howard
Bond Harry M.
Bouvier Rita
Bowers Kelly W
Brander Anne Frances
Brent John A
Brooks Susan A
Broste Suzanne M
Brown Albert Arthur
Brown Peter E
Browne Anne Marie
Campbell Karen D
Capes Trudy Louise
Carle Lynn Irene
Ciona Gail Jeanette
Clements Wayne Ross
Colleaux Marc L
Conley Leslie D
Cook Lesley M L

Crozier-Smith Derwyn
Dahlem Harry
Daniels Brenda M
Darling Grace S.
Davidson Leonard E
Derkach Walter
Devitt Janet E
Dickin Herbert JE
Dueck Gwendolyn J
Dunlop Gudrun H.
Dyck Wayne Francis
Dyer John A
Eamer Arlene
Edworthy Betty
Elliott Joan
Fahlman Irene S
Ferguson David B
Ferguson Gary Allen
Fettig Chris H
Foley Laura J
Forbes David G
Fowler Phyllis J J
Freed Elizabeth Ann
Frey Richard W
Gabert Ingrid D
Gallays Marcel L
Gallen Verna
Gambell Mary Anne
Gauthier Alain Leo
Gauthier Liliane Solange
Georget George J
Gies Agnes H.
Gilmour Douglas Lloyd
Glauser Stacey
Government of Saskatchewan
Graham Catherine Joanne
Graham Walter J.
Graves Linda M
Greystone Managed Investments
Grimsen Marie E
Grondin Elan Mary
Gunville Leah Joy
Haines Charlotte F
Halyk Velmarie Chaney
Hammer Helen
Hansen Evelyn
Hansen Max Arthur
Haug Elmer
Haughian Tim M P

Haukeness Constance R
Heese Fred
Heffron Kathleen E
Helmerson Shirley L
Herron Frederick William
Hesketh-Boles Iris
Hill Ruby K
Hillestad Jodie L
Hingley Jennifer T
Holtslander Malcolm James
Hughton Basil W
Humenick Diana Lynn
Humphries Shirley M.
Ingham James F (Eric)
Iversen Lorraine
James Evans and Associates
James Lynn Dawn
Jantzen Eva A.
Janzen May M
Jayson Belinda M
Jeffrey Noreen A
Jeske James B (Jim)
Jeske Valerie E
Johnson Arnold Sirvoy
Keil Elaine R
Kent Bernadette Edwina
Kerr Jennifer W
Kevill Elizabeth Ellen
Kindopp Donald W (Don)
King Glen R
Klassen Renata E
Klopoushak Stanley M.
Lake Mabel Agnes
Larson Viola D.
Lazecki Arlene Anita
LEADS
Lloyd Doreen A V
Lockhart Isabelle M
Loeffler Shelly
Loewen Kenneth D
Lohela Terri N
Longstaff James Alexander
Louko Margaret R
Loy Gary D
Lucas Gertrudine
Lukey Mary Olive
Lundback Elmer V
MacDougall Barry Donald
Machan Beryl A.
Macleod Jane Catherine
Majkut Joanna
Maple Creek - Medine Hat
Chaper STS

McBeath Arthur Grant
McCormick Patricia A
McDougall Gauley
McDowell Stirling C
McGowan Sharlene Gail
McLean-Woodward Lynda C
Meadow Lake STF Local
Meehan L Joseph (Joe)
Merryfield Gordon Arnold
Meyers Gilbert B
Miket Deborah Joyce
Mitchell Robin Alexander
Molina Luisa Ester
Mugford Kevin Charles
Mynett Albert S Raymond
Nahachewsky Jean
Negrave Tannis F.
Nelson Linda J
Nesdoly Benjamin
Neufeld Janine L
Neurauter Sajtos Gail
Newlove Kim Elaine
Newton Earle
Okrainetz Diane F
Olson Stephanie J
Pacholko Julie
Panchuk Eli D
Partridge John Albert
Partridge John Des
Pasquia District Health Board
Peters Jacob G.
Petry Verda L
Poulin Denis J
Probert Kathryn H
Prowse-Myers Patricia M
Rawlake Gordon
Ritter Doris K
Robinson Beryl D
Rongve Donald G
Ronning Pearl E
Ruo Leslie Ling-Chin
Rushbrooke Ron
Rydzik Audrey Ann
Ryson David W
Sask. School Trustees' Assoc.
Sask. Teachers' Federation
Saskatoon Teachers' Assoc.
Saunderson Dorothy
Schultz Harold
Scott G Patricia
Scott Jana L
Serafini Janice E
Shepherd Lauree E
Shukin Erin Chantel

Siemens Timothy P
Sikorski Chrisa D
Simon Joann Elizabeth
Sletmoen Elin
Tavanya
Smith Ruth A.
Southeastern Alberta Teachers Convention Association
Stephanson Lorraine M
STF - Activities in the Federation
STF Social Committee
Stone Sara J
Sullivan Marilyn
Swift Current Composite Social Committee
Swityk Michael J
Tamblyn Gordon S
Teachers Credit Union
Tenaski Connie M
Tracey Ann
Tysowski Lynda Jean
U of R Employees' Charitable F
University of Regina (SIDRU)
Unverricht Brian L
Ursuline Sisters of Bruno
van der Wal K Ann
Vermeersch James E
Voitka-Seager Susan L
Wakeman Lois Carol
Wall Gail Elaine
Wall Murray Dale
Ward Carol J
Welwood Muriel H
Wettergreen Ilene G
Whitby Kathryn E
Whittles Avon J
Widdifield-Konkin Leslie
Wihak Reginald Ernest
Wild Rose School
Wilke Anne-Marie
Willard Douglas E (Doug)
Wilson Phyllis A
Worster Josephine R
Yaychuk Elaine Agnes
Yeomans Elaine J
Young Annie M
Young Errol
Zary Darrel M
Zemlak Lawrence A
Zuk Ruth E

Welcome

TO THE NEWLY APPOINTED COORDINATOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING — ERNIE DAWSON

Ernie Dawson comes to the McDowell Foundation with a varied background in education in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He has been a teacher, school-based administrator, system administrator, university visiting professor and consultant during the thirty-five years since his initial placement as a U of S intern in Kinistino, Saskatchewan.



Since his retirement as Director of Education in Saskatoon (East) School Division at the beginning of 1995, Ernie has been asked to work in Last Mountain, Tisdale and Kindersley School divisions. He describes himself as the most fortunate educator in the province because of the opportunities to meet and work with teachers, trustees, students and the public in so many places throughout his working life.

A creative writer by avocation, he has written a weekly column for the Free Press newspapers in Saskatchewan, continues as editor of a professional education publication as well as privately developing a manuscript of poetry and a novel. But, the call of the current educational scene keeps him involved and he claims to thrive on that.

He operates E.D. Dawson - Consulting and has conducted workshops in strategic planning and team building, and has assisted various groups with organizational development interventions and interest-based bargaining facilitation.

Ernie Dawson is married to Barbara, a teacher with Prairie West Regional College and has three children and one grandchild. His second grandchild is due to arrive in March in Toronto.

He chairs the Emmanuel Village Housing Corporation, a not-for-profit organization currently developing a fifteen million dollar housing and support program for seniors in Saskatoon.

His summers are often spent at the family cottage at Emma Lake with frequent visits to neighboring golf courses, where he generously donates golf balls to the woodlands and creeks of various courses.