

THE CHECKUP

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Winter 2019



2018 FESTIVAL OF TREES ENJOYED BY 8,500 GUESTS!

Festival of Trees 2018 was an overwhelming success thanks to over 200 sponsors, 300 volunteers, and 8,500 guests who came together to kick-off the holiday season. The 29th annual three-day Festival included the Ladies Holiday Luncheon, Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, Festival of Trees Gala, Christmas Family Fun with Santa, Daddy Daughter Sugar Plum Fairy Ball and weekend-long Santa's Workshop, gift shops, tree viewing and local entertainment. Every event featured new elements to delight guests!

A new attraction this year was the gigantic Girls and Boys Toy Boxes created and stuffed full of terrific toys by APE Maintenance. The raffle tickets sales were brisk! Santa and Mrs. Claus made appearances at each event spreading holiday cheer and helped the Fairy Tale characters at Santa's Workshop and the Daddy Daughter Sugar Plum Fairy Ball.

The adults enjoyed the Ladies Holiday Luncheon and the Ugly Christmas Sweater Party leading up to the fabulous Festival of Trees Gala. At the Gala, thirty-three trees were auctioned off with heated bidding amidst laughter and cheer. The room got very quiet when the Fort Mac Hockey Bros tree hit the \$50,000 mark and then went wild when our terrific auctioneer Danny Hooper asked both parties if they could each put in that amount and share the tree! Just like that we had a record-breaking \$100,000 tree sold to Suncor and Finning Canada. Amazing result and it was just a taste of the generosity that is the hallmark of the Festival of Trees Gala.

"We are so grateful to our many sponsors, donors, ticket purchasers, guests and volunteers who supported our Festival of Trees. All of these efforts combined to raise \$640,000 after all expenses" said Jessica Lipton, Events Manager of the Health Foundation. "We are really looking forward to bringing some surprises to the 30th Anniversary Festival of Trees which will be held November 15th to 17th, 2019. Stay tuned for more information!"

Over the past 29 years, the Festival of Trees has raised over \$8.5 million (net after all expenses) for local health care, with over 30,000 volunteer hours invested by thousands of community members.



Check out all of the festivities [HERE](#)

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT TREE!

This section is new to the Winter Newsletter and gives an in depth look at a feature tree in the FOT Gala auction.

We are looking closely at the **Angels Among Us Tree**, created by designer Allison Flett and sponsored by CEDA. This tree was an homage to the Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women in Canada and was both heart-stoppingly beautiful and heart-renderingly poignant.

In her interview (linked below), Allison tell us that within Indigenous culture, women have an inherent strength and sacred worth. They know what it is to bring life into this world as the ultimate test of spiritual and physical fortitude. Women nurture life, provide an unshakable foundation for families, and teach the ultimate lesson - love.

Through her hand-crafted decorations, Allison's tree expressed a longing for awareness of the mothers, aunts, sisters, nieces and friends that were taken away long before their time. She notes that the magnifying lens asks us to reflect on the topic and answer the question of why the women are missing and where they are. The tiny trees that are missing a limb force us to see how a family and community feel when a loved one is gone. The dreamcatchers seek to trap those terrible feelings of loss and despair, and the compass hopes to lead the loved ones home.

And above all, the red dress in many forms and styles is sprinkled throughout the tree to evoke the absence of the Indigenous women all across Canada.

This tree was designed for all of us to remember the angels among us. They are the diamond-like glisten in every bright white snowflake, the twinkling of lights through the holiday season and in the stars and angles on the trees. These angels' lives had great value. They were loved and cherished and are deeply missed by their loved ones and family.

This tree had great impact on the Festival of Trees guests and was purchased by Dave Tuccaro and proudly displayed at the offices of the Tuccaro Group of Companies.

Please enjoy a deeper conversation with Allison about the Angels Among Us Tree here: **Angels Among Us - Festival of Trees 2018**



YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS IN ACTION



L to R: Brent Davis, Finning, Bruno Francoeur, Suncor, Parker Flett, Cindy Amerongen, NLHF, Cruze Flett, Michael Agnew, Suncor, Brad Karp, Country 93.3

Youth philanthropy is on the rise in our region and we have been very grateful for the support from individuals and school groups who are fundraising and volunteering for the Health Foundation.

Most recently guests to the Foundation office have included the Busy Bee Café volunteer team from Westwood High School, the Winter Carnival Committee from Westwood High School and representatives from the Holy Trinity High School who did a class fundraiser. We loved hearing how the fundraising was accomplished and we get really excited to hear how they are learning to support each other and their community through their good work.

We also had over 60 youth volunteers for our Festival of Trees weekend who were creating the special events that attract kids and families to festival every year. What could be more powerful than kids helping kids and giving back to the community?

We have been keeping a close eye on two youth with a passion for hockey and volunteering who really amped up their fundraising game this year in support of the Foundation. The Fort Mac Hockey Bros, Parker and Cruz Flett, started the fall with a minor campaign to Fill the Box in their backyard with new hockey equipment for kids in the outlying region who didn't have access to equipment to play the game. The idea took off when Bouchier Contracting and Finning Canada challenged each other to a hockey game in support of the boys' campaign.

When the boys entered a tree in the Health Foundation's Festival of Trees they had no idea how popular the idea would be. The tree, designed by their mother Allison Flett, featured hockey equipment and gave the purchaser the opportunity to deliver the hockey equipment to the

communities. Many FOT Gala attendees contributed to the Hockey Bros campaign with the result that the boys were able to purchase approximately \$40,000 in hockey equipment!

Tree purchasers Suncor and Finning have hosted skating parties and hockey equipment donations in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Conklin, and Anzac. Parker and Cruz have attended and spoken at each event telling the kids that they just wanted them to have equipment and enjoy the game and bring funds and attention to the Health Foundation. We are very proud of everything the boys have done to bring attention to the rural communities and to the Health Foundation.

Watch **this video** for the full story on the Fort Mac Hockey Bros!

We offer a big thank you to all of our Young Philanthropists and encourage you to keep donating!



OUR DEDICATED SPONSORS

The Backbone of Events

Every year the Health Foundation adds creative elements and a sense of fun and whimsy to our signature events and each year the events just get better and better. Do you want to know our secret? Its sponsor confidence expressed through annual and multi-year commitments.

Knowing that reoccurring sponsors have our back means we can make adjustments to the program, décor, entertainment, and ambiance to keep our events flexible and interesting. It's really important for the events to showcase the Health Foundation fundraising goals and to balance that against ensuring sponsors, donors, and guests attend a phenomenal event.

Having long-term and reoccurring sponsors ensures that we can be absolutely focused on exploring the creativity that attracts attendees, and containing costs means we deliver on budget with the net proceeds going to support health care initiatives.

Let's meet some of our amazing long-term sponsors.

Syncrude Canada:

Our two signature events, Festival of Trees and Spring Fling, are wildly popular and hugely well attended and we know that it is in great part because of our lead sponsor Syncrude. Presenting sponsor for the past 11 years, Syncrude has given us the funds and confidence to keep adding new elements and creating new opportunities for community involvement.

Syncrude also helps recruit volunteers and committee members and supports tickets sales through Club 63. We are very proud to have the Syncrude Logo incorporated with our signature event logos.



ATB Financial:

Volunteer sponsors extraordinaire! After many years of Spring Fling and Festival of Trees sponsorship at a variety of levels, in 2018 ATB secured the title of Volunteer Sponsor for both signature events on a two-year contract. We have had tremendous fun working together to elevate the volunteer experience and have some surprises for the upcoming Spring Fling!

Suncor Energy:

Consistently sponsoring both of the signature events at the Diamond level, Suncor is a generous and sustaining partner. Festival of Trees is enriched by the Suncor Christmas Family Fun with Santa which brings thousands of community members in to see and hear singers, dancers, and storytellers of all ages. As the Audio, Visual & Décor Sponsor for Spring Fling, they help us bring magic to the event space. Offering ticket sales through the Suncor Social Club and volunteers ensures our events run smoothly.



In our next issue of the Checkup we will tell you about other long-term sponsors and their impact on our events. We offer a huge thank you to all our sponsors!

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for Spring Fling 2019.
Click HERE for more details!

HONOURING AN ELDER

The Margaret MacDonald Medicine Wheel Room

Recently, the family and friends of the late Margaret MacDonald gathered to cut the ribbon for the re-naming of the Medicine Wheel Room located on the Continuing Care floor of the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre. This airy space has long been a place dedicated to contemplation,



spiritual renewal, and celebration. During a prayer, drumming and smudge service, the room was rededicated to honor Fort McKay elder, Margaret Marie MacDonald.

The naming of the room was made possible through the Chief and Council of the Fort McKay First Nation who wished to recognize Margaret for her outstanding contributions to Fort McKay and the larger Wood Buffalo region. She was instrumental in community development in Fort McKay and was a strong supporter of local and regional organizations, events, and charities. The naming was included as part of the Nations commitment to the Health Foundation's Gratitude Campaign.

An astute businesswoman and entrepreneur, Margaret was also the first Aboriginal member of the Northern Lights Regional Health Authority Board where she provided governance in support of health care programs and services.



Nicholas Giant with the drums he created for the Margaret MacDonald Medicine Wheel Room

Margaret's legacy of compassion and caring and supporting health programs beyond the hospital setting has endured to this day.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) recognizes facilities and services on traditional Indigenous territories and provides accessible, appropriate health services for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people in Alberta. The Margaret MacDonald Medicine Wheel at the

Northern Lights Health Centre represents the alignment and continuous interaction of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health for patients, residents and families in our care.

The Fort McKay First Nation also commissioned a painting for the occasion from renowned artist, and Margaret's son, Frederick R. McDonald. The painting was unveiled at the dedication ceremony. In addition, four drums were commissioned from Nicholas Giant and were dedicated to the room.

The Northern Lights Health Foundation Board of Directors and staff were on hand to pay their respects and acknowledge Margaret's contributions.



Painting of Margaret MacDonald by Frederick R. McDonald

GRATITUDE CAMPAIGN ACHIEVES LAST MILESTONE!

After three years of intensive fundraising, the Health Foundation is pleased to announce that the goals for the \$16m Gratitude Campaign have been achieved!

This massive campaign encompassed eight health projects ranging from renewal of clinics in Anzac and Conklin, and renewal of the Continuing Care ward and Multipurpose Clinic in the hospital, to the creation of a brand new ward, the family-friendly Palliative Care Suites. And included the largest project in the campaign, the creation of Minimally Invasive Surgical (MIS) Suites. There were also two major public and community health projects focused on children and youth.

Bringing the campaign to a close were the final three donors featured here.

Tuccaro Group:

Longtime community member and Aboriginal entrepreneur, Dave Tuccaro led the many branches of his company to financial success by boldly entering the site services industry and demonstrating the quality of work that could be done by a local workforce. His success spans over 30 years of creating opportunities for Aboriginal workforce and community development. As a former member of the Northern Lights Health Foundation Board, Dave understands that there is a direct link between great health care and the future of our region and he wanted his companies to play a role in leading the region to a bright and prosperous future. The Tuccaro gift of \$250,000 was directed to the MIS Suites Project to ensure more surgeries could be done locally.



Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo:

The Health Foundation received a Community Capital Grant of \$400,000 to the capital construction of the MIS Suites. The Community Capital Grant is one piece of a larger Community Investment Program that the RMWB offers to ensure the growth and sustainability of the social profit agencies that are serving our region. The Capital Grant is used to support the construction, expansion or renovation of recreational, social and cultural facilities in the region. During the Health Foundation's presentation of the MIS Suites project to Council, several Council members thanked us for highlighting this project for their review and for showcasing the opportunities for new surgical options for residents. Mayor Scott noted that "strong local health care is key to ensuring Wood Buffalo's future as a vibrant, attractive and sustainable region."



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Suncor Energy and the Suncor Energy Foundation:

A visionary
\$3,000,000
leadership
gift from
Suncor and



SUNCOR
ENERGY
FOUNDATION

the Suncor Energy Foundation completed the fundraising for the MIS Suites project and created the opportunity to renovate and renew the hospital lobby. This exciting project will convert the 40 year old lobby to a warm, welcoming space with improved lighting, more seating, power stations for electronics, accessible washrooms and way finding. When complete the lobby will reflect our Indigenous and multi-cultural communities. The *Suncor Heart of Health Lobby* will reflect the care and compassion of the service offered by every department.

For all of the details on these stories, check out our media releases [HERE](#)

**The Health Foundation thanks all of the contributors to the Gratitude Campaign.
We are grateful for your support.**

the
Gratitude
campaign

COMPASSIONATE CARE

A Hallmark of Memorial Gifts

The passing of a loved one, young or elderly is never easy and leaves family and friends with a profound sense of loss. When we receive calls at the Health Foundation to establish a memorial we hear about special people who received loving care from staff in all areas of the health system who help to ease pain, create comfort, and provide a warm atmosphere. The family and friends of these loved ones have made donations to honor their memory.

We remember those patients on our Memorial Wall and update the wall each year.

Joining the names currently on the *Honour and Remember Wall* are:



Richard Boss
Selby & Edna Fleming
Frances Jean
Nathaniel Payne
Istefan Kapitanof
Alfred Krentz



Victor Medveszek
Les Ostrowski
Olga Sharkey
Tiffany Smith
Darcy Thomas

We offer our sincere sympathy to their families and friends. We thank you for your gifts which will help change the lives of thousands of patients who are cared for at our local health facilities each year.



To make a memorial donation, please click ***HERE*** to go directly to the Health Foundation donation page or go to www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca and click on **DONATE**



THE
NORTHERN LIGHTS
HEALTH FOUNDATION'S

SPRING FLING

PRESENTED BY

Syncrude

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019 ❁ SHELL PLACE

❁ Welcome reception

❁ Chef-inspired French cuisine buffet dinner

❁ Live entertainment ❁ Live and silent auctions

❁ Raffles ❁ DJ ❁ Dance

❁ Exciting update from the Health Foundation!

SPONSOR ❁ DONATE ❁ VOLUNTEER

www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca

Volunteers
Sponsored by

ATB

Northern Lights Health Foundation

Board of Directors

The Northern Lights Health Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the following community members have recently accepted a leadership role on the Board. These individuals are adding strength at the Board level in financial management, project management, donor relations, governance and community investment:

Kevin Shulko

Kevin Shulko is the Chief Financial Officer for the Northstar Ford Group. Kevin is a longtime community volunteer, notably for the Canadian Cancer Society, Keyano College Foundation and the Health Foundation. For the past eight years Kevin has been a key member of the Festival of Trees Committee and became the Chair of the Committee in 2016. He provides vision and leadership to community volunteers who all contribute to the growth and development of the event and to the success of the celebration and fundraising. Kevin is adding his financial acumen and board experience strength to the Board as a member of the Finance Committee.



Adele Thomson

Adele Thomson is the Manager of Surface Land and Stakeholder Relations, Mining for Canadian Natural Resources Limited, one of Canada's leading independent oil, oil sands, and natural gas producers. Adele is responsible for providing support and guidance for all community engagement and stakeholder consultation as they relate to mining activities at Horizon and Albian sites. Adele has extensive experience working with stakeholders and communities, and is actively involved in corporate community investment. Adele brings great depth of knowledge gained through serving on several nonprofit boards such as the Women's Business and Professional Association, Fort McMurray Unity House, and two terms with the Keyano College Foundation.



Dr. Lorella Ambrosano

Dr. Lorella Ambrosano is a general adult Psychiatrist and has been practicing since 1996. She has a vibrant and thriving practice and is deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of the community. Lorella and her husband, Dr Wolfgang Gaisbichler, a radiologist at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre are long time members of the Fort McMurray community. Lorella has joined the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.



These new members join an established governance team composed of:

Chair: **Melanie Antoine**
Vice Chair: **Nelson Barbosa**
Treasurer: **Greg Fuhr**
Secretary: **Kyle Taback**

Directors: **Andrew Boutilier**
Conor Clark
Kiran Malik-Khan
Brent Janke
Murray Crawford

Honourary Board Member - Dan Fouts

We would also like to welcome former Board Chair and longtime Foundation Board member, Dan Fouts to the distinguished roster of Honourary Board members. Dan's achievements in board leadership include guiding and facilitating the board from a management to a governance board, providing leadership on the Gratitude Campaign as a champion, an advocate, and a corporate and personal donor, and recruiting members to the Board. Dan was awarded a 2018 Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Award for his contributions to the Health Foundation Board.



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