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BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Winter 2022

Dear Bowen Island Neighbour,

Your [Bowen Island Community Foundation](#) has arrived! **That's right – we celebrate 20 years of giving, growing and granting at the end of this year.** We're grateful for the past 20 years of your support and collaboration. We genuinely owe it all to you as we couldn't do any of it without you, our community.

Through your donations, we've given out **\$1,001,624 in grants** and **\$367,350 in scholarships** together over the past two decades.

Our slogan "Community Grows Here" is proving to be true!





We have a lot to be thankful for on Bowen, and **because of you**, this year we were once again able to support several local charitable organizations and initiatives:

- Our volunteer firefighters and their families now have the [Biddlecombe Memorial Award](#) to support their academic study or vocational training, either right out of High School or mid-career, thanks to an anonymous donor who recently set up an endowment fund.
- [Community Impact Grants](#) were provided to the Bowen Island Westside Playscape project to build a natural playground destination for our nearly 750 children, to The Hearth for the millwork in the multi-use space of the Community Flex Room in the Community Centre, and for the initial public consultation for the design of a new facility for Camp Bowen and Canadian Organization of the Blind and DeafBlind.
- Together with the Knick Knack Nook, 27 High School graduates were assisted with [Scholarships and Bursaries](#) this year.
- Your donations allowed two young people in need access to professional counselling through our [Youth at Risk Fund](#) when other options weren't readily available.
- Nine individuals working through our [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#) program, brought neighbours together, shared skills and knowledge, built a sense of belonging and responsibility, and celebrated diversity. The impact of these small (up to \$500) grants was diverse and far-reaching, including a chess club led by a youth, a couple of road-side gardens, a basketball hoop in Bluewater, a pollinator garden in Belterra, an open conversation on end-of-life options, a work-party to remove invasive species in King Edward Bay, a mental health activities group, and fruit picking equipment for Grafton Gardens.
- And finally, knowing that any of us can have an unexpected crisis at any time, this year seven individuals and their families were provided short-term assistance from our [Helping Hand Fund](#) as they faced personal and sometime invisible emergencies.

generosity that the Foundation's [endowment funds are now over \\$1.5 million](#). These endowment funds are like the long-term interest-earning savings account for the community, assuring we can continue to take care of our needs far into the future.

As we recognize our 20 years of giving, I'd ask you to consider one of the many ways that you can help. In addition to generating and executing the ideas for these initiatives, another way is to make a donation in this Giving Season that will have a positive impact on the community we all love.

No gift is too small and tax receipts are issued for all donations over \$20. A contribution to our Community Impact Fund provides the most flexibility, enabling us to respond to community needs as priorities emerge. **Cheques are gratefully accepted or you can [donate online](#).**

So now that we've officially arrived, let's see how many more initiatives we can "water and grow" together. **Thanks for the warm welcome Bowen Island - here's to the next 20 years!**



Holly Graff, Chair

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