



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Foundation

NEWS

More Than Money

Scholarships and Bursaries Offer the Opportunity to Succeed

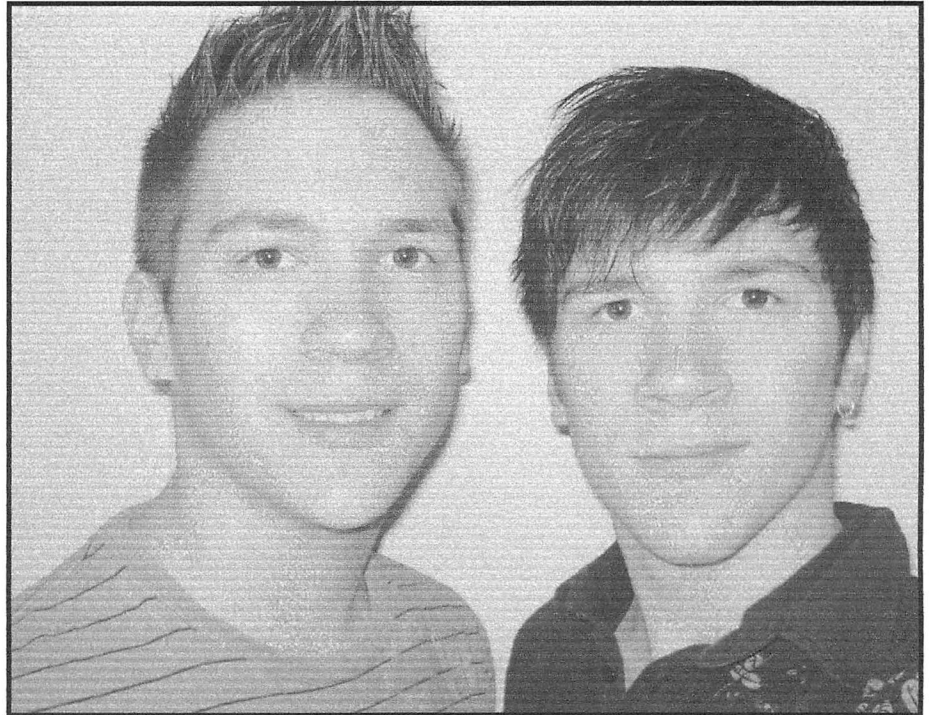
Scholarships and bursaries represent money, but to the people who receive them, there is more to the story than the dollar amount.

Bryce and Ian Weedmark were the definition of active and involved students throughout high school, taking part in choral groups, theatre productions and various student groups while still finding time to do volunteer work and hold part-time jobs. They both earned entrance scholarships to the University of Winnipeg.

At their graduation ceremony, they were surprised to discover they had also been awarded a number of bursaries. In all, the money paid for both brothers' first year of university as well as part of their second year. Yet, that wasn't the only thing that made an impact on them.

"It wasn't so much the money that mattered," says Bryce, who is now in his second year at the U of W and working toward becoming a Physiotherapist. "It was that sense that someone took the time to look at my life and where I was in my schooling and decided, 'This money can benefit this person.'"

"It motivated me to do better knowing that I have that support because when you know that someone is putting time and effort into making the decision about the scholarships – as well as



West Kildonan Collegiate alumni Bryce and Ian Weedmark: Successful Students, Scholarship Winners

about the money – you almost feel a sense of responsibility to them too."

Paul Charette and the Importance of Giving Back

Like the Weedmarks, Paul Charette is also a West Kildonan Collegiate alumnus, having graduated in 1965. Today, he is the Chairman and CEO of Bird Construction, one of Canada's most successful general contracting companies.

When Charette was in high school, he didn't have a lot of money, and when

the West Kildonan Women's Auxiliary awarded him a \$200 bursary, a post-secondary education wasn't the first thing he thought of.

"I wanted to buy a car" recalls Charette with a chuckle. "It was really my older sister who advised me to take the \$200 and go to college."

Fortunately, Charette listened to his sister and put the money toward the Civil Engineering course at Red River College (The money was enough to cover about half the term). He earned

his diploma, as well as another in Computer Programming, before finding a job as a civil engineering coordinator. Nine years later, he joined Bird Construction as a junior project coordinator and has been with the company ever since.

Yet Charette has never forgotten how that \$200 bursary provided the opportunity to pursue his education. He and his wife, Gerri, hope to offer the same opportunity to others through an endowment used to fund the Paul Charette Awards. Five bursaries have been set up to encourage and assist high school graduates from Seven Oaks School Division (and other school divisions in central Winnipeg) in getting a post secondary education at Red River College in Civil Engineering Technology courses. Three additional bursaries are also available to second year students at the college in Civil Engineering Technology courses.

"If I hadn't received that bursary, I wouldn't be where I am today," says Charette. "Moving forward, you say to yourself, 'Okay, I'm here because someone cared forty-three years ago,' and if I can have the same impact, obviously I feel very strongly that I have to do that."

The Seven Oaks Education Foundation - All About Opportunity

People like the Weedmark brothers and Paul Charette are examples of how scholarships and bursaries can make an impact on the lives of those who receive them. While their success is certainly the result of their hard work and desire to achieve, their scholarships and bursaries helped provide a starting point by removing some of the financial obstacles that might have stood in the way.

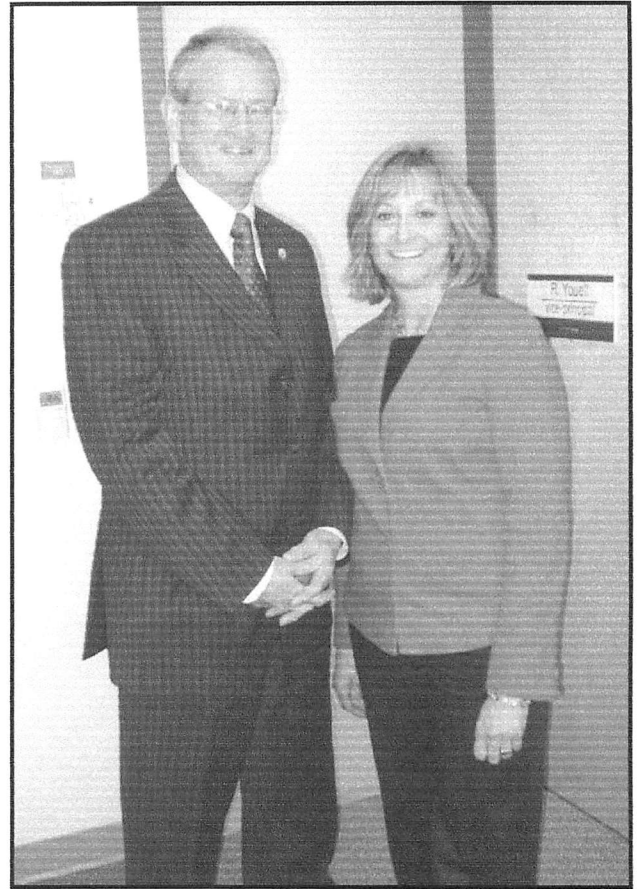
That's really what scholarships and bursaries are about: providing opportunities for students to succeed. This is the heart of the work done

by the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.

The primary role of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF) is to encourage individuals and organizations to donate to SOEF, which then makes investments through various financial institutions and the Winnipeg Foundation. The goal is to create a self-sufficient fund that supports well over 100 different scholarships and bursaries for students in Seven Oaks School Division's three high schools (West Kildonan Collegiate, Maples Collegiate and Garden City Collegiate).

The community-based board of SOEF spends countless hours finding ways to make scholarships and bursaries available to as many students as possible. From establishing the application criteria and adjusting monetary amounts to reflect rising costs to conducting fundraising activities and creating entirely new scholarships and bursaries in areas such as the arts, special needs and technical/trade education, SOEF is constantly expanding opportunities for students to pursue post-secondary education.


It all starts with the community and the people who make the decision to support scholarships and bursaries by donating to the Seven Oaks Education Foundation. The money ultimately ends up returning to the community as the students who are awarded scholarships and bursaries move forward, graduate, establish careers



Paul Charette, Chairman and CEO of Bird Construction with current West Kildonan Collegiate Vice-Principal, Rhonda Youell

and begin giving back themselves.

Whether bursary or scholarship, large amount or small, the money isn't just dollars and cents. It's an investment in an individual...and recognition of potential waiting to be realized.



SEVEN OAKS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

For more information of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation and how you can make a donation in support of a scholarship or bursary, contact Wayne Shimizu, CMA and Secretary Treasurer Seven Oaks School Division at (204) 586-8061

