



SEVEN OAKS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

# Foundation

NEWS

Winter 2012

## North End Pride

*The Platinum Jets have a history of hockey – and a legacy of generosity*

The Winnipeg Jets may have only recently returned, but another group never left.

The Platinum Jets has become better known as a charitable organization than as a hockey organization, but hockey was where the organization began.

“The Platinum Jets were first formed in 1978 as a University of Winnipeg intramural hockey team,” explains Executive Director, Michael Cavell. “It actually began as a girls’ hockey team, but after the first year, the team was reorganized by a group of hockey playing university students - primarily from the North End / Seven Oaks area.”

The team was a force to be reckoned with, winning league championships year after year. Along with those championships, the group began garnering a reputation for something else; charity work.

The Platinum Jets began raising money through an annual golf tournament, which continued even after the hockey team disbanded. But in 2004, the former hockey organization took their contributions to the next level, becoming a registered Canadian charitable organization.

Since then, the organization has raised well over a million dollars, which has

been used to support a myriad of community endeavors - including the Platinum Jets Scholarship and the Marjorie Jean Sanders Scholarship, which are both awarded through the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.

“We have two underlying principles: ‘Remembering Where We Came From’ and ‘North End Pride’,” explains Cavell.

“The majority of not only our board, but also the participants in the golf tournament grew up in the North End of Winnipeg and attended schools in either the Seven Oaks School Division or the Winnipeg One School Division. Consequently, we have focused our scholarships solely on the high schools in the North End of Winnipeg and Seven Oaks.”

The Platinum Jets have funded scholarships for more than a decade now, and have even gone so far as to establish a perpetual fund with the Winnipeg Foundation to help ensure the scholarships continue to be available to North End students in the decades to come. Of course, this



*The scholarship winners of today may become the Platinum Jets’ donors and members tomorrow.*

includes students in the Seven Oaks School Division because the members of the organization remember what it was like when they were growing up.

“We **were** these kids... and many of us either benefited from such assistance or really could have,” says Cavell. “Hopefully our assistance will make a real difference for some of these students.” “Hopefully one day those students will have some degree of success and that they too will remember where they came from.”

*Contributions and donations to the Platinum Jets – including gifts earmarked specifically for scholarships are always welcome and a tax receipt will be issued for your generosity. Contributions can be sent to Platinum Jets Inc., 608-386 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R6.*

# The Criteria of Character

*Scholarships are about the people who earn them*

When it comes to scholarships, grades certainly count. But there are often other criteria to consider... including passion and personality.

“A lot of the time, people think scholarships can only be awarded to those with the best grades, or who fit the profile of ‘the perfect student’, but it isn’t the case,” says Garden City Collegiate graduate Emma Stefanchuk, who was herself awarded both the Seven Oaks Teachers Association (SOTA) Scholarship and the Kendra Latzkitsch Memorial Scholarship in June, 2011.

“There are plenty of scholarships given out on the basis of your character or what you’re most passionate about. I think that’s an exciting prospect for someone who may not maintain a perfect average, but who treats others with respect and has a good heart.”

Emma poured her own passion for education into her application essay for the SOTA scholarship. It’s a passion she developed at a young age, inspired by her mother, Jodie Brisbin, who is herself a teacher in the Seven Oaks School Division.

“I grew up playing school with my mom’s old worksheets and day books,” says Emma. “She’s been teaching for thirty years now and she’s very dedicated and passionate about what she does. I think a lot of that has rubbed off on me!”

“I also think I’ve been inspired by the teachers I’ve had that have gone above and beyond what the job asks them to do. The most memorable teachers I’ve had have been the ones

who took the time to know who I was aside from being a student...that’s the kind of teacher I want to be. “ Winning the SOTA Scholarship served to reaffirm her goal.

“It was a great feeling to know that I had achieved the SOTA scholarship because of my plans to go into education, and the knowledge that I had written something which hopefully showed my dedication and passion towards becoming a teacher,” reflects Emma. “And it was exciting to have received a scholarship specifically for the faculty I was entering into. “

Equally meaningful to Emma was winning a scholarship she hadn’t expected; the Kendra Latzkitsch Memorial Scholarship, established in the memory of a 23 year-old Garden City Collegiate graduate who lost her life in a tragic car accident in 2009. The scholarship is awarded to a student who possesses the same positive traits as Kendra, which made it a true honour to Emma.

“It was a huge surprise! As I walked on stage I was only expecting to hear the SOTA scholarship announced,” says Emma. “I felt very proud to know that I was being awarded on my attitude towards others, and happy to represent someone who people remember so fondly.”

Today, Emma is in the midst of finishing her first year of Education at the University of Winnipeg. She’s majoring in English with a minor in Developmental Studies, and plans to go into the early years stream for teaching students from kindergarten to grade 3.

As she moves forward with her own education, Emma maintains



*Emma Stefanchuk; graduate and scholarship winner*

her appreciation for the fact that scholarships can make a difference in a student’s life – and not just financially.

“Everyone is unique, and what makes high school such an experience is that there are so many talented people who excel at different things,” she says.

“It was really cool to be able to sit at convocation and watch my classmates be awarded with not only a scholarship, but with the opportunity to go to a post-secondary institution.”



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Visit [7oakseducationfoundation.org](http://7oakseducationfoundation.org) for more information on how to donate or to make an online contribution.

The Foundation provides tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more.

# Seven Oaks Got Talent!

*...and used that talent to raise funds for scholarships!*

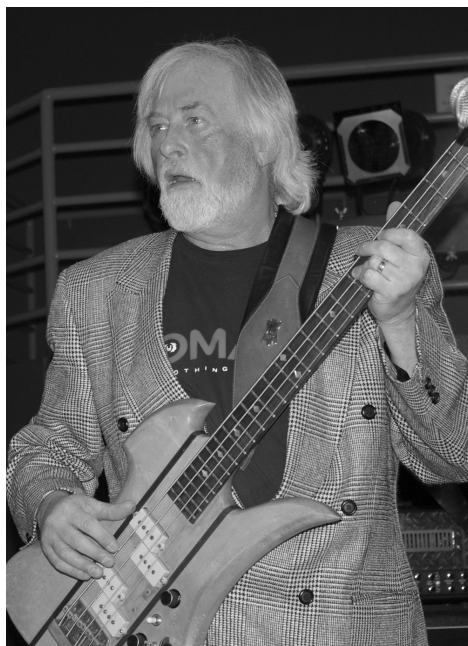
Good friends, good food and good music; not necessarily things that immediately make you think “scholarships”. But on Friday, February 10th, those were the elements of an evening that raised thousands of dollars for the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.

The Seven Oaks Got Talent night was held at the Essence Night Club, and the place was packed. Whether people were dropping tickets in hopes of winning a silent auction prize, grabbing a plate for the bountiful buffet or just soaking in the tunes, there was plenty of fun to go with the fundraising.

By the end of the night, the dancefloor was packed as P.J. Burton (lead singer of Winnipeg’s legendary “Chocolate Bunnies From Hell”) joined the final band on stage to blow the roof off the house.

It was the perfect way to start a weekend... and to raise over \$6,000 for scholarships that will recognize talented graduates from the Seven Oaks School Division.

*Photos by Jay MacLeod*





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