

Community Futures hands out hardware

North Eastman's outstanding businesses, initiatives and community volunteers recognized

Community Futures Winnipeg River (CFWR) recognized individuals and organizations' entrepreneurial and volunteer spirit at their annual general meeting on June 17 at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre.

CFWR is dedicated to community economic development in North Eastman. It is part of a more extensive network of 269 Community Futures offices operating across Canada to support community-based

economic development projects and business development and provide any necessary training.

Each year, CFWR honours outstanding business clients, community initiatives and volunteers at their AGM.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by a resident to their community or the region.

The 2023-24 recipient is the late Russ Reid, who was a devoted and respected teacher at Lac du Bonnet Senior School where he worked from 1973 to 2002. Being a natural athlete and kind-hearted person, Reid further dedicated his time to coaching youth baseball and basketball. He proudly received the Coach of the Year award in 2016.

In 2014, Reid became a trustee for the Sunrise School Division. He encouraged decision making to benefit the entire student population and division.

Russ and his wife Linda contributed countless hours and energy volunteering as local coordinators of the Lac du Bonnet and Area Food Bank for the past 11 years. Passionate about helping people in need, they took every opportunity to encourage people to donate to the food bank.

CFWR, Sunrise School Division and the Lac du Bonnet Food Bank are extremely grateful for the hard work, time and effort Reid gave to enhance the local area throughout his lifetime.

With his passing in February, the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented

to Reid posthumously with his wife Linda accepting.

The Business of the Year Award is presented to a business that embodies the positive attributes of an entrepreneur including enthusiasm for the development of their business with a focus on future growth.

The Business of the Year Award was presented to Pinawa Unplugged, an ecotourism business offering tube rentals for the channel float, kayaks, paddleboards, bikes, cross country skis and canvas tent rentals as well as guided tours for kayaking, hiking, biking and snowshoeing.

Founded in 2019 by Susan Appleyard, the business has expanded with the construction of an office/retail location in downtown Pinawa.

The Community Initiative Award is presented annually to an organization for their efforts, initiative and commitment in undertaking a community-driven project focused on improving the social and economic well-being of communities.

The 2023-24 recipient is the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit organization committed to fostering the economic

growth and development of the local business community within the Rural Municipality of Springfield.

Established in 2016, many successful events and activities have taken place over the years as the membership has grown to approximately 160 members.

A strong partnership exists between CFWR and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. In the fall of 2023, CFWR partnered with the chamber to deliver a business development training module, and a three-part marketing workshop.

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Photo submitted
Linda Reid (right) accepts the Community Futures Winnipeg River Volunteer of the Year Award for her late husband Russ Reid from Lac du Bonnet MLA Wayne Ewasko.

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