
Retired Teachers' Foundation

by *Bev Fisher*

I'm sure most of you are aware that the RTANL has its own charity – the Retired Teachers' Foundation. You've seen its reports in Newsletters and you've heard members talk about it in meetings and maybe in conversations, but how much do you really know about 'the Foundation'?

The RTF was set up in 1983 by the Central Division to honour the life and work of all retired teachers. It is a Canada Revenue Agency regulated children's charity with funds raised being given to institutions and groups that provide medical treatment and/or educational training for children who are incapacitated. The funds are generated by annual lump sum donations from our Provincial RTANL and its eight Divisions, individual donations from members and friends, and In Memoriam donations for deceased members. Some Divisions fundraise and donate the proceeds to the Foundation, others have elected to donate money from their share of member fees and some do both.

Since the 1994 BGM the RTANL has been sponsoring the Foundation, and all Divisions play an active role in supporting its mandate. The provincial body covers any expenses incurred by the Foundation (stationary, postage, travel for meetings, etc.), since all funds raised by the RTF are given to charities. The Foundation is run by a volunteer board of retired teachers. Prior to 2018 the board was elected at each BGM, with members coming from all over the province. At the 2018 BGM, it was proposed that the board be made up of volunteers from a particular Division, to make it easier for members to get together for meetings and, as well, to save on travel costs. Western Division volunteered to take the reins, followed by Con-Tri Division in 2021. At the 2022 BGM we will be looking for another Division to take over the running of the RTF. If anyone in your Division would be interested in taking on such a role, please let President Sharon Penney know and she can get you the information you would need to form such a committee. Five people would be needed for the board.

Since 1987 the Foundation has donated approximately \$462,250 to children's charities in our province. Our recipients are registered charities, and the Foundation assists them in reaching their goals. To avail of these donations the charities must apply to the Foundation and meet the selection criteria that are in place. Some of the charities that have benefited from our donations in recent years are the War Amps CHAMPS program, Down Syndrome Society, Canadian Diabetes Camp Douwanna, CNIB Youth Orientation Program, Mazol Shriners for the Patient Transportation Fund, Rainbow Riders, and the Candlelighters Camp Delight.

If you wish to make a donation in memory of a retired teacher, or anyone for that matter, you will be given a tax receipt and, if you wish, the family of the deceased will be advised of your donation. Donation cards should be available at funeral homes; your Division President should also have some on hand, or can arrange to get some, if you wish to donate.

The RTF has another role, that of managing the **Books of Remembrance**. The Books of Remembrance were made to commemorate the lives of deceased retired teachers. A memorial page is dedicated to each teacher and contains biographical information, and a photo, provided to the Foundation by the family of the deceased teacher. At present there are six of these books, which are arranged chronologically by year of death. Book One (1986-1998), Book Two (1992-2000), Book Three (2001-2006), Book Four (2000-2010), Book Five (2005-2010) and Book Six (2018-2021). The Books are housed at The Rooms in St. John's, in the Provincial Archives Division. If some time you are visiting The Rooms you can have a look. Since 2018, all submissions have been recorded for online viewing as well. For more information on the Books of Remembrance, to submit a biography of a deceased teacher, or to view the online book, go to www.nlta.ca/rtfrooms/ or www.nlta.ca/rtf-remembrancebook/

Retired Teachers' Foundation Contributions to Children's Charities 1987-2021

(Compiled by Clayton Rice and Don White)

Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1987	\$300	1996	\$2500	2005	\$9000	2014	\$24,000
1988	\$600	1997	\$3000	2006	\$19,500	2015	\$28,000
1989	\$1200	1998	\$3000	2007	\$15,500	2016	\$28,000
1990	\$1500	1999	\$4000	2008	\$19,000	2017	\$28,000
1991	\$1500	2000	\$4000	2009	\$19,000	2018	\$30,000
1992	\$2000	2001	\$4600	2010	\$20,800	2019	\$37,500
1993	\$2500	2002	\$5000	2011	\$24,000	2020	\$30,000
1994	\$2500	2003	\$5250	2012	\$22,000	2021	\$28,000
1995	\$2500	2004	\$10,000	2013	\$24,000	GRAND TOTAL: \$462,250	



It was both heartwarming and emotional to be part of the appreciation expressed on behalf of the recipient groups and their children. It indicates to all members the impact that their Foundation has on these children. To quote one of our recipients: **"I'm just like everyone else when I'm riding a horse, because it takes me places that my wheelchair could never do."** Donations from our Foundation continue to help provide this type of experience.