

The Birtle and District Foundation is a Registered Charity which partners with community organizations, local charities and external agencies to sponsor projects within the Town and RM of Birtle. The Foundation's scope is more diverse than that of any one of the partners and examples of projects that might be funded in part by the Foundation would include the Food Bank, Recreational Facilities, community beautification and the local Fire Department, as well as projects co-sponsored by an agency such as the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority.

Having recently been granted official Community Foundation status, the Birtle and District Foundation has undertaken the ambitious goal of raising \$100,000 in the current calendar year. The success of this campaign will depend on their ability to convince local residents of the benefits of a Foundation and to appeal to their benevolent and philanthropic nature. To this end, they invite you to be their guest at their 'Kick Off' and Information Night at the Birtle CDC Building on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 12 p.m. Allan Preston, President of the Hamiota and District Foundation will be on hand to explain what Foundations are all about and in particular to give examples on how their Foundation has benefited specific projects in their community.

\$100,000 is a lofty goal. Several commitments have already been made by local businesses, some of whom will be on hand on Friday evening to make their official pledge. The hope is that, by the end of 2011, a sizable fund will be established, and that annually thereafter, a percentage of the interest earned will be used to sponsor various community projects, while leaving the endowment capital untouched. The Foundation is also able to receive 'flow through' donations, earmarked by the donor for specific purposes such as the Food Bank or Palliative Care. All donations are eligible for charitable receipts.

A special 'Founder's Club' has been established and will recognize any donor contributing \$1,000 or more in 2011. The donation may be made as a one-time donation or may be accumulated throughout the year. A plaque honoring the Founders will be displayed in a prominent location in the community.

In order that a Foundation is truly representative of the community it exists in, it is imperative that it receives input from the various layers of the local population. The most successful ones engage individual members of the community, representatives of local organizations and Foundation Board members in discussions and decisions regarding the funding of projects in the community. On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> Board reps will be on hand to hear your comments and answer your questions. Please join us. Take the time to learn more about 'your' Foundation; it will only succeed with your help.