

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE #3

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*Unleashing Potential,
Transforming Futures*

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: DRAKE AND AVRIL SMITH'S INCREDIBLE LEGACY GIFT

The North Thompson Valley has long been defined by its spirit of community, but a recent landmark contribution is ensuring that spirit remains vibrant for generations to come. We are incredibly moved to share that Drake and Avril Smith have announced a generous \$100,000 donation to establish the Drake and Avril Smith Endowment Fund through the North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF).

This significant gift is more than just a financial contribution; it is a permanent legacy. By choosing an endowment model, the Smiths have ensured that the principal investment remains untouched, while the interest generated provides a reliable, yearly source of funding for local causes forever.

The Smiths have thoughtfully directed their fund to support several pillars of community well-being. Each year, the NTCF will distribute grants from this fund to organizations dedicated to:

- **Animal Welfare:** Ensuring the protection and care of local animals.
- **Search and Rescue:** Providing vital resources for the volunteers who keep our rugged terrain safe.
- **Youth Groups:** Investing in the next generation through programs that foster growth and leadership.
- **Hospice & Health Initiatives:** Supporting compassionate care and wellness projects for residents in need.

Why an Endowment Matters

Unlike a one-time grant, an endowment fund grows over time. By partnering with the North Thompson Communities Foundation, Drake and Avril are providing a "forever gift." As the fund matures, its capacity to help the community scales, meaning the impact felt today will be even greater fifty years from now.

A Call to Local Inspiration

The Drake and Avril Smith Endowment Fund stands as a testament to the power of local philanthropy. It serves as an inspiration for others to consider how they might shape the future of the North Thompson Valley.

For those interested in learning more about the foundation or how to contribute to a legacy fund, visit the [North Thompson Communities Foundation website](https://www.ntcommunitiesfoundation.com).



"THIS FUND REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PLACE WE CALLED HOME AND TO THE COMMUNITIES THAT WELCOMED US." THE SMITHS SHARED REGARDING THE DONATION. "WE WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT—FROM THE YOUTH TO FIRST RESPONDERS—ALWAYS HAVE A HELPING HAND."



Honouring Our Visionaries

The North Thompson Communities Foundation exists today because of the foresight and generosity of our community members. We would like to extend a special thank you to those who have established funds, provided significant gifts, or committed to donating on a regular basis. Their investment is the foundation upon which our valley's future is built.

*Drake & Avril Smith
 The Buck Family
 The Redman Family
 The Donnie Nicholson Family
 The Nathan Nichols Family
 Carman & Barb Smith
 Weyerhaeuser
 Taseko Yellowhead
 Helen Knight
 John & Kay Knox
 Bruce Whyte
 Jim & Cheryl Thomas
 Rob Rutten & Susan Garland
 Louise Lodge*



The Power of Forever

Leaving a Legacy

When you leave a gift to the North Thompson Communities Foundation—whether through a donation today or a bequest in your will—you are planting a seed for the future. Like a garden tended with care, a legacy gift grows over time, ensuring that future generations inherit a stronger, more vibrant valley. That is the true power of a legacy: it's a 'forever gift' that builds a better home for us all. Whether you choose to create a personalized bursary, a memorial fund, or contribute to one of our five focus areas, your generosity becomes a permanent part of the North Thompson story.

Did You Know? How Your Legacy Grows

When you start an endowment fund like the Drake and Avril Smith Endowment Fund, your gift becomes a permanent source of support. Here is the simple "lifecycle" of your donation:

1. **The Seed:** Your initial gift (the principal) is invested by the Foundation.
2. **The Growth:** We carefully manage the investment so it grows over time.
3. **The Harvest:** A portion of the investment income is given out as grants every year to local causes.
4. **The Cycle Continues:** Because the original gift is never spent, the fund continues to generate money for the community forever.

The Result: Even a modest gift today can eventually provide more in total grants than the original donation amount, all while the fund continues to grow!



Together We Are Stronger. |

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It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime.



25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY, 250,000 REASONS TO LOOK FORWARD: NTCF LAUNCHES "LEGACY IN MOTION" CAMPAIGN!

This year, the North Thompson Communities Foundation (NTCF) proudly marks a significant milestone: 25 years of dedicated service to the heart of our valley. From the students who've pursued their dreams with our scholarships to the local projects that have revitalized our towns, the NTCF has been a quiet force for good, transforming local generosity into lasting impact. Over the years, the NTCF has provided organizations with over \$300,000 in funds and over \$20,000 in bursaries.

Building on a Quarter-Century of Giving

Since our founding in 2001, sparked by a visionary gift from Weyerhaeuser, the NTCF has operated on a powerful principle: to create a permanent source of funding for the North Thompson. This means every dollar donated is invested, and only the interest is used to provide grants and bursaries. It's a gift that keeps on giving, ensuring that the generosity of today nourishes our community for generations to come.

A Bold Goal for the Next 25 Years

As we celebrate this quarter-century achievement, we're not just looking back—we're looking forward. The NTCF is thrilled to announce the launch of our most ambitious initiative to date: "25 Years: Legacy in Motion," a year-long campaign with a goal to raise \$250,000 for our permanent endowment fund.

Achieving this goal isn't just about reaching a number; it's about securing our future. An additional \$250,000 in our endowment will mean an estimated \$25,000 in grants and bursaries available every single year, in perpetuity, for the North Thompson. Imagine the lives we can touch, the projects we can fund, and the dreams we can support, year after year after year.

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey. Your support, no matter the size, is an investment in the people and places that make the North Thompson truly special. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will ensure our valley's legacy continues to grow.

To learn more about the "25 Years: Legacy in Motion" campaign, track our progress, or make a donation, please visit the [North Thompson Communities Foundation](http://www.ntcommunitiesfoundation.com) website.



Help Shape Our Future: Join the NTCF Board of Directors

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at the North Thompson Communities Foundation? While you see the grants being handed out and the funds being raised, there is a dedicated group of volunteers working quietly to make it all possible.

What Does a Director Actually Do?

Being a Director isn't just about attending meetings; it's about being a steward for our valley. Our volunteers:

- **Set the Vision:** We decide how the Foundation can best serve the North Thompson as it grows and changes.
- **Grant the Funds:** We review applications from local non-profits and determine where donor dollars will make the biggest impact.
- **Build Relationships:** We connect with families and businesses (like our recent partnership with Drake and Avril Smith) to help them realize their philanthropic dreams.
- **Govern the Future:** We ensure that the Foundation is managed with transparency, financial integrity, and heart.

We Are Looking for You!

To continue our mission, we are looking for a few more passionate individuals to join our team. Specifically, we are seeking:

- **New Board Directors:** People from all walks of life who care about the North Thompson. You don't need to be a financial expert—you just need a love for your community and a willingness to collaborate.
- **Board Secretary:** We are looking for a detail-oriented individual to help us stay organized, manage our records, and keep our meetings running smoothly. This is a vital role that keeps the "engine" of the Foundation humming!

When you join the NTCF, you aren't just volunteering for a "job"—you are joining a legacy.

Contact Louise at 250 879-1268 today to find out how you can help lead the way.

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"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

- Oscar Wilde

How You Can Help Build Our Valley

The North Thompson Communities Foundation thrives because of people like you. There are many ways to leave your mark on the community we love:

- **Cash or Monthly Giving:** Make an immediate impact with a one-time donation or a recurring monthly gift to the fund of your choice.
- **Gifts in Your Will (Bequests):** Designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the Foundation. This allows you to support your community without affecting your current finances.
- **In-Memoriam Gifts:** Celebrate the life of a loved one by donating to an existing fund or establishing a new memorial fund in their name.
- **Bursaries & Scholarships:** Help local students pursue their dreams by creating a dedicated fund for education.
- **Securities & Life Insurance:** Donating publicly traded stocks or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy can offer significant tax benefits.

Ready to start your legacy? Whether you want to support our five focus areas or create a unique fund like the Drake and Avril Smith Endowment Fund, we are here to help your generosity go further.

[DONATE NOW](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

The North Thompson Communities Foundation is a registered charity. All donations are tax-deductible.

MEMBER'S QUESTION

Please submit your answer by using the link or QR Code below.

Have you ever thought about creating a legacy fund or leaving a gift in your will?

[Answer Here.](#)



GIVING TUESDAY

Thank
 you!

\$2,068

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Valley

The North Thompson Communities Foundation would like to thank the residents of the valley for their generous support on Giving Tuesday.

In just 24 hours, on December 2, our communities came together to raise \$2,068! Every cent of these donations is being placed directly into our Bursary Fund, ensuring that local students have the support they need to pursue their dreams and further their education.

In a world that often feels fast-paced and disconnected, Giving Tuesday reminded us of the strength and spirit of the North Thompson. Whether you donated the cost of a cup of coffee or made a larger contribution, you've made a tangible difference.

We are constantly inspired by the way the residents of the valley show up for one another. This \$2,068 will go a long way in easing the financial burden for our upcoming bursary recipients, allowing them to focus on what matters most: their studies and their future.

From the NTCF Board of Directors, thank you for being part of this journey. We couldn't do this without you.



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Barriere No-Host Bazaar

Our team had a fantastic time on November 29th at the Annual No Host Bazaar. The Barriere Fall Fair Hall was buzzing with holiday spirit, and we were so glad to be right in the middle of it!

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$451** for the NTCF Youth Fund.

Our table was a hit this year as we found new homes for a mountain of Beanie Babies, bringing smiles to both kids and collectors alike. We also held an exciting raffle for a \$100 AG Foods Gift Card, and we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who bought a ticket to support our local youth initiatives.

Beyond the fundraising, the highlight of the day was the connection. We spent the afternoon:

- **Chatting with residents:** It was wonderful to hear your feedback and share the "odyssey" of the Foundation's work within the valley.
- **Building Bridges:** We enjoyed catching up with other local non-profit organizations. These events are a great reminder that when our local groups work together, the whole community thrives.

The "No Host" spirit—where every group contributes to a vibrant community event—is exactly what the NTCF stands for.

Thank you to the organizers and to everyone who stopped by to adopt a Beanie Baby or enter the draw. We can't wait to see you at the next community event!