

# Our Donors

## Heritage Founders \$50,000 and Up

### The Vision

In the fall of 2011, the concept of a Heritage Centre took shape in the living room of Lionel and Jean Sproule. Gary and Kathy Bergen were visiting, and the discussion turned to the need to preserve the history of this area. They agreed to approach the councils of Watrous and Manitou Beach, and Museums Association of Saskatchewan, and were met with encouragement and direction. A Board of Directors was established, consisting of individuals who worked hard at finding the way forward. The purchase of the building and creation of the Centre is a fulfillment of that initial vision, which spread to many others who helped make it a reality.

### Lionel & Jean Sproule

Lionel and Jean have been awarded Honorary Founders of the Heritage Centre for their significant contribution to the heritage preservation of Watrous and Manitou Beach. For many years they served as 'unofficial' historians of the communities. Lionel and Jean both received Citizen of the Year and Lionel was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.



Lionel's family was closely connected with Manitou Beach through their ownership of the Chalet Pool, Sproule's Motel, Danceland, to name a few. Lionel's contributions span decades. He initiated the Watrous Minor Hockey Association, served in Watrous Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kinsmen, and Masons. He has chaired numerous committees for the betterment and promotion of Watrous and Manitou Beach. All of Lionel's skills, experience, and connections came together in a timely way for the Heritage Centre project. His belief that the heritage project would become a reality was an encouragement to all. Along with her involvement in the UCW, Kinettes, and Eastern Star, Jean was active in the Watrous Art Salon, a group which enabled local artists to show their work. This was taken over by the Watrous Arts Council, in which Jean remained active. She was editor of *Prairie Reflections* (1983), the local history book, and the *Centennial Cookbook* (2005). Significant funds from these endeavors were entrusted to the Heritage Centre. Jean's photo collection became a major resource for the exhibits at the Centre.

### Gary & Kathy Bergen

Gary & Kathy have been awarded Honorary Founders. Each came from families involved in genealogy and archive work. They saw the need to bring together the local heritage work of others into one location. Kathy served as Board



Chairperson, guiding the group through the early years of getting organized, the capital campaign, and the creation of the facility. Gary's expertise with all things digital enabled the preservation of photos, archives, and creation of websites. Gary generously took care of the graphic design and social media during the capital campaign, as well as exhibit graphics in the Centre.

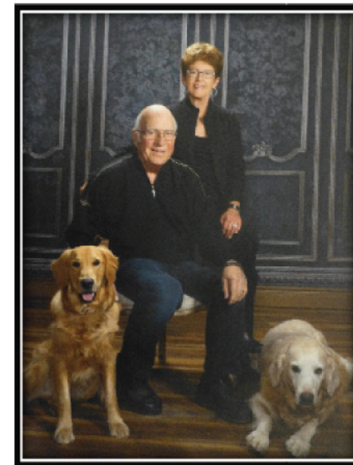
### Founding Committee

Members of the founding committee devoted countless hours to bringing this Heritage Centre into being. Each contributed their expertise in areas such as administration, governance, research, finance, fundraising, renovating & building, record-keeping, consulting, professional development, marketing, and many other unseen duties. The preservation of our Heritage is their legacy.



L-R Ruth Kornelsen, Ron Frey, Robert Cannon, Herb Kornelsen, Lyle Emmons, Kathy Bergen, Brandon Bertram, Karen Schroeder Mark, Gary Bergen, Lionel Sproule, Glenda McArthur, Allan Mosowich, Darlene Kornelsen, Jean Margetta, Leah Ulfvott, Janice Siegfried, Sue Alcock

### George & Marlene Squires



George and Marlene Squires led the way to become the first Founder-level donors. George said, "While we no longer live in Watrous, we returned frequently as our roots are in Watrous. We both grew up in the Watrous and Venn areas, went to school in Watrous and still consider it as home." George's parents, Doug and Anne Squires, were active with Town committees and his father worked at the CBK transmitter. Marlene's parents, Albert and Monika Dahl, farmed in the Venn district. Her father also had a hardware business in Watrous and served on Watrous Town Council.

### Centennial Ford Sales Ltd.

#### Earl Jr. & Terri Amendt and Michelle Amendt

In making this financial commitment, the Amendts stressed the importance of giving back to their community. "Centennial Ford turned 50 years old in 2018," commented Earl. "It is appropriate that we match that number with our donation." Michelle said that Watrous and the surrounding area have always been a vibrant and exciting place to live and work.

"We want to remember and recognize all those people who helped to create and build the place we enjoy today. We are happy and proud to be part of this project."



L-R Earl Jr. & Terri Amendt, right - Michelle Amendt receiving cheque - Kathy Bergen & Lionel Sproule

### Watrous Mainline Motors Products

Owner Gerald Merrifield stated, "Watrous is a great community for growing a business and raising a family. I am happy to give back to the people of both the town and the surrounding area. They have always supported Watrous Mainline and we look forward to many more years of that support." Gerald and Watrous Mainline have been pro-active in their support of numerous organizations both locally and province wide. Gerald stated, "I am happy to support the Heritage Centre and to help retain the history of this area. Mainline Motors has been part of that history and will be part of its future."



L-R Lionel Sproule, Krista Pilling, Jill Turner, Gerald Merrifield, Dale Miller

### The Westby Family

The Westby roots in this area date back to the early 1900s, when Murray's grandparents first arrived. Murray and Delilah put down deep roots in Watrous since 1957. They were involved with the local John Deere business for 50 years and have been involved in community life for the past 60 years.

Murray was a member of town council for 36 years, 17 as mayor. Murray said, "We have been very fortunate to have lived and made a living here and to have our children and their children here as well. This community has been good to us and we have tried to repay that generosity by being involved in many different aspects over the years. We are supporting the Heritage Centre with this donation as we feel it is important that the history of our community be preserved."



L-R Terri & Shirley Westby, Delilah & Murray Westby, Brenda & Brad Westby

### Watrous Co-operative Association Limited

On November 17, 1934, a group of farmers in Renown, Saskatchewan, held an organizational meeting which resulted in the Renown Co-operative Association being incorporated on March 23, 1935. In 1965 the name was officially changed to Watrous Co-operative Association Limited as the store in Renown closed and was moved to Watrous.



Like the Watrous Co-op, the local area has an amazing story to tell of all the people who have worked so hard to make Watrous, Manitou Beach and the surrounding area what it is today.

Following our Values of Customer Centric, Accountability, Community Involvement, and Sustainability, our Board of Directors decided that the Watrous Co-op needed to be a Founder of the Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre. This Centre is another story of the people of this area who would not give up and persevered through. All of us at the Watrous Co-op are very excited to be a part of this great preserver of the past which helps us see the future. (Statement from Watrous Co-operative Board, 2018)

### The Findlay Family

John (Jack) and Helen Findlay were early pioneers in Watrous. Jack operated a blacksmith shop and acquired the John Deere dealership in 1914. Helen was a homemaker and community volunteer. Their children, Gordon and Vina, were born and raised in Watrous.



Auxiliary, Terry Fox Run, and Watrous Housing Authority to name a few.

Both Gordon and Pearl were individually named Citizen of the Year. Gordon and Pearl had two sons Don and Darryl.

This donation was made in memory of their parents and grandparents, on behalf of Don and Darryl.

### Melron Service Ltd.

Thank you to Ron & Melissa Ediger for the generous donation towards the Heritage Project. Melron Service Ltd. is a homegrown business in Watrous. It started with a single backhoe and grew into a flourishing operation, specializing in trenching, aggregate, and trailer sales. The Edigers have been active supporters of many groups and activities in Watrous, Manitou Beach and area. In honour of Melron's 20th anniversary, significant donations were made to endeavors in this community, including this Benefactor level donation to the Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre.

### The Ben & Esther Dayson Charitable Foundation

The Nemetz family came from the Ukraine and settled in Watrous between 1913 and 1920. Esther was the youngest child. The family was very involved in establishing the communities of Watrous and Manitou Beach. They were instrumental in getting electricity in Watrous, and operated various businesses such as The Watrous Trading Co., a Chrysler dealership, a butcher shop, and the California Rooms and Vancouver Lodge at Manitou Beach. Esther and her husband Ben Dayson also operated a business in Viscount. Their children Shirley Barnett and Philip Dayson administrate the Foundation, which was established to provide gifts to qualified charities and causes meaningful to the founders. They recall wonderful times in the Watrous and Viscount area. They have expressed a keen interest in the Heritage Centre's vision and are pleased to be a Benefactor.

### Watrous Art Salon

As a 1967 Canada Centennial Project, the Watrous Art Salon was created to provide artists and crafts people an opportunity to exhibit their work and receive professional adjudication. The first show garnered entries from across Saskatchewan and beyond. The shows were very successful over the years, hosting a large array of artisans and judges and continued until 1981. The remaining members of the Watrous Art Salon, Jean Sproule, Lynne Keffer and Linda Leslie presented funds, held in trust from the Watrous Art Salon, to the Heritage Centre to commemorate the work of the Art Salon and contribute positively to the community.

### Ron Frey

With appreciation, the Heritage Centre Board is pleased to recognize Ron Frey as a Benefactor for his "in kind" contribution of expertise and work hours to the Centre. A Watrous native, Ron operated Ron's Carpentry for 32 years. As this was a project close to his heart, he enlisted a team of volunteers, and under his knowledgeable guidance, transformed this former office building into a facility designed for exhibits and archives, bringing the vision to reality.

## Heritage Benefactors \$25,000 - \$49,999

## Heritage Protector \$5,000 - \$24,999

2005 Saskatchewan Centennial Homecoming Committee  
Prairie Reflections History Book Committee  
Bergen Family - Gary, Kathy, Jonathan, Jennifer  
Watrous Rotary Club  
Farm Credit Canada  
Garry J. Manson Memorial Golf Tournament  
Terry Stokke Memorial - Rowna Stokke, Shane Stokke  
Manitou Environment Group Inc.  
Watrous Pharmacy (1995) Ltd.

Burton & Beverly Crawford  
Stuart & Yvonne Mann  
Boehr Construction  
Watrous Concrete Ltd.  
Manitou & District Regional Park  
Watrous Home Hardware Building Centre  
Manitou Beach Communities In Bloom  
Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan  
Mosaic Canada

## Heritage Patron \$2,500 - \$4,999

2009 Watrous Centennial Homecoming Committee  
Fotheringham-McDougall Funeral Service  
Wilson Family - Frank, Florence, Robert, Susan  
Lyle & Shirley Emmons  
Margaret Rose Sundquist Memorial - Ron & Ruth Morningstar

## Heritage Friend \$1,000 - \$2,499

Affinity Credit Union  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Young's Equipment  
Ray & Maria Suik  
Wayne & Marlene Bjorndahl  
Homer & Alice Burke  
Family of Gordon & Vicki Merryfield  
Watrous Chamber of Commerce

## Heritage Fan Up to \$999

Tom & Sue Alcock  
Watrous Realty Executives  
Fran & Jane Dagelis  
Melanie Manson  
James & John Carlson Memorial  
- Allen & Marilyn Carlson  
Myrna Silverberg  
Burt & Wilma Hunt  
Wayne Rogina  
Karen Schroeder Mark  
Kayla Schoctor  
Darlene Bartel  
Arlene Gladstone

### Our Thanks

The generosity of many individuals and community groups made possible the realization of a vision to provide a home for our heritage. The donors to the capital campaign (2017-2018) are listed here, with gratitude. Their initial support and belief in the project paved the way to the creation of the Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre.

All memorial donations are featured in the Memorial Book honouring the loved ones remembered there. Many other donations from people who continue to provide support, either one-time or ongoing, are recognized with thanks, in the Folio of Friends.

Special thanks to Sue Alcock whose years of research on Manitou Beach became the foundation of our exhibits. Special thanks to Orin McIntosh whose scale models on exhibit throughout the Centre are a tangible record of our history. The Heritage Centre Board would also like to thank Hugh Vassos of Vassos Marketing Group for his direction during the capital campaign.

### Donor Recognition

In memory of Francis & Lila McArthur, their family made possible this donor appreciation wall to recognize those who made a contribution to the capital campaign of the Heritage Centre.

Francis McArthur farmed with his father in the Amazon district until he opened McArthur's Garage in 1946, in Watrous. Francis served on Councils of Watrous and of Manitou Beach, and was involved with the United Church and Watrous Rotary. Lila was also community minded. She served in the United Church, Eastern Star, the local school board, as well as Watrous Town Council. The McArthurs were co-owners in a Danceland partnership for several years.

Thanks to John & Glenda McArthur, Jacky McArthur & Brad Bauml, and McArthur AgVentures.