



Congratulations

Martin Garber-Conrad



Staff and Board at Edmonton Community Foundation
congratulate Martin Garber-Conrad
on 15 years with ECF!

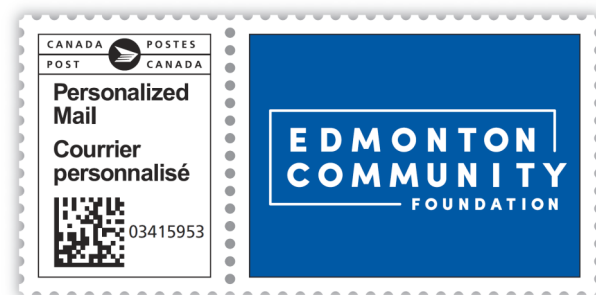
Thank you for your dedication and ongoing
contributions to the community.

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Edmonton Community Foundation
9910-103 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2V7



CEO Message



Martin Garber-Conrad

Things are moving quickly on the COVID-19 front in the wider world and here at ECF. Among other things, the Board has authorized the creation of a *Rapid Response Fund*, which will allow us to move quickly to respond to urgent needs anywhere in the non-profit and charitable sector in our region. Where possible, we will work collaboratively with other funders in Edmonton and elsewhere in Alberta. The sector will have a variety of needs well beyond the agencies that deal with fellow citizens who are directly affected by the virus. The whole sector is in danger as events are cancelled, people are laid-off, and revenue is restricted. We want to help preserve the most essential work now, as well as the agencies and

infrastructure that will be needed as we move to recovery and rebuilding.

Toward that end, ECF is committing \$500,000 of its unrestricted funds to seed the *Rapid Response Fund*. This is not an endowment fund and we are not publicly fundraising for it. But if you can see the potential for this kind of nimble and strategic response, I would invite you to consider contributing. If you are the founder of a Donor Advised Fund, for example, you might contribute a portion of this year's grant amount to the new fund. That will help us leverage other philanthropic capital from outside the ECF circle — increasing the value and therefore the impact of your contribution. And, just to be clear, we would welcome contributions to the fund from other ECF friends, as well. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

In any case, you can be confident that regular grants will be paid as quickly as possible to beneficiaries of Designated Funds and, where we receive advice, from Donor Advised Funds. As well, ECF operations will continue — largely remotely, following Public Health directives. As you have heard elsewhere, many of our events have been cancelled or at least postponed. We have been putting off deciding

about the Annual Meeting on June 2nd, but it seems unlikely that even that event will be able to go ahead.

June also marks the conclusion of our 30th anniversary celebrations and with it a book chronicling the Foundation's history. Copies will be available for anyone who is interested, whether we can hold the Annual Meeting or not. The book is full of stories of generous donors and other folks who shaped our existence. We want to hear your story too. Share with us how ECF has made an impact on you by going to 30.ecfoundation.org. This site will help us keep track of all the ways ECF is making a difference in Edmonton and beyond.

I'll conclude by wishing retiring Communications Director Carol Watson a fond farewell from all of us at ECF. We trust she will have a pleasing retirement. I would also like to welcome Nneka Odogbolu as Director of Communications and Equity Strategy.

Here's to the *next* 30 years — sure to be interesting!



Land Acknowledgement

Edmonton Community Foundation, in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledges that the land on which we live, work, and play is Treaty 6 territory; a traditional meeting ground, land, and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Niisitapi (Blackfoot), and Métis, and that all of us here are beneficiaries in peace and friendship of this Treaty.

History comes alive at Hilltop House

Written by Elizabeth Bonkink

Look Up, Look Way Up...

High above the river valley on 103 Street between 99 and 100 Avenues is the ECF office. Most would not know that the brick, two-storey building is there unless it was pointed out, but Hilltop House, as it is known, holds a lot of history.

Last year ECF took part in the *Historic Festival & Doors Open Edmonton* as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations.

The festival, hosted by Edmonton and District Historical Society, allowed us to show off the home of John C. McDougall and his wife Sophie. Approximately 130 visitors were met by staff portraying John and Sophie and learned that the home is still largely as it was in 1915.

In preparation for the event we did our *homework* (pun intended) and hired former City of Edmonton historian laureate Shirley Lowe to help us find out more about the house. Lowe was able to connect us with living relatives of the McDougalls, providing a multitude of stories of real life at Hilltop House.

The House That John Built

Hilltop House was built in 1913 for John C. and Sophie, but before that, there had been a home on the land where John C. was raised. When John C.'s father John A. McDougall, former Edmonton mayor, MLA, and well-known business owner, decided to build a new home, he gifted the land to his son. The land was originally purchased (or possibly traded) from the Hudson's Bay company in 1880.



Drawing of Hilltop House circa 1915.



Hilltop House 2019

McDougall and Secord

John C. worked in his father's business, McDougall and Secord, general merchants, who bought and sold furs, land, and supplies. The second partner in the business was Richard Secord, the grand-nephew of Laura Secord, the Canadian heroine of the War of 1812. Secord was the first public-school teacher in Edmonton, but left to work with John A.

Life and Activity in Hilltop House

John C. and Sophie had two children, Eleanor and Jack. Hilltop was a popular gathering place for Edmonton gentry for teas, parties, dinners, and social activities. John C. regularly hosted the "Keg of the Month Club" in the den.

Edmonton Transforms

This was a time of great transformation for Edmonton that included the construction of the High Level Bridge, which was completed in 1913, connecting land on both sides of the North Saskatchewan River. Two years later the worst flood in Edmonton's

recorded history displaced 2,000 people. Hotel MacDonald opened its doors that year, and reshaped the skyline with its grandeur. Edmonton's population took a hit with men off fighting in the First World War, and by a global influenza pandemic.

Hilltop is symbolic of the foundation of Edmonton, standing strong, overlooking the river valley, as Edmonton grew up around it. We invite you to join us for Doors Open Edmonton in the future and see this hidden gem for yourself.

Staff Changes at ECF

A few updates on staff at ECF:

We welcome Yetayale Tekle as Grants Assistant and Anna Opryshko as she returns from maternity leave.

We congratulate Carol Watson on her retirement and welcome Nneka Otogbolu as Director of Communications and Equity Strategy.

We want your stories!



In celebration of 30 years of ECF bringing donors and causes together, we want to share the stories that have led

us here today. These stories are *your* stories.

Tell us what has inspired you. Stories can come from donors, grantees, former and current board members, student-award recipients, or volunteers. However you have been inspired to give, we would like to hear about it.

To share your story go to the 30th Anniversary microsite:

30.ecfoundation.org

Don't worry if you are not a storyteller or a prolific writer — just tell us in your own words the impact ECF has had in your life. We will help you fill in the rest. Please note that all stories will be reviewed before posting.

The Well Endowed Podcast A cure for social distancing boredom

Have you exhausted your Netflix watch list? Stuck at home with nothing to do? Why not check out ECF's *The Well Endowed Podcast*. With more than 65 exciting episodes you can learn about great things happening in your own community.

There are episodes that cover topics like Edmonton's gay history, bats, neighbourhood stories, and we even

have space experiments. There are quite a few celebrity guests in the mix too. Every episode offers something unique and thought provoking. A little something for everyone!

Go to:

TheWellEndowedPodcast.com for more information or download episodes where ever you get your podcasts. It will be time well spent.

Hold the date!



ECF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Doug Stollery

The Westin Edmonton
10135 100 St NW

RSVP:

Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org
or 780.702.7628

Please note that there is a possibility this event may be cancelled that due to Covid-19. Stay tuned.