
THE SELTZER-CHAN POND INLET FOUNDATION



A BIT ABOUT POND

Located 3,000 km north of Ottawa, the hamlet of Pond Inlet is the northernmost community on Baffin Island. 95% of Pond's 1,200 residents are Inuit and speak Inuktituk.

This part of Nunavut experiences 24 hours of darkness between mid-November and early February. Of course, the reverse is also true -- during June, July and August, Pond basks in 24 hours of daylight.

The rugged landscape around Pond Inlet is spectacular. The glaciers, mountains and icebergs are stunning on a grand scale. Equally impressive but on a tiny scale is the tundra vegetation of lichens and wildflowers that miraculously burst forth every summer from the scant layer of soil covering the permafrost.



Pond Inlet nestles at the shore of Eclipse Sound, facing the snow-capped mountains of Bylot Island.

People have lived in this area of the arctic for thousands of years hunting caribou, seals and polar bears. A trading post was established in 1912; the Hudson's Bay Company arrived in 1921 and Catholic and Anglican missions were in place by the 1930's. In the 1960s the Federal government starting building here -- first a residential school and then housing. These developments drew people to settle in Pond and greatly influenced their culture. Now mixing traditional and modern cultures, some families maintain their hunting and fishing livelihood while others work in government, construction, service and tourist industries.

Pond Inlet is not connected to any other community by road. Every three days a small passenger airplane makes the four-hour flight 1,000 km south to Iqaluit, capital of Nunavut.

THE 2002 GRANTS

As always, we received an impressive collection of applications in 2002. Volunteer Lazarus Arreak coordinated the process by creating posters and radio announcements in Inuktituk, collecting the grant applications, and convening meetings of the community committee representatives.

The Foundation is proud to announce that a total of **\$6,500** was distributed to 13 recipients in 2002:

- Nunavut Arctic College Students in Iqaluit:
Asenath Idlout, Sipporah Peterloosie (Nursing);
Andrew Ootoova (Office Administration); **Ivan Sangoya** (Computer Science)
- Algonquin College Students in Ottawa:
Joni Kyak, Tracy Kyak, Aaron Pitseolak (General Arts & Science); **Alexander Ootoovak** (Motive Power Technical); **Abbas Parks, Justin Merkosak, Deborah Tigullaraq** (Small Business Management)
- Mount Allison University Students in New Brunswick:
Adam Ferguson, Anisa Parks

We wish to thank Committee members Lazarus Arreak, Marion Ferguson, George Konoo, Joseph Koonoo, Mike DeMaio and Philippa Ootoowak for their time and guidance.

GOING SOUTH TO STUDY

This year, all of the foundation's awards will help students fund their post-secondary education. Although a new high school opened in 1999, Pond Inlet residents must leave home for post-secondary studies, an expensive proposition. Air travel is costly and all flights go first to Iqaluit, more than 1000 km south of Pond Inlet. Those who study outside Nunavut take more flights, although they probably save money on accommodation and food, both of which are very expensive in Iqaluit.



ARCTIC COLLEGE

Arctic College was established in 1984 to deliver adult education programs in the NWT. It now has three campuses (in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet) and 24 Community Learning Centres to service people in isolated communities throughout Nunavut.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that Sipporah and Asenath are taking is offered in partnership with Dalhousie University. "The curriculum emphasises awareness and respect for Inuit culture and will prepare nurses to be leaders in Nunavut health care or the Canadian health care system. Students may exit after three years with a Diploma in Nursing from Nunavut Arctic College and will be prepared to provide hospital-based nursing services. The Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing will be granted by Dalhousie University upon successful completion of the four year program and will prepare nurses to provide primary health care in a community health centre. Both Diploma and Bachelor graduates are eligible to write the Canadian Nurses registration exam." (Arctic College Website: www.nac.nu.ca)

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Many young people from Nunavut choose Ottawa's Algonquin College when they "go south" to school. Algonquin has many Aboriginal students and provides excellent support services for students far from home.

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

Mount Allison is a small University (2,500 students) located in the small town of Sackville, New Brunswick (population 5,400). The intimate campus with solid academic credentials provides a supportive environment for students from France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Denmark, New Mexico, Norway -- and Pond Inlet!

SOME THANK YOU MESSAGES

"My studies are going great and I'm able to keep up because I don't have to look for a part-time job. I have been using the money with the kids for food because it is very expensive in the arctic. "

Sipporah Peterloosie, 2001 award recipient

"I am attending Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. I am in my second of a four-year Bachelor of Arts program. ... The money I received from you was mainly put towards my text books. This is my second year being funded by the foundation and I would just like to express my sincere gratitude for all the generosity you have shown myself and others from Pond Inlet. Thank you for contributing to my educational development and in helping me reach my goal. "

Anisa Parks, 2001 award recipient

"I am enrolled at the Nunavut Arctic College for third year Bachelor of Science in (Arctic) Nursing. So far my studies are going really great for me and I am very pleased with the award that I received from you in the summer. It came in very handy with paying for some of the rent and for purchasing food for my family. Thank you once again for the award. "

Asenath Idlout, 2001 award recipient

"I attended Algonquin College last year ... I am currently working steadily for the government of Nunavut. I greatly appreciate the support that you guys gave me. You showed faith in me financially and trusted me to be responsible with what you gave me. That financial and moral support really went a long way."

Bryan Simonee, 2001 award recipient

HELP US HELP MORE PEOPLE IN POND INLET!

A donation is a wonderful memorial to Mark and Marilyn and will allow the Foundation to continue to support education and Inuit culture in Pond Inlet.

Please send your cheque to:

The Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation

249 Rose Park Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1R6

Charitable registration number 87321 3276 RR0001

Canadian donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes.