
THE SELTZER-CHAN POND INLET FOUNDATION



TRADITIONAL DRUMS

A local craftsman recently made a set of traditional drums for the Nattinnak Visitors Centre in Pond Inlet, thanks to a grant from the Foundation. These drums will be used to entertain and educate during cultural performances.

Eastern Arctic Inuit drums are large, flat and round, with a handle. They were traditionally made of driftwood and caribou hide with thick seal or walrus skin around the handle. The wood was soaked and shaped into a circle, then joined. In the days before metal nails were available, a hole would be drilled in the wood and a cord of braided sinew would be used to tie the ends together. Then the frame would be covered with a stretched caribou hide.

In a performance, the drum dancer sways while striking the rim of the flat drum. A special *ajaja* song accompanies the drum dance. These songs describe personal experiences: an event, special celebration, changing weather, seasons or a relationship. Traditionally the songs would be sung by a group of women while a man performed the drum dance.



*Drum dancers performing at St. Lawrence University
(from http://collections.ic.gc.ca/cape_dorset/drm.html)*



*A drum dancer sculpture made of whale bone and caribou antler
by Moses Kasarnak, a Pond Inlet carver.*

THE POND INLET COMMITTEE

We are very pleased to welcome Colin Saunders to the foundation committee in Pond Inlet. Colin moved to Pond as a child in 1983 and lived there until graduating high school in 1992. At that point, Colin moved back to Yellowknife to continue his studies. He returned to Pond in 1998 to work for First Air, the Department of Sustainable Development and now as the Community Economic Development officer. Colin coordinated the Foundation application process this year by distributing posters and radio announcements in Inuktitut, collecting the applications, and convening meetings of the committee. The SCPI Foundation could not operate without the committee members in Pond Inlet and we greatly appreciate all of their efforts.

QUJANNAMIIRAALUK (really big thank you!) to committee members Mike DeMaio, Domina Koonark, George Koonoo, Joseph Koonoo Sr., Philippa Ootoowak, David Parks and Colin Saunders.

*The Inuksbuk on our masthead overlooks Eclipse Sound at the base of Mount Herodier, Baffin Island.
It is a memorial to Mark and Marilyn and was built with the Pond Inlet Community.*

FOUNDATION SUCCESS STORIES

THE 2003 GRANTS

Each summer we have the pleasure of reviewing applications to the Foundation and the recommendations from the Pond Inlet committee. It is very gratifying to see young people approaching the foundation to help fund their higher education. Like our committee representative Colin Saunders, these young people are the future of Pond Inlet who will return with the skills needed to lead their community.

The Foundation is proud to announce that a total of **\$7,550** was distributed to eight recipients in 2003:

- **Asenath Idlout**, 4th year nursing, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Sipporah Peterloosie**, 3rd year nursing, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Amy Killiktee**, Management Studies at Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Dawn Katsak**, Inuit Studies at Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Matthew Ferguson**, Adventure Recreation, New Brunswick Community College
- **Eepa Ootovak**, General Arts and Science, Algonquin College, Ottawa
- **Andrew Arreak**, Architectural Technology, Algonquin College, Ottawa
- **Nattinnak Visitors Centre** to purchase traditional drums

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Any donation you make to the Seltzer Chan Pond Inlet Foundation is used to support grant recipients. The printing and mailing costs of the newsletter are donated by board members. It's hard to think of a charity where your money has a more direct effect on individuals. We're proud of this memorial to Mark and Marilyn and we hope you will continue to help us support education and Inuit culture in Pond Inlet.

Alexander Ootoowak, 2002 award recipient

Andrew has completed his diploma as an Automotive Technician at Algonquin College in Ottawa. He has now returned to Pond Inlet and is using his skills at the Toonoonik-Sahoonik Co-op Garage.

Samson Ootoowak, 2000 award recipient

Samson is now in his third year of Mechanical Engineering at Algonquin College in Ottawa. The foundation helped Samson spend a memorable summer on Devon Island where he participated in the NASA Mars research project.

Asenath Idlout, 2000-2003 award recipient

Asenath will be the first person funded by the foundation throughout her four years of higher education. After finishing her final year in Nursing at Arctic College in Iqaluit, Asenath plans to return to Pond Inlet. She hopes to be the first Pond Inlet resident to be the local nurse at the community health centre. Until now, this position has been held by a series of nurses from the south who come to Pond for short assignments. It is hard to over-estimate the effect of having primary health care provided by a fellow community member. Asenath, we wish you luck in your final year at Arctic College. We are very proud of you!

Please note our new address!

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