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# THE SELTZER-CHAN POND INLET FOUNDATION

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## LOCAL NURSE NOW IN POND INLET

We would like to congratulate Asenath Idlout on becoming the first resident of Pond Inlet to become a registered nurse. In 2000, Asenath was the first student to receive support from the Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation and she continued to receive a grant each year of her four-year nursing program at Arctic College in Iqaluit. It wasn't easy for Asenath living so far from home, but she persevered and graduated in the spring of 2004. She recently passed her final examination and is now a fully licensed registered nurse.

Asenath is back in Pond Inlet, and now works as one of five nurses at the Health Centre, the first Nunavut-born nurse to work there. In many northern communities, medical staff are from the south, and stay in the community for anywhere from a few weeks to six months. Inevitably, they move back south, or move on to their next assignment. Pond Inlet is fortunate in that Dr. Patricia DeMaio and many of the nurses have lived in Pond Inlet for five years or more, and have become part of the community. Asenath is from Pond Inlet, and she and her family intend to stay. She knows the people in Pond Inlet, and she knows the language and the culture.

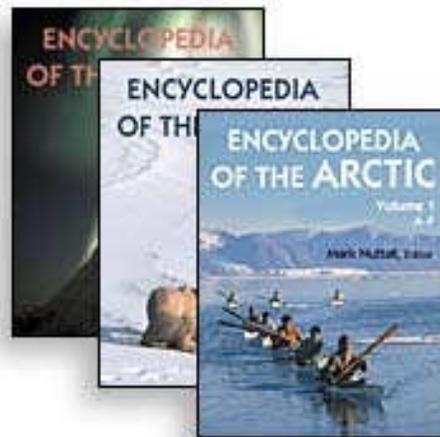
Asenath says that her patients often tell her that they appreciate the fact that they don't need a translator to communicate with her. They can describe their symptoms, ask questions and get medical advice in their own language, something that wasn't always possible in the past. As Dr. Demaio puts it, "she can do things that no one else can".

Donors to the foundation can feel proud to have helped, and prouder still of Asenath for having achieved her goal. She set out to become a nurse in order to help her community, and that's exactly what she has accomplished. For the Foundation, providing

assistance for post-secondary education helps achieve two goals. Not only does it help the individual student, but also, as in Asenath's case, it can benefit the entire community.

## NEW BOOKS FOR LIBRARY

Residents of Pond Inlet will be able to consult a comprehensive encyclopedia whenever they want information about anything to do with the Arctic, thanks to a donation from the Foundation. This three-volume set includes essays about many topics including the Arctic's environment, wildlife, climate, politics, indigenous cultures and languages. The set will be a very useful addition to the community library and is a particularly appropriate donation, given Mark and Marilyn's love of books and the Arctic.



*The Rebecca Idlout Library purchased a set of the Encyclopedia of the Arctic using funds from the Foundation*

**QUJANNAMIIRAALUK** (really big thank you!) to Pond Inlet committee members Joseph Koonoo Sr., Abraham Kublu, Philippa Ootoowak, and Colin Saunders who reviewed the applications to the foundation in 2004.

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*The Inukshuk 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.*

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## THE 2004 GRANTS

The Foundation is proud to announce that a total of **\$9,100** was distributed to ten recipients in 2004:

- **Peah Aglak**, Teacher Education Program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Ryan Arreak**, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Kelly Akpaliapik**, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Environmental Technology, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Adam Ferguson**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Environmental Technology, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Ezra Kasarnak**, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Ottawa
- **Laura Kasarnak**, Teacher Education Program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Chris Merkosak**, Business Management, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Ernest Merkosak**, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Ottawa
- **Jane Singoorie**, 1<sup>st</sup> year Nursing program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Rebecca Idlout Library**, to purchase a set of "The Arctic Encyclopedia"

## FOUNDATION SUCCESS STORIES

### **Matthew Ferguson**, 2003 award recipient

Matthew received funding from the Foundation in 2003 for his first year in an Adventure Tourism course at New Brunswick Community College. Now in his second year, Matthew is currently in Mexico on an exchange semester with a University there. After finishing his program in May 2005 (and perhaps a year of adventuring on his own), Matthew plans to return to Pond Inlet for a career in the eco-tourism field.

### **Anita Ootoowak**, 2000 award recipient

Anita received funding from the Foundation in 2000 while attending the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program for Inuit students in Ottawa. Since then she has gone on to complete a B.A. degree in General Arts at the University of Ottawa and worked for a year for the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami organization in Ottawa. She also spent time between 2001-2003 working as a project manager for Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated in Iqaluit and most recently, for the summer of 2004, acted as Finance Comptroller for the Resolution Island Site Clean Up under Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Now back in Pond Inlet, we wish Anita every success in her application to work with the Nunavut Government.

## DORENE SELTZER HONOURED



*Mrs. Seltzer receives a Community Service award from Ontario Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman*

In recognition of her lifelong dedication to her community, Mrs. Seltzer received the Empire Club of Canada 2003-2004 Community Service Award. At the time of presenting her with the award, the Empire Club donated \$500 to the Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation. Thank you to the Empire Club and to everyone who has contributed to the Foundation over the years.

## 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.

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Charitable registration number 87321 3276 RR0001  
Canadian donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

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