

News from the Fort Edmonton Foundation

The Bulletin

WINTER 2015



'Tis the Season...

A time for warm hearts, bright spirits and celebrating tradition

Dear Supporter



As the snow starts to fall and the festive season approaches, we'd like to thank you for your support of the Fort Edmonton Foundation throughout 2015. Thanks to supporters like yourself, we can continue to build Fort Edmonton Park into an internationally-acclaimed living history museum, and keep Edmonton's history alive.

Read on to learn more about a dedicated volunteer who enriches the experience of Fort Edmonton Park visitors; ways to donate that maximize tax savings; how you can take part in a global day of giving; and important details for the 2016 Spring Gala event.

Fort Edmonton Park Volunteer Profile: Leah Cline-Veneau

The Strict School Marm with a Heart of Gold

The Park has a strange magic to make otherwise torturous chores - washing socks, beating rugs, dusting - into thrillingly fun and meaningful activities, and at the same time to disguise the most charming, sweet people into the villains and rogues of the past. No one more relishes this mysterious switch than Leah Cline-Veneau, who manages to disguise her big heart and sweet nature to become the strict School Marm on 1885 Street each summer.



Leah has always been a history enthusiast and became a volunteer in 2013. The following

summer, she brought along her son, Chris, making three generations of family involvement (her Aunt worked here and an Uncle was a long standing member of the Edmonton Radial Railway Society driving the streetcars). "It just feels like I've always been here," Leah muses, "and now I feel a little befuddled when I'm not volunteering at the park! For me, and for Chris, this is a community and a de-stressor". She's so proud of the growth she's seen in her son, who has developed noticeable confidence as a result of his engagement. "It is just an amazing thing for him, the friends he's made here".

For Leah, being part of the community at the Park has been a transformative experience to her sense of identity. "I've always felt like an outsider", she confides, "but here I not only feel included, I feel important and valuable." Leah shares that growing up she struggled, especially in school, with an undiagnosed learning disability that left her feeling excluded and insignificant. Being at Fort Edmonton was a turning point; "I remember telling my supervisor Lacey about my disability, and she just gave me a hug as told me I was her friend and this did not define me." From then on she felt empowered her to find her strengths and to ensure that this continues to be a comfortable place where everyone is welcome. In Leah's words: "Here I feel safe and I feel accepted for who I am."

Leah figures that is why she takes such pride in her school lessons: since it's "play," the children *enjoy* the character of the strict teacher. It gives her an opportunity to start a conversation about the differences in education then and now, and to help children of all learning styles enjoy and participate in the activities. With her unique sensitivity to their experience, Leah can make something special: "If I make one child interested in a piece of history, I've done my job". She's also received compliments from real teachers on field trips, who are entertained by how effectively she uses "historic" discipline methods. She was horrified when a child cried in remorse for misbehaving in her lesson, "but the teacher came up at the end of the lesson to thank me", she laughs, "for finally getting through to the little terror who hadn't listened all year."

Shortly, Leah will transform again, from her Spooktacular role as Anne Boleyn's disembodied head, into Mrs. Rutherford as part of our Christmas Reflections programming. Join her community of volunteers for this lovely Holiday event!

For more information on volunteer opportunities at the Park, contact Laura Nichol, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteer@fortedmontonpark.ca 780.496.8727





Giving Tuesday: December 1st, 2015

Most people know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday ... now we have GivingTuesday, December 1, 2015. GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that happens each year after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It's a time when Canadians, charities and businesses come together to celebrate giving and participate in activities that support charities and non-profits.



www.GivingTuesday.ca
December 1, 2015

The Fort Edmonton Foundation is proud to be a Giving Tuesday partner. Our [partner profile page](#) allows supporters to donate directly to us through CanadaHelps.org. On this Giving Tuesday, help us raise money in support of our Capital Campaign. With your help, we can achieve our vision of an internationally acclaimed living history experience - Support the Fort today!

Did You Know: Charitable Giving Options

Making a charitable donation is not limited to writing a cheque and dropping it in the mail. These days, there are numerous ways to support your favourite charity that go beyond the cheque book. Here are a few different charitable giving options that can also offer additional tax saving benefits.

Donation of Securities

When you own publicly traded securities that have appreciated in value, there is a tax liability on the capital gain at the time of sale of the security. Once the security is sold, 50% of the capital gain must be reported as income. Depending on the appreciation in value of the security, the liability may be substantial. However, if a publicly traded security is donated to a charity instead of being sold, the capital gain that is reported is reduced to zero.

Corporate Gifts

When a corporation makes a charitable gift, the corporation receives a tax deduction, which reduces its income and therefore tax payable. The limit on the amount of the charitable donation that may be claimed in a given year is 75% of net income. If the credit or deduction is not used, it can be carried forward for 5 years. It should be noted that capital gains are also eliminated for corporate gifts of publicly traded securities, making them an ideal and tax efficient source of funding for charitable gifts.

The key difference between giving personally vs through a private corporation is that private corporations have a notional account called the Capital Dividend Account (CDA). The existence of this account creates a financial planning opportunity which makes a charitable gift through a corporation particularly attractive.

To read more about donation of securities and corporate gifts, [click here](#).

First-time Donor's Super Credit (FDSC)

From [Revenue Canada](#): the First-time donor's super credit (FDSC) supplements the value of the charitable donations tax credit (CDTC) by 25% on donations made after March 20, 2013, by a first-time donor. You are considered a first-time donor if neither you nor your spouse or common-law partner (if you have one) have claimed and been allowed a charitable donations tax credit for any year after 2007.

The FDSC applies to a gift of money made after March 20, 2013, up to a maximum of \$1,000, in respect of only one taxation year from 2013 to 2017. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, you can share the claim for the FDSC, but the total combined donations claimed cannot be more than \$1,000.

[Learn more details about the First-time Donor's Super Credit](#)

Life Insurance

This is the second most widely used type of planned gift in Canada. A current gift of life insurance involves a transfer of ownership of the policy to the charity. The insured can pay the annual premiums of the policy and receives a tax receipt for that amount each year. The charity owns the death benefit and any cash surrender value in the policy. A deferred gift of life insurance names the charity as the beneficiary of the policy.

Charitable Remainder Trusts

These are trusts that pay income to the donor, or beneficiaries, for life or a set term. Upon death of the donor or beneficiaries, or at the end of the term, the charity receives the amount that remains in the trust.

If you have any questions or would like more information on any of these giving options, please contact Janet Tryhuba at 780-496-6978 or jtryhuba@fortedmontonfoundation.org.

Save the Date: Fort Edmonton Foundation Spring Gala

The Fort Edmonton Foundation is hosting a Spring Gala event on **April 16th, 2016** to raise funds for the Hotel Selkirk Windsor Block expansion at Fort Edmonton Park. The theme is "Celebrating the Future of the Past." You can expect an evening of live entertainment and a curated, historically accurate food menu in an upscale Prohibition-era atmosphere.

You won't want to miss this premiere event of the year. More details on tickets and sponsorship opportunities will follow.

We are currently looking for volunteers and sponsors: let us know how you can help. If you want to get involved, please contact Janet at jtryhuba@fortedmontonfoundation.org or by phone 780-496-6978.

Thank You

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Wanda Fawcett, associate with Bishop & McKenzie LLP and Shannon Troke, CA, King & Company, for their time and expertise generously provided at the Will & Estate Planning info session - held at Johnson's Cafe at the Hotel Selkirk - on November 13th.

★ THANK YOU! ★



**Support the Fort: Donate
Today**

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