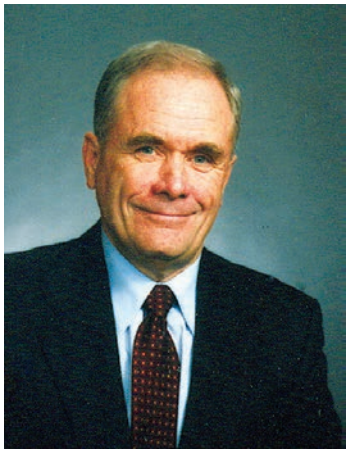
St. James Scholarship Foundation ANNUAL REPORT 2025

President's Remarks 2025

This year, the St James Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors experienced a renewal of interest from community members in financially supporting our student awards program. Several significant new awards have been established through our generous donors.



John Schmitt—the Vocational Welding teacher at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate—passed away unexpectedly in 2025. John's friends, family, and teaching colleagues quickly raised significant capital to support an award in his memory, the **John Schmitt Memorial Welding Award**.

Haåkon Povey—a student that attended Jameswood Alternative School and Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate—passed away tragically in 2025 before he had a chance to graduate. As noted in our donor profile this year, his family and friends have made a substantial donation that we have used to create a new sub-fund as part of our Agency Fund with the Winnipeg Foundation. The **Haåkon Povey Memorial Awards** will be presented annually to a deserving student at both Jameswood and Sturgeon Heights. Valued at $500 each, these awards are funded in perpetuity as a never-ending memorial to a much-loved young man.

Sandra Melo is a recently retired teacher and Administrator in St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD). In celebration of her retirement, Sandra has established the **Sandra Pacheco Melo Award** for the children of immigrants, which she will fund annually in the amount of $1,000. This award will first be presented in June 2026. Sandra has also agreed to join our Board of Directors and will begin her service with us in June.

Our Foundation continues to receive administrative support from SJASD employees. We are pleased to recognize Bruce Brown (Assistant Secretary-Treasurer), Krista Westman (Management Secretary), and Michelle Lancaster (Communications Specialist), for their professional support and advice freely given to our Board.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community as we work to recognize the many dedicated and capable young people attending our community schools. We welcome contributions to our Endowment Fund, which directly supports deserving students in their future endeavours.

Bruce G. Alexander
President, St. James Scholarship Foundation

Donor Profile

Remembering Haåkon Povey

New Award Supports Graduates Who Have Persevered

by Michelle Lancaster

Losing her son at just 18 years of age was devastating for Natasha Keith and her family. Before Haåkon Edward Povey's *(pronounced Haw-kon)* sudden passing on January 30, 2025, Natasha says he had made plans to return to school in the fall and dreamed of becoming an underwater welder. He had also applied for his first job that same week and was working hard to rebuild his life. "He had hopes, dreams, and plans for the future. And those who loved him saw the strength and determination within him," explains Natasha, adding that he was a "young man whose life was marked by both deep challenges and remarkable resilience."

"Haåkon sadly did not get the chance to walk across the stage and celebrate graduation," she says. "Because of this, we wanted to honour him by supporting students who have worked hard to achieve that dream."

To that end, Natasha and her family worked with the St. James Scholarship Foundation to establish the **Haåkon Povey Memorial Award**. The award recognizes one student each at both **Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate** and **Jameswood Alternative School**—high schools that Haåkon attended. It was awarded for the first time in June 2025 and supports students who have faced their own barriers and challenges yet continued to persevere. The award is valued at $500 per student.

"It celebrates resilience, courage, and the determination it takes to keep going even when the path is difficult," explains Natasha. "While we can no longer fight for our son's future alongside him, through Haåkon we can help support the future of other young people as they reach this important milestone."

A Life Cut Short

Like many young people, Haåkon faced difficult challenges, including addiction and mental health struggles. “We always say that when he was young, all he wanted was a true friend,” explains Natasha.

As he got older, Haåkon connected with other young people. Unfortunately, they introduced him first to cocaine and then to methamphetamines. He was addicted to the latter instantly, at just 13 years old. “Along with friendship he was handed addiction,” she says. “No one wants to be an addict, so it’s just heartbreaking the path that he was sent on from such a young age.”

Natasha and her family noticed a behaviour shift right away. When they discovered he was taking drugs, they moved mountains to help him—from securing spots in treatment programs, to searching for him in unsafe situations, and making multiple calls to law enforcement. All of this happened during the Covid-19 pandemic, adding another layer of difficulty for Haåkon and his family. Natasha stresses how easy it is for a young teen trying to fit in to develop an addiction that can destroy their life. Haåkon struggled for five years to get better. While he had good days, in the end, addiction won. “It’s not how his story should have ended.”

He was found alone in an apartment downtown. While Natasha acknowledges that she will never know the whole story, she suspects his companions fled when he overdosed. Now she advocates for greater awareness of the impact of drugs on youth, better supports and services for young people, and the importance of life-saving interventions—all to meet the needs of the current drug crisis. The family handed out Narcan kits at Haåkon’s funeral. “It can happen to anyone’s child,” she stresses.

Honouring Haåkon

While Haåkon struggled with addiction, it didn’t define him. He was known for his caring heart, his sense of humour, and the strong connections he formed with those around him. “He had a way of making people feel seen and heard, even when he was struggling himself,” says Natasha. “Despite these obstacles, Haåkon never stopped trying to move forward. Even through the hardest moments, he continued to smile and find ways to make others laugh,” says Natasha.

Brighter Days. Haåkon a year before he passed away *(far left);* Haåkon at 13 with his family dog Barkley *(left)*; Haåkon’s last Christmas Eve get together with his family *(right),* including *(from top left)* brother David, mother Natasha, father Todd, sister Shylynn, and brother Ryden *(seated)*. Santa has visited the family every Christmas Eve since Haåkon was a baby.

Music was a big part of Haåkon’s life and often served as his therapy. Natasha notes that he could find a beat in any mood and expressed himself through music under the artist name “Skittles,” a nickname he carried with pride. One of his favourite things to say was “it’s all good,” a phrase that she says reflected Haåkon’s ability to keep going even when life was difficult.

Through the Haåkon Povey Memorial Award, Natasha says his story will continue to inspire others. “[It] reminds us that every young person deserves compassion, support, and the opportunity to succeed,” she says.

Bruce Alexander is the President of the St. James Scholarship Foundation. “I’ve been working with Haåkon’s family for some time to establish this award as a sub-fund in perpetuity with the Winnipeg Foundation to honour his life. We deeply appreciate the generous donation from Natasha and her family and express our deep condolences to them for the loss of their son,” he says. To contribute to the Haåkon Povey Memorial Award, visit: https://www.mycharitytools.com/gift/wpgfdn/donate?fund=6050.

St. James Scholarship Endowment Fund

Funds invested within the St. James Scholarship Endowment Fund are held separately with the Winnipeg Foundation. All gifts made to this fund are pooled and permanently invested to provide a stable, annual revenue stream and help support the long-term financial strategy of the St. James Scholarship Foundation.

Fund Statement

St. James Scholarship Foundation Funds - Combined

Fund established - 1948

Fund statement period: October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025

Gift Summary	
Contributed capital October 1, 2024	$234,742.98
Gifts received in current year	1,891.67
Capitalized income	0.00
Internal fund transfers	0.00
Contributed capital September 30, 2025	**$236,634.65**

Available to Spend Summary	
Available to Spend October 1, 2024	$0.00
Spending Policy	12,753.00
Grants approved	-12,753.00
Flow through gifts	0.00
Capitalized income	0.00
Prior year grants returned	0.00
Internal fund transfers	0.00
Available to Spend September 30, 2025	**$0.00**

Fund Summary	
Market value October 1, 2024	$284,254.39
Available to Spend October 1, 2024	0.00
Fund balance October 1, 2024	$284,254.39
Current gifts and transfers	1,891.67
Investment income (loss)	36,148.48
Administration fees	-1,421.28
Investment fees	-1,237.17
Grants approved	-12,753.00
Flow through gifts	0.00
Prior year grants returned	0.00
Internal fund transfers	0.00
Fund balance September 30, 2025	$306,883.09
Less Available to Spend	0.00
Market Value September 30, 2025	**$306,883.09**

For further information please contact agency@wpgfdn.org or call 204.944.9474.

St. James-Assiniboia Scholarship Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025
Unaudited

		2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current Assets	Cash & equivalents	$ 94,804	$ 86,976
	Short-term investments	$ 42,814	$ 40,710
	Accounts Receivable	12,851	$ 12,851
		$ 150,469	$ 140,537
Non-Current Assets			
	GIC investments	$ 43,580	$ 40,953
	Patronage equity	944	$ 944
		$ 44,524	$ 41,897
		$ 194,993	$ 182,434
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
	Accounts payable	$ 20,835	$ 18,191
		20,835	$ 18,191
Net Assets			
	Restricted fund	$ 68,248	$ 66,281
	Unrestricted fund	105,911	$ 97,963
		$ 174,159	$ 164,244
		$ 194,994	$ 182,434

St. James-Assiniboia Scholarship Foundation
Statement of Revenues & Expenditure
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025
Unaudited

		Restricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2025	2025	2024
Revenues					
	Donations	$ 10,658	$ -	$ 10,658	$ 5,815
	Interest	-	7,339	7,339	6,473
	WF spending grant	8,603	4,150	12,753	12,635
Total Revenue		**$ 19,261**	**$ 11,489**	**$ 30,750**	**$ 24,923**
Expenses	Awards	$ 17,294	$ 3,500	$ 20,794	$ 18,151
	Administrative expense	-	41	41	40
Total Expenditures		**$ 17,294**	**$ 3,541**	**$ 20,835**	**$ 18,191**
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure		**$ 1,967**	**$ 7,948**	**$ 9,915**	**$ 6,732**
Net Assets, Beginning		**$ 66,281**	**$ 97,963**	**$ 164,244**	**$ 157,512**
Transfers to WF Endowment Fund		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Net Assets, Ending		**$ 68,248**	**$ 105,911**	**$ 174,159**	**$ 164,244**

St. James Scholarship Foundation

2025 Award Recipients

ST. JAMES COLLEGIATE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Bill Moir Award	$500	Diego Arriola Garcia
Captain Gordon Oliver Alexander Memorial	$250	Eirrah Pidor
Constance and George Waters Memorial Award	$500	Olivia Brown
Creekside Physiotherapy Award	$500	Lisa Cruz
Dawn Hicks Foods and Nutrition Award	$300	Sara Moore
Dr. D. Young Humanitarian Award	$150	Vlera Krasniqi
Edith and Thomas Cox Memorial Award	$800	Logan Zacharias
Edith and Thomas Cox Memorial Award	$800	Liliia Orgiianova
Eric Jonasson Memorial Scholarship	$500	Jyan Lascostales
George Chapman Family Award	$500	Matt Magpantay
Grand & Toy Quest for Excellence Award	$1,000	Alyssa Filleti
Jan Ernest Carlson Scholarship	$400	Faireen De Leon
Norman E. Lawson Award	$100	Kaitlyn Peterson
Paul Havixbeck Memorial Award	$100	Defne Donder
Penny Mead Memorial Scholarship	$100	Joaquin Edano-Dumantay
Resilience Award	$500	Luel Dair
St. James Collegiate Alumni Award	$100	Siyi Zhu
StudyInsured ISP Award	$250	Jyun-An Chen
Tom Dercola Humanities Award	$150	Kiezha Serrano

COLLÉGE STURGEON HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Community Leadership Award	$200	Olivia Szaflik
Creekside Physiotherapy Award	$500	Quinn Marshall
Ethan Robert Graham Memorial Award in Music Ed.	$250	April Groening
Ethan Robert Graham Mem. Award in Voc. Ind. Ed.	$250	Joshua Cardona
Haåkon Povey Memorial Bursary	$500	Jordyn Kehler
Jim and Lillian Huggard Award	$500	Michela Weldemariam
John Schmitt Welding Award	$300	Oleksandr Ohloblin
Joyce Aiken Award	$100	Kevin Scott
Penny Mead Memorial Scholarship	$100	April Groening
Resilience Award	$500	Keanna Hastings
Robert Kushner Memorial Award	$200	Sean Wood
Silver Heights Alumni Class of ‘60	$500	Erin Bickell
StudyInsured ISP Award	$250	Wen-Wen Chen
Susan Bohonos Memorial Award	$500	Cody Alexander
The Welek and Hinda Humanitarian Award	$200	Yevheniia Parkhomenko

CONTINUING EDUCATION	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Isabelle Lawson Award (Health Care Aide)	$100	Sonny Mukamusoni

DIVISION-WIDE SENIOR APPLICATIONS	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Indigenous Leadership Award (John Taylor)	$1,000	Caden Kakegamic
Winnipeg Airports Authority Award (Westwood)	$500	Bennett Brophy

WESTWOOD COLLEGIATE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Anne Simpson Memorial Award	$500	Presley Barnbrook
Penny Mead Memorial Scholarship	$100	Faith Fewings
Resilience Award	$500	Endi Kis
Shannon Ellis Scholarship	$150	Lauren Collom
StudyInsured ISP Award	$250	Francesca Stefana

JOHN TAYLOR COLLEGIATE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Jim and Lillian Huggard Award	$500	Mackenzie Metro
Madison Claven-Enns Memorial Award	$200	Haylee Welwood
Penny Mead Memorial Scholarship	$100	Alexis Briggs
Resilience Award	$500	Alexandra Owens-Ceretti
StudyInsured ISP Award	$250	Wang Tse

JAMESWOOD ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Resilience Award	$200	Elena Berthelette
	$200	Darryl Veuillot-Morriseau
	$200	Natasha Gagnon
Darryl Johnson Memorial Award	$150	Connor Van Horne
Haåkon Povey Memorial Bursary	$500	Autumn Berens

LINWOOD SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Julie Larson Memorial Award	$25	Brayson Gauthier
	$25	Gavin Peterson
	$25	Gabriella Ponce
	$25	Vanna Single

STEVENSON-BRITANNIA SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Julie Larson Memorial Award	$100	Jeanne Badibe
	$100	Jazz Torres

BRUCE MIDDLE SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Julie Larson Memorial Award	$100	Mikhaila (Kei) Minguillan
	$100	Mariia (Masha) Kudlai

AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
Neil Krebs Award	$100	Marcus Krahn
O'Neil Coaches Award	$100	Paige Levasseur

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
James McLeod Memorial Award	$100	Jade Castillo

Our History

The history of the St. James Scholarship Foundation is a little like the history of St. James itself, a story of citizens getting together for the advancement of a common cause.

Founded in 1938 and incorporated by an act of the legislature in 1958, the St. James Scholarship Foundation has fulfilled a vital function for many years administering thousands of dollars in scholarships and awards to deserving students in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

The Foundation began with nothing—no funds and no organization beyond a group of 12 dedicated volunteers. Six months after the inception of the Foundation in December of 1938, the group received its first contribution of $3.00 raised by the ladies of a bridge group. In the years to come throughout the Second World War, further funds were raised by a group of St. James Collegiate Alumni. The Foundation remained very much a "kitchen table" organization guided by local volunteerism for the next twenty years. It wasn't until 1958 when a more formal organization was suggested. An interested and passionate group petitioned the Manitoba Government to incorporate the St. James Scholarship Foundation. The petitioners included:

R F Wightman, MLA St James
T B Finlay, Mayor of St James
W S Scott, Treasurer
A W Hanks, Editor, St James Leader
J S Hannah, Barrister
C Pearl L'Ami, Social Editor
Elinor Wheeler, widow
Fannie Cook, widow
Esther Argue, teacher
V G Clark, principal

The St. James Scholarship Foundation Incorporation Act came into effect April 9, 1958. This began an era of more formal organization and a closer linkage with the administration of the school division, as well as the finance department. The foundation benefited greatly from this linkage as members of the finance department began to take on the role of Secretary Treasurer on the board. This significant expertise and experience helped best manage the Foundation's resources. During this period, donated capital was invested into guaranteed investment certificates (GIC) at banks and credit unions. The GIC provided safety for our capital and with historical high interest rates, income could endow an award in perpetuity.

Over time prevailing interest rates began to change and could no longer generate the income needed for the scale of the awards program. This resulted in some underfunded awards being discontinued. With no end in sight and the decline of interest income, the Foundation decided to take a new direction rather than reduce the program. In 2014, an agency fund was established at The Winnipeg Foundation. The fund was initially established with a transfer of $20,000 from our capital, which was matched with $15,000 from The Winnipeg Foundation.

In a relatively short period of time, the agency fund has grown substantially. The agency now produces over $12,000 of new revenue per year to benefit the awards program. The income produced has allowed for expansion in

St. James Collegiate, circa late 1950s (Source: "Old Manitoba, The Way It Once Was!" Facebook Group, John Kehler).

our program, such as in 2017, the Indigenous Leadership Award was introduced on an annual basis in the amount of $1,000.

The agency fund continues to be of great benefit to donors. It works to enable perpetual awards and can accept donations in many forms as opposed to strictly cash. Donated funds now benefit from professional money management services provided by The Winnipeg Foundation producing income that more than doubles our GIC investments.

During this time the Foundation also developed a web presence on the St. James-Assiniboia School Division website. This enables interested members of the public to review our governance procedures, our meeting minutes and our annual reports. This access to information has been important in encouraging new donations.

The St. James Scholarship Foundation, partnered with The Winnipeg Foundation now sees a future of sustainability and growth. Our partnership continues to attract new donors, both private and corporate, to benefit deserving students in St. James-Assiniboia schools. The St. James Scholarship Foundation is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible. As we reflect on our 80 years in the community, we look forward to continuing to grow our scholarships and awards to best support youth in accomplishing their dreams.

How to Donate

The St. James Scholarship Foundation serves our award recipients and our donors by maintaining two endowment funds. These are funds on deposit with local financial institutions and our Agency Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation.

Prospective donors may choose to fund a new scholarship or alternatively, they may prefer to donate to the pooled fund in one of our two endowment funds. Prospective donors wishing to establish a new award are advised to contact the school principal at the chosen school to complete the application form required by the school division. Principals are able to give good advice on possible award criteria as they are very well aware of the needs of their students and their awards program. Alternatively, members of the scholarship board can be contacted for advice using the contact information listed below.

Locally Endowed Awards

Funds held in our local endowment are managed using GIC's at prevailing interest rates. Interest rates have been at historic low levels recently and for this reason they do not permit perpetual endowment of awards. Prospective donors are advised that our local endowment can support an award for a term of years. As an example, a donation of $2,500 would support a $250 annual award for approximately ten years. Donors may also choose to contribute to our general pool of funds and in this way provide a more general benefit to our fund.

We now have digital means to donate to our local fund using CanadaHelps. Donors using CanadaHelps may choose to donate to our general pool of funds or to an established fund account here: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-james-scholarship-foundation. Using the pull down menu, donations can be made directly to our general fund or to an established fund account. Alternatively, donations can be made by cheque with a notation on the memo line identifying the fund preference. Our mailing address can be found at the end of this section.

Winnipeg Foundation Agency Fund Endowed Awards

Prospective donors wishing to endow an award in perpetuity are able, through us, to establish a sub-fund within our Agency Fund. These donations must be a minimum of $10,000 to be accepted by the Winnipeg Foundation. Because the Winnipeg Foundation employs a staff of professional money managers they can accept donations in a variety of forms such as investments, as well as cash. Again, to establish an award of this type prospective donors should first contact the school principal or the St. James Scholarship Foundation for advice. Donations to the Agency Fund can be made by digital means here: https://www.mycharitytools.com/gift/wpgfdn/fund-category?id=698. Donors using our Agency Fund may chose to donate to our general fund by choosing the "St James Scholarship Foundation Endowment Fund" in the list of sub-funds. Alternatively, donors may choose to support one of our 15 established sub-funds.

Tax Deductible Receipts

Donations of $20 or over are income tax deductible and official receipts will be promptly provided.

Contact Information

Questions regarding donations or establishing new awards can be directed to:

Bruce Alexander
President, St. James Scholarship Foundation
(204) 885-1876
brucegalexander@shaw.ca

Other questions:

Bruce Brown
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
St. James-Assiniboia School Division
204) 888-7951 ext. 2008
bruce.brown@sjasd.ca

Mailing address:
Finance Department
c/o St. James-Assiniboia School Division
2574 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
R3J 0H8

St. James Scholarship Foundation
Celebrating Student Success for Over 80 Years

A Word of Thanks to Our Donors

This year, we have received a total of $10,658 from individuals, members, community groups, local partnerships and organizations. Additionally, the total received toward the funds held with the Winnipeg Foundation for 2025 was $949. The St. James Scholarship Foundation would like to acknowledge and say thank you to all of our donors for their generosity.

Scholarship Foundation Donors

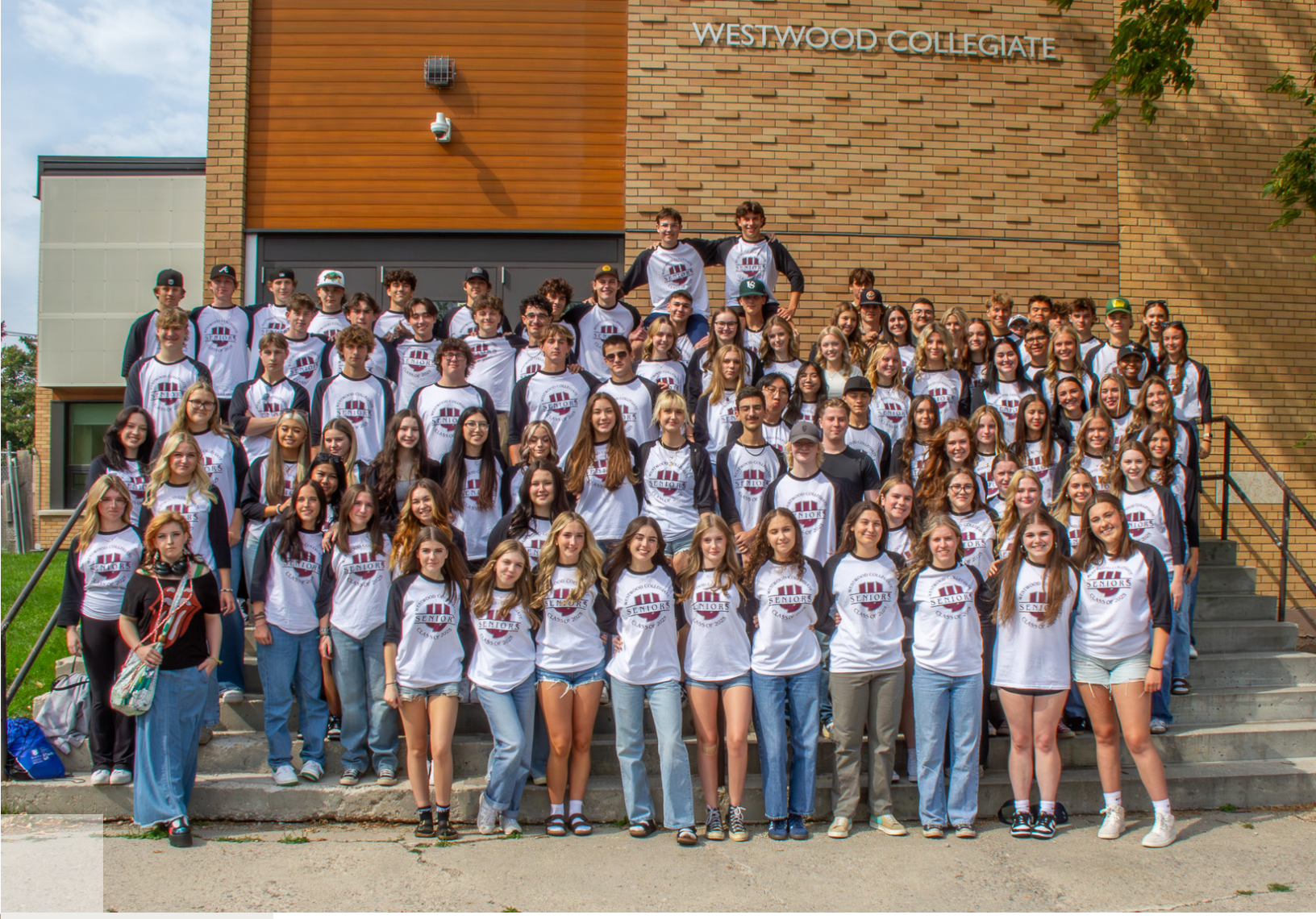
Bruce Alexander
Cheryl and Jeffery Chartrand
D.L. Hicks
Christine Jonsson
Lauree Kopetsky
Jim, Mike, and Andy McMillan

Winnipeg Foundation Agency Donors

Individual

David Cherrett
Tom Dercola
Stefan and Cindy Jonasson
Dorothy Young

Thank you to The Winnipeg Foundation for their ongoing partnership.



St. James Scholarship Foundation Board Members

Thank you to the St. James Scholarship Foundation Board Members.

Bruce Alexander, President
Dorothy Young, Vice President
Bruce Brown, Treasurer
Michael Cabral, Trustee
Michelle Lancaster, Communications Specialist
Dawn Hicks, Director
Stefan Jonasson, Director
Rockford McKay, Director
Tom Dercola, Director
George Valentim, Director
Katherine Misko, Director
Chris Sculthorp, Director
Lindsay Sawyer Fay, Director
Jean Moir, Director

St. James Scholarship Foundation

Celebrating Student Success for Over 80 Years

sjasd.ca/aboutus/scholarship