

Congratulations Graduates of 2010!

A total of 883 Selkirk College graduates were invited to attend the Graduation Ceremony and Tea at the Castlegar campus on Friday, April 23. This marks the highest number of eligible students to graduate from the college in its 43 year history.

More grad photos on page 11.



Photography by Vogue Photographic

Letter from the Editor

The 2009-2010 year was extraordinary for Selkirk College and for the students who attended. We had our highest enrolment and largest graduation class in the history of the college, we were successful in securing funding for the renovations and upgrades to the empty student residence on the Tenth Street campus and the Board of Governors presented its first Distinguished Alumni Award this year!

The future looks bright, not only for the college, which is moving closer to its 45th birthday, but also for the Alumni Association as we celebrate our third year and continue to connect with students as they move on with their lives after leaving Selkirk.

I hope you enjoy the spring issue of AlumnUS and I wish you great success and a wonderful summer.

Regards,

Pat Henman

AlumnUS Editor | alumni@selkirk.ca | 250.505.1324



*Pat Henman and
Distinguished
Alumni Award
winner Ron
Anderson.*

ALUMNI UPDATES for spring 2010

SUSAN COOLEY, Geographical Information Systems program, 2006: In 2004, Susan got a job with Map Graphics in Nelson—a position that eventually led Susan back to school to update her mapping skills. In 2006, Susan graduated with a GIS (Geographical Information Systems) diploma from Selkirk College.

In February 2008, Susan changed careers when she was accepted into Nelson's Community Futures program with her proposed glass art business. Through the course, she met a variety of trades people and artists who she has since collaborated with to make spectacular pieces. *"I really enjoyed mapping, but most GIS jobs are in larger cities and we really wanted to stay in the Kootenays."*

KAYLA SCHMAH, Contemporary Music and Technology program, 2003: Kayla's new album, *Spiral*, released as a CD on March 17, 2010. Kayla is currently living in Los Angeles, California, with her fellow film and television composer husband, Kyle Batter, and their young son.

MEGHAN HILDEBRAND, Kootenay School of the Arts, 2001: Meghan has confirmed a July solo show at Mayberry Fine Art's Winnipeg Square satellite space. Watch for something new and exciting!

CLEA RODDICK, Contemporary Music and Technology program, 2000: Clea is a singer-songwriter who recently released her first solo album. *Rollerskate* is a spirited disc full of hope and motivation for the human race and includes groove-based themes which hint of environmentalism and forgiveness. *Rollerskate* is attracting a wide audience, charting on college and indie radio stations across the US and Canada.



THE MARKINS: a family of Selkirk grads

Dan Markin took the 2-year Electronics Engineering Technologist course in the early 80's and graduated in 1983. This led to work with the Canadian Coast Guard, the RCMP and other federal agencies and to the construction of the Osprey ferry. He has been with the college since the spring of 2001, teaching in the Auto Shop, Welding Shop, along with First Aid and Fire Training.

His wife Monica took the Custodial Training in 2004, thereby securing a permanent position with SD#8. Then in the spring of 2008 she took the final offering of the Office Fundamentals course and graduated in the spring of 2009. She continues to work for SD#8.

Their daughter Rachael studied in the Professional Cook Training program while still in high school through the Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Trades program (ACE-IT) and graduated from Selkirk College in the spring of 2009. She is currently between jobs.

Their other daughter, Stephanie, is a 2010 grad from the Early Childhood Care and Education program and is currently in the midst of her month long practicum. Job opportunities for Stephanie look very good already.



The following individuals will be retiring from Selkirk College by March 2011

Harvey Batting
Kathy Markin
John Rowell

Judy Deon
Corrine Major
Wayne Schweitzer

Lorill Harding
Lyle Olsen
John Stegman

Kim Kratky
Sam Oudomsouk
Peter Wood

The Kootenay Path of Science

by JONI KRATS as published in *kootenaybiz.com* | reprinted with permission

Science and technology career options and educational programs in our region are increasing—due partially to organizations like Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) and the Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council (KRIC). Both organizations foster the development of science and technology in the Kootenays.



Jayne Hadiken took her technology training at Selkirk College in Castlegar and is now a lab technician at Zellstoff Celgar. She shared with us her thoughts about her education and career choice.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN TAKING THE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM?

I was originally from Langley, BC, and decided to go to Selkirk College to take the Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Technology program. I was always an outdoor person and I really cared about the environment. After completing my first year, I decided to switch programs to Integrated Environmental Planning Technology (IEPT). This was an excellent choice. I much preferred the science-based classes to the recreational-based classes; I wanted to learn about things like climate change and water pollution.

HOW LONG WAS THE PROGRAM, AND DO YOU HAVE A DEGREE OR A CERTIFICATE? The IEPT program was two years and I graduated with a diploma.

NOW THAT YOU ARE WORKING IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR CAREER? I am starting a great career working as a lab technician at Celgar in Castlegar. I am able to use many of the skills I learned at Selkirk College. I do many of the environmental tests for the mill, such as testing mill effluent water quality or stack particulate testing. It is great because Selkirk College gave me the knowledge I needed to get started in this career, and now I am getting excellent hands-on experience.

PLEASE ADD ANYTHING YOU FEEL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE KOOTENAYS. Selkirk College was a great place to get a start to my post-secondary education. The class sizes were small and the instructors really cared and were very good. Almost all the people I graduated with have great jobs in their field. That is a great part about graduating with a technical diploma, especially in the environmental field: you are very employable.

As well, Selkirk College has great transfer agreements with universities such as Royal Roads University in Victoria, so if you want to continue with your education after Selkirk, it is possible.



Scholarships

The sky is the limit! With a Johnson scholarship behind you, you have everything in front of you. Since 1998, the Johnson scholarship program has awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and academic grants to students across Canada.

We are pleased to offer 100 scholarships annually, valued at \$1,500 each. Canadian residents who are completing high school and who are beginning their post-secondary studies in Canada are eligible for the awards.

See the **application form** for more details and don't forget the deadline for applications is September 15, 2010.



A conversation with alumna and Selkirk College faculty member - Linda Harwood

1. WHEN DID YOU ATTEND SELKIRK?

I attended Selkirk from September 1984 to April 1986.

2. WHAT PROGRAM?

I was enrolled in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Diploma (UT) program.

3. WHY DID YOU ATTEND SELKIRK COLLEGE?

Selkirk was local, cheaper and I wanted to conserve scholarship money. It offered the same courses I needed to transfer to UBC to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Honors in English) and then a Masters of Arts at SFU.

4. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO COME BACK AND TEACH AT SELKIRK?

A perfect fit. As a returning local, I know Kootenay culture firsthand, so I can relate especially well to our local students.

5. WHAT AND WHY ARE YOU TEACHING AT SELKIRK?

Selkirk was my first choice because of the Kootenay lifestyle (family, skiing, golfing, tennis, lakes, mountains, low population density, wonderful climate, etc.).

Since my start in 1993, I have taught English and Technical Writing and Communications courses for the School of University Arts and Sciences and the Forest Technology, Integrated Environmental Planning Technology, Business Administration, Contemporary Music and Technology and Nursing programs. I have also taught Advanced Crew Resource Management/ Pilot Decision Making and Airmanship for the Aviation-Professional Pilot program. In addition, I have developed and delivered two technical writing and communications courses for clients of the Trail Employment Insurance office.

For the 2002/2003 academic year, I created and supervised the Culture Club, a group of 23 students and staff who fundraised all year so that the Club could go on a two-week guided tour of the historical and literary spots of interest in the UK (England, Scotland, and Wales). We left right after final exams in late April and returned in early May. The trip was a huge success!

Currently, I am enjoying teaching children's literature which includes folklore, traditional and modern fantasy, historical survey and many sub-genres

(poetry, picture books, information, biography, historical fiction and contemporary realism). I am also having fun with the business students, teaching them everything from writing memos and formal reports to presenting information orally. First-year composition is a challenging course for students, but it can provide inspiring results, enabling students to maximize their learning throughout their diploma or degree programs and also throughout their careers and lives. First-year literature covers poetry, drama, the novel and short stories. The many relevant topics of modern living can ignite some passionate debates. With these courses added all together, you can see that I enjoy a very interesting work week!

6. ARE ANY OF YOUR INSTRUCTORS STILL HERE?

Yes, Gord Turner (retirees include Bill Sloan, Marianne Hodges, Leslie Anderton, Wendy Hurst, Larry Brown, Sandra Seggewiss and Pauline Butling).

WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH THEM AND WAS THERE ANY TIME PERIOD WHERE YOU FELT UNCOMFORTABLE, OR WAS IT LIKE COMING HOME RIGHT AWAY?

Gord and I have always gotten along well. Returning to teach at Selkirk at the age of 27 made me feel a bit awed at first, but then I quickly got used to being behind the scenes of Selkirk, too. Coming home felt wonderful after having lived in the beautiful but hyper-busy city of Vancouver for seven years.

7. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO ALL YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI MEMBERS READING THIS PIECE?

I feel like I won the lottery! There is no better place on earth to live and raise my family than right here, and I'm so glad that I get to do what I love—teach and learn—in my hometown of Castlegar. Selkirk College serves this region so well by being a sturdy stepping stone to university degrees anywhere in the world which then can lead to meaningful careers right here at home. I believe Selkirk College allows its regional students to become successful regional professionals. We get to return to nature's playground!





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Residence Renovation at Tenth Street campus

Approximately seven years ago, the student residences on Selkirk's Tenth Street campus were shut down and have remained so ever since. This has been very disappointing, particularly during a time when accommodation in Nelson for students has been hard to find and expensive.

The college received \$7 million dollars for the renovation, reconfiguration and greening of the residences on November 9 of last year. These funds were made possible through the Federal and Provincial Governments with support from Columbia Basin Trust and the City of Nelson. Work on a geothermal heating system commenced in March, and the demolition phase of the renovation began this month.

When completed, the residence will feature space for approximately 100 residents in accommodations that range from single rooms with central amenities to three and five bedroom 'pods' complete with kitchen, bathrooms and a living room/dining room area. The renovation will also include some much needed improvements to Studio 80. These will include such things as improved sound proofing, lighting and seating.

A very exciting feature of these renewed facilities is the fact that the construction will be done to LEED certification standards. The residence will be a living laboratory for environmental sustainability.

A primary challenge for Selkirk students, particularly those living in Nelson, has been housing. The reopening of the residence in September of 2011 will go a long way to meeting this challenge.



Interesting Times at Selkirk

At the risk of falling prey to the hackneyed 'things have been busy' opener, let's just say that 'these are interesting times at Selkirk College'.

In November of last year, the college received approval for \$7,000,000 in funding for the renovation, reconfiguration and greening of the Tenth Street campus student residence.

A second initiative has been approved which involves a grant of \$600,000 to fund the construction of a 'Gathering Place' to be located in the east courtyard of the Castlegar campus' main building. The purpose of the Gathering Place is to increase the receptivity and relevance of the college and its programs to aboriginal students.

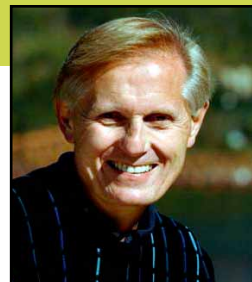
In terms of programming changes, approval in principle has been received for Associate of Science Degrees in Chemistry and Entry to Pharmacy. At the same time, our Trail campus is now offering a Home Care Assistant program and a Forestry Worker citation.

Two of the most frequently asked questions are: How's enrolment and what's the budget situation looking like? The one word responses are 'great' and 'okay'. Selkirk's enrolment numbers are the highest in the college's 43 year history. Final counts are not yet available but we anticipate a 5% increase in 2009-2010 over the previous year. We expect a small increase in the current year also. As for the budget situation the word 'okay' seems appropriate. Last year, through a small increase in our government grant along with cost savings and modest revenue increases, we not only brought in a balanced budget but were able to clear a previously established deficit from our books. Our budget for the current year is also balanced but as they say, it's a close thing.

Another very exciting initiative currently under way involves the Mir Centre for Peace. In early 2009, Selkirk announced a \$200,000 fundraising campaign to establish an endowment in support of the Mir Centre for Peace Lecture Series. By the end of March 2010 over \$220,000 had been raised. As not all the funds raised were able to be directed to the endowment, the campaign has been extended to Sept. 21, 2010. In the meantime, the Lecture Series has achieved great success with speakers such as Dr. James Orbinski, Gwynne Dyer and Ted Kuntz.

This is just some of what is happening here at Selkirk—interesting times indeed.

Barry Auliffe
Director, Communications & Development



SSSEF raises over \$6,600

Selkirk College employee, Tom Cotton, is making a difference in students' lives! In April 2009, Tom started the Selkirk Staff Student Emergency Fund (SSSEF) in an effort to help students through difficult times by filling up the campus food banks. To date, the fund has raised over \$6,600!

The primary source of funding for the SSSEF has been through payroll deductions at the college. These range from \$5-\$50 per month. Currently, there are 41 employees that donate in this way.

In addition, there have been several creative fund raising initiatives by both staff and students. These fundraising initiatives have included: garage sales, donations of cash and groceries at different functions, and the sale of the Food Talk Cook Book (only \$10 and available at the campus Bookshops). The continuous bottle drive has bought \$1,433.33 in groceries.

If you are interested in contributing to the SSSEF, please contact Alumni & Donor Development Coordinator, Pat Henman, at 250.505.1324 or phenman@selkirk.ca. One time donations and monies raised from other fundraising initiatives are always welcome.





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Selkirk College Alumni Association

Helping Hands

In 2009 and 2010 Selkirk College distributed over \$378,867.00 to students in bursaries and scholarships. The 546 awards went to students in support of their education.

- **Bursaries (August 09-Feb 24, 2010): 185 attended the Bursary Tea in February 2010.**

Total awarded: \$201,747.26 | Average award: \$747.21 | Number of Awards: 271

- **Entrance Scholarship Awards (2009):**

Total awarded: \$94,775.00 | Average award: \$1,298.29 | Number of Awards: 73

- **General Scholarship Awards (2009): 415 attended the Scholarship Ceremony in September 2009.**

Total awarded: \$82,345.00 | Average award: \$413.79 | Number of Awards: 202

If you would like more information on how you can support current students please contact the Selkirk College Development Department at 250.505.1324.



Selkirk students profit from Business Competition

First and second year students from the Business Administration program at Selkirk College experienced real-life business pressures and friendly rivalry at the fifth annual Business Competition in Castlegar earlier this month.

The Competition was held as an event that brought students and the general public together, while students competed for the best marketing campaign and the best business case scenario.

Students were given three weeks of class time to prepare for the event. Working in teams of 4-6 individuals and using visual aids with various media, first year students publicly presented a marketing campaign for "The Great Outdoors in the Kootenays" in front of a panel of judges at the Castlegar campus. Simultaneously, second year teams

of students went through a business case scenario that focused on consulting for a nightclub. They also presented and defended their business strategies before a second panel of industry judges.

Winners of the competition enjoyed almost \$5,000 in cash, tuition and prizes supplied by the sponsors of the event: Certified General Accountants of BC, Columbia Basin Trust, Firebird Technologies, Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST), KBS Radio, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Leo Perra Foundation, Okanagan College, Selkirk College, Thompson Rivers University-Open Learning Division, Trail Chamber of Commerce and Yule Anderson Chartered Accountants. Columbia Power Company sponsored the business luncheon.

First place winners were teams Vertical Earth (first year students Alex Donaldson, Cody Kabatoff, Josh Verigin and Trenton Zoobkoff) and Blue Knight Consulting (second year students Kaitlan Davis, Michelle Duchesneau, Kailee Fergie and Yamei Yang).

Second place teams were West Kootenay Promotions (first year students Katlynn Bachelder, Kris Kolesnikoff, Jenny Latremouille and Gary Lee) and Blue Storm Consultants (second year students Dustin Handley, Jessica McQuarrie and Eric Niehe). Third place winners were Kootenay Air (first year students Franki Lee Bannert, Daina Beattie, Scott Jago, Marlee Kanigan and Steven Lewis) and TimCard Consulting (second year students Kento Hoshino, Steve Maloff, Jeff Verigin and Jason Webster).

First place student for Judge's Choice was Jeff Ashton and runner-up was Kailee Fergie.



Students from the Business Administration program at Selkirk College experienced real-life business pressures and friendly rivalry at the fifth annual Business Competition in Castlegar earlier this month. Shown is the winning team for the second year students, Blue Knight Consulting, which included Kaitlan Davis, Kailee Fergie, Michelle Duchesneau and Yamei Yang (left to right).

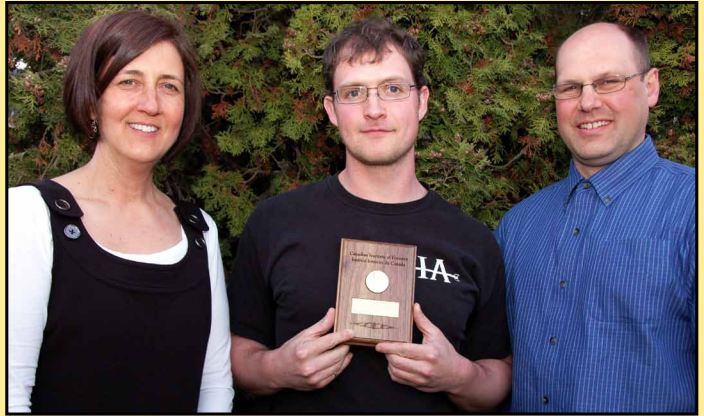
Selkirk College Forestry graduates receive recognition

The 2010 graduates from the Selkirk College Forest Technology program received their Silver Rings from the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) at a ceremony held at the Castlegar campus in early April.

The CIF, which is the only national organization of forest practitioners in Canada, offers the Silver Ring as a welcome to the profession of forestry and is a symbol of achievement in having completed a recognized forestry program. The rings are marked with a leaf, symbolic of forest ecosystems and their inherent values.

In addition to the Silver Ring, the Institute also presents a Gold Medal to a graduating student for outstanding scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship throughout the years of the program. This year, the Selkirk College Gold Medal went to John Forrest of Victoria, BC. John was selected by his instructors and peers as the graduate who best exemplifies the spirit and goals of the CIF and Selkirk College. His hard work, dedication and commitment to professionalism were recognized by the award.

All graduates from recognized forestry baccalaureate and technology programs celebrate this Silver Ring Ceremony across Canada at this time of year. The first Silver Ring ceremony was held in 1953 at UBC and by 1967 was adopted by the other three forestry schools (University of New Brunswick, University of Toronto and Laval). In 2002, the Institute welcomed graduates from technology schools. Selkirk College has been celebrating this event each spring since that time.



Faculty members of the School of Renewable Resources at Selkirk College presented John Forrest with a Gold Medal on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. The Medal was awarded to John for his hard work, dedication and commitment to professionalism while in the Forest Technology program. From left to right, Renewable Resources faculty member, Carol Andrews, John Forrest and School Chair, Peter Schroder.



REUNIONS

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary

of the Aviation program's first grad class!

FIRST CLASS AVIATION REUNION

- **Friday, October 1:** Wine and Cheese
- **Saturday, October 2:** Fun golf tournament and dinner

To register, contact Bonnie Horswill at bhorswill@selkirk.ca or 250.304.6510.

Contemporary Music & Technology Year End Shows

Selkirk's talented musicians hosted many fantastic nights of music and entertainment for their year end shows throughout the months of March and April 2010.



Fine Woodworking & Welding

These photos depict the Fine Woodworking and Welding students preparing for their year-end projects. **The Fine Woodworking Year End Show will be held from May 28-30 at the Craft Connection in Nelson.**



KSA Year End Show & Sale

Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College (KSA) hosted its annual Year End Show and Sale on Saturday, April 24, 2010. It featured handmade work from the jewellery, fibre, clay and metal studios.



Digital Arts & New Media Showcase

In April, students of the Digital Arts & New Media program displayed their skills to the community with a gallery of digital and fine art—a compilation of their very best video and other interactive presentations.



Graduation Ceremony and Tea – 2010

Congratulations Graduates of 2010! Visit www.selkirk.ca/alumni for more photos.



Alumni Profile

Ron Anderson: Selkirk College Inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient

Interview by Pat Henman

When Ron Anderson was in high school he asked his dad what he should do when he grew up. "Well, what do you want to do?" asked his dad. Ron's honest answer was "I want to do something that makes money." His dad suggested he become an engineer or architect, but he might have to study science and math. Math didn't sound so bad but he wanted nothing to do with science, so on the advice of his dad, Ron took a high school accounting course to see if he liked it, and he did.

Ron entered Selkirk College in the University Transfer (UT) program in 1989, with plans of transferring to Simon Fraser University, but that all changed with the development of the Open University program. After spending one year in UT courses, he decided to sign up for the Business Administration program and stay in Castlegar. A native of Nelson, Ron knew that by living at home and staying local, his costs would be low and his classes' small in numbers. At that time Distance Education was becoming popular and Ron was able to finish his degree through the Open University program that past Vice President of Finance and Administration of Selkirk College, George McIvor, helped develop and implement.

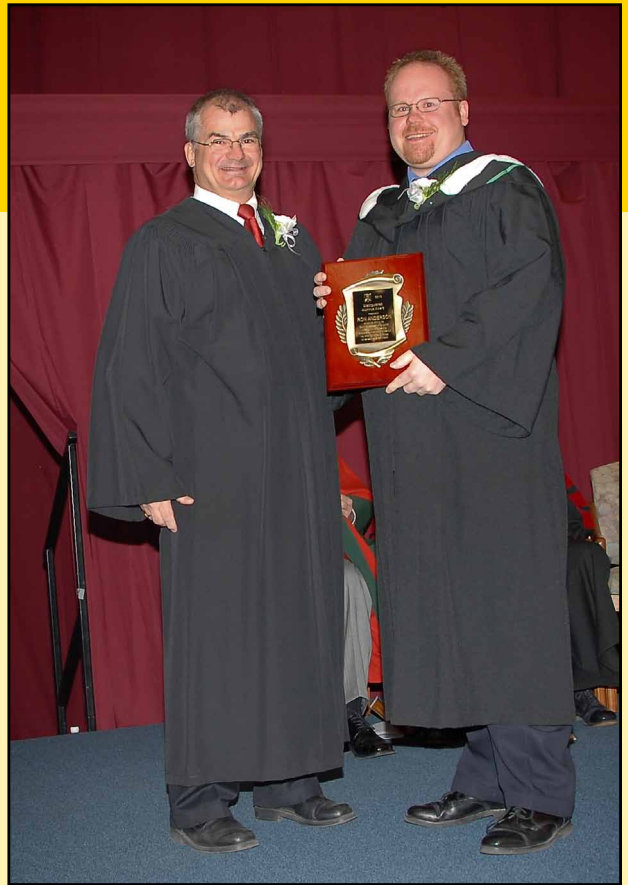
A shy young man, Ron was not sure he could pull off the one on one client interactions his chosen profession called for. There was one particular instructor who helped change all that. Don Wilson, now retired from Selkirk College, taught the public speaking portion of the program. Don taught various techniques to help his students overcome their fears of speaking to clients and groups. One exercise in particular stood out for Ron. Don would have his students stand in front of the gymnasium wall and yell anything they wanted to the cement wall for fifteen minutes. Unusual perhaps but it worked for Ron and he is grateful to Don Wilson for helping him to become comfortable as a public speaker.

After graduation, Ron left the Kootenay region to article in Vancouver for PricewaterhouseCoopers, a very successful multi-national accounting firm. While living in Vancouver he met his wife, Heather, and in 1999 the young family settled in Castlegar with the intention of staying for a long time. Ron joined Yule and Associates in October of that year, only to become a full partner in August of 2000. Yule Anderson: Chartered Accountants, as it is now called, is one of the largest public accounting firms in the Kootenay region.

Once Ron was settled in Castlegar, Selkirk College recruited him as a member of the Business Administration Advisory Committee. Within six months, the ever popular ex-Mayor of Castlegar and staunch supporter of Selkirk College, Audrey Moore, managed to entice Ron to the Selkirk College Board of Governors. As a Director of the Board for two years, Ron enjoyed learning the ropes, and for the next four years he would stay on as Chair plus as a Foundation Board member until the Foundation Board was engulfed into the college Board of Governors in 2006.

When I asked Ron what his thoughts were when college President Marilyn Luscombe called to tell him he had been nominated and won the first Alumnus Award he said "Wow! Out of 40,000 alumni of the college, I am the first!" He is extremely proud to be the recipient of the award and will continue to work with people to help make their lives better, just as Selkirk College did for him.

Ron's commitment to the community he lives in is as strong as his commitment to Selkirk College. He believes in giving back to the community, to make it a better place for himself and his family to live. Selkirk has definitely benefited from having Ron participate in the history of the governance of the college, as much as the college has been a huge influence on Ron's life to this day. On behalf of the Selkirk College Alumni Association, I would like to congratulate Ron on his success.



Selkirk College Board of Governors Vice Chair Bruce Morrison presents Ron Anderson with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 2010 Graduation Ceremony.

