



## 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation  
Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale







[www.crrf.ca](http://www.crrf.ca)



# about the foundation

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/FCRR) was established in 1989 to contribute to the revitalization and sustainability of rural Canada through collaborative research for rural leaders in the community, private sector, and in all levels of government.

CRRF/FCRR works to create credible insights and to improve our understanding of issues and opportunities that are of common interest to rural residents across Canada. Knowledge and better understanding are the fundamental pillars for the welfare of rural communities and environments.

CRRF/FCRR is an organization comprised of members from across Canada, with diverse international links, representing rural leaders, rural organizations, development practitioners, government policy makers, researchers, students, and other stakeholders interested in the future of rural Canada. The Foundation explores a diversity of issues, including rural health and social provision, local and regional economic development, local government and community governance, education, organization development, environmental management and stewardship, and many others facets of life and livelihood in rural Canada. Each year CRRF/FCRR co-hosts a national confer-

ence to share lessons learned, research findings, and discuss key rural issues. In addition to the national conference, CRRF hosts and participates in workshops, forums, and symposia to advance rural issues in Canada.

Originally known as the Agricultural and Rural Restructuring Group (ARRG), CRRF/FCRR is a national nonprofit society chartered in the Province of Alberta (#50509014) and a federally registered charity (#0990655-59).

## Core Values

CRRF/FCRR carries out its mission without favour or prejudice by political interest.

CRRF/FCRR respects and serves inclusively the interests of all segments of rural society, within communities, between metro-adjacent and remote places, and across the forestry, fishing, mining, agriculture, energy, manufacturing and services sectors.

CRRF/FCRR is open, transparent and accountable.

CRRF/FCRR seeks to broaden the common ground between rural and urban Canadians.

# president's message

Welcome to the 2016/17 annual report of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Foundation canadienne pour la revitalisation rural (CRRF/FCRR)! Through the efforts of CRRF members we have grown in numbers and continue to support rural places through our efforts, from presentations to publications and beyond. When I look at our accomplishments from the past year I am excited for what the future holds for us as we head into our 30th year as an organization.

It is my hope that this report is able to highlight some of our accomplishments and activities from the past year. This includes CRRF's contributions to a report and presentation on the impacts of infrastructure on rural development – presented to the Federal Senate Committee on Finance by former CRRF President Ryan Gibson. This was a truly great collaborative opportunity and I am really proud of our efforts. I am also very excited that this year marked the beginning of the second iteration of the State of Rural Canada under the leadership of Valencia Gaspard and Bojan Furst. This innovative and interactive web platform will be launched at the 2017 conference in Nelson. We have also continued to build our networks, striving to set an example by working collaboratively.

The 2016 conference, Building Vibrant Rural Futures, was held in Guelph, ON, in partnership with the Rural Ontario Institute, Rural Policy Learning Commons, Ontario Agriculture College, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Thanks to the efforts of the planning committee the conference was fun and active, providing an opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones, as well as to hear amazing stories from rural places across Canada and around the world. As we head into September I am excited to welcome everyone to my hometown of Nelson, BC for the 2017 conference, Different By Design!

It is through the efforts of many people that CRRF continues to operate and thrive and I would like to take a moment to thank the volunteers – both our board members and general membership – who generously give their time and expertise. I can think of very few 100% volunteer organizations that accomplish as much as we do and this is a testament to your efforts. This year our Past President Al Lauzon steps down from the board. And while new people always bring fresh and fun ideas to the board, I am sad to see Al go and will miss his level-headed guidance.

Lastly, this was my first year as CRRF President and I am lucky to have had the support and guidance from many CRRF board members, past and present. In particular, I'd like to thank our executive board members, as well as past board members Heather Hall and Ryan Gibson, for their monumental patience with me this past year.

In closing, I am excited about the upcoming 2017/18 year and our 30th anniversary and I hope to see CRRF continue to grow.

Cheers,  
Sarah-Patricia Breen

# board of directors



**Sarah-Patricia Breen**

President

Nelson, British Columbia



**Bojan Fürst**

St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador



**Valencia Gaspard**

Secretary

Guelph, Ontario



**Carol Kenny**

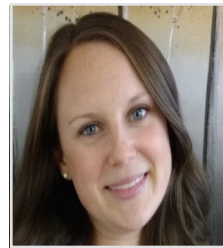
Guelph, Ontario



**Ruth Mealy**

Treasurer

Minto, Manitoba



**Sarah Minnes**

Kingston, Ontario



**Al Lauzon**

Past President

Guelph, Ontario



**Angela Pollak**

London, Ontario



**Laurie Brinklow**

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



**Craig Pollett**

St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador

# accountability and governance

## bylaws

CRRF/FCRR adopted the current bylaws at the 2016 Annual General Meeting in Guelph, Ontario. The Foundation is governed by an elected board of directors, each elected for a two-year term at the Annual General Meeting. A copy of the current bylaws can be found at [www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CRRFBylaws2016.pdf](http://www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CRRFBylaws2016.pdf)

## audited financial statements

Each year CRRF/FCRR submits the financial books, accounts, and records of the Secretary and Treasurer to an independent auditor. The most recent audit was conducted by Harris Ryan Chartered Accounts, based in St John's, Newfoundland. A copy of our audited financial statements is available on our website at [www.crrf.ca/agm/](http://www.crrf.ca/agm/).

## annual general meeting documents

The agendas and minutes from previous Annual General Meetings are posted to the CRRF/FCRR website at [www.crrf.ca/agm](http://www.crrf.ca/agm). The Foundation circulates information about upcoming AGMs at least 20 days in advance of the meeting, in accordance to our bylaws. Information is circulated to members via our e-newsletters, social media platforms, and our website. We are excited that the 2017 AGM year will be our first year with a digital AGM, allowing members unable to make the trip to participate.

## charity compliance

As a federally registered charity CRRF/FCRR annually submits the T3010 form to the Canadian Revenue Agency. Evidence of these annual submissions can be found at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/lstngs/menu-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/lstngs/menu-eng.html).







# research activities

Over the past year, CRRF/FCRR has supported and been actively involved in a number of research initiatives of interest to rural audiences. A selection of these research initiatives are illustrated below.

## International Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ICSRC) A Project of the UNESCO EuroMAB ICSRC Working Group

*Lead: Gary Clark (International Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities)*

The vision of this initiative is to create a centre that will be a physical and virtual hub for achieving UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program goals. It will perform research, educate and inspire the public, and find innovative solutions for the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and sustainable development, faced by rural communities. CRRF is supportive of the establishment of the ICSRC as a welcome addition to those agencies currently working on the revitalization of rural communities across Canada, and we look forward to collaborating with ICSRC and participating actively in its efforts.

For details contact Gary Clark at [gclarke@aquilonconsult.ca](mailto:gclarke@aquilonconsult.ca) or visit [www.sustainrural.ca](http://www.sustainrural.ca).

## Making a Difference? Measuring Outcomes of Provincial Rural Policies and Programs

*Lead: Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)*

This research initiative will examine how provinces across Canada have defined rural development policies/programs, designed new initiatives, and evaluated their success. The mandate of this initiative is to provide Ontario evidence-based recommendations for designing, implementing, and evaluating successful rural development policies and programs. CRRF committed to \$45,000 of in-kind support to this exciting project. For details contact Ryan Gibson at [gibsonr@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gibsonr@uoguelph.ca).





## Rural Policy Learning Commons

*Lead: Bill Ashton (Brandon University)*

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) is a 7-year Partnership project established in 2014 to enhance Canadian prosperity by: (i) identifying and analyzing policy options relevant to rural and northern places, (ii) evaluating these options in the context of national and international policy innovations, and (iii) building leadership capacity among rural and northern researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners. CRRF continues to collaborate in many ways with the RPLC. Further information on the Rural Policy Learning Commons can be found at [www.rplc-capr.ca](http://www.rplc-capr.ca).

## Different By Design

*Lead: Terri Macdonald (Selkirk College) and Sarah Breen (CRRF/FCRR)*

The overall goal of the Different By Design initiative is to create an opportunity for key rural actors to come together to advance and enhance a resilient rural Canada, informing future policy, planning, and action. The initiative has four objectives: i) to build the capacity of rural regions to revitalize their communities through the sharing of best practices; ii) to provide undergraduate and graduate students with skills development and capacity building opportunities in ways that will facilitate their transition to future students /and or workforce; iii) to enhance existing and create new networks among conference delegates both nationally and internationally; and iv) to mobilize knowledge related to rural revitalization to ensure discussions and networks continue and are shared with stakeholders who may not be able to attend the conference.

## Regional Workforce Development in Rural BC

*Lead: Terri Macdonald (Selkirk College)*

The overarching goal of the Regional Workforce Development in Rural BC project is to collectively assess comparative workforce development strategies in ways that inform future policy, planning, and action. This project brings together the region's educators, elected officials, policy makers, economic development practitioners, industry, students, and leading scholars to examine workforce development challenges and opportunities; facilitate and mobilize knowledge, analysis and emerging discussions; generate new research questions and dialogues; and provide opportunity for the engagement, networking, and capacity building of highly qualified personnel. For more information visit: [www.cbrdi.ca/workforce/](http://www.cbrdi.ca/workforce/).

# 2016-2017 key activities

## Webinar: Rural Competitiveness in Canada

CRRF board members Ruth Mealy and Sarah Breen were two of the four presenters on this webinar that took a closer at demographics and migration flow across Canada to and from different types of Self-contained labour areas, and discussed what these findings mean for rural places. A video of the webinar can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7VRnIjAsmk>

## Rural Town Hall, 2017 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show, Ottawa, ON

CRRF/FCRR member Heather Hall spoke to over 200 delegates as part of a panel dedicated to discussing the rural lens for federal policy making, new federal investments in rural Canada, and what tools are needed to shape the next 150 years of rural Canada. Housing, clean drinking water, green energy alternatives, better roads and bridges were all mentioned as priorities for rural infrastructure investment and a more coordinated policy.

## Infrastructure Impacts on Rural Development and Economics, Ottawa, ON

This report and presentation was a collaborative effort between CRRF, the Brandon University Rural Development Initiative, and the Rural Policy Learning Commons. Presented to the Senate Committee on Finance by Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph), this work drew attention to the relationship between infrastructure and rural development, providing an overview and recommendations for rural specific actions.

## A Food Policy for Canada - Food Summit, Ottawa, ON

CRRF/FCRR was extended an invitation by the federal government to participate in their Food Summit in June 2017. CRRF/FCRR member Kathleen Kevany of Dalhousie's Rural Research Centre and the RPLC attended and participated, bringing a strong rural

voice to the event. Heading forward CRRF has a role to play in building prosperous rural communities and strengthening food systems. Work on the Food Policy is ongoing; visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html>.

## State of Rural Canada Volume 2: Innovation in Rural Canada Interactive Map

CRRF/FCRR has collected information on rural innovations from across the country and placed it on an interactive map, allowing anyone to access the map. Clicking on a particular innovation will allow you to learn more about it and who they might contact to learn more.

## Rural Routes: Creating audio knowledge mobilization meta-tools for rural development

Rural Routes is a radio show and a podcast that asks: "What is rural in the 21st century?" Now in its second season, the Rural Routes audio program provides a knowledge mobilization and development support communications vehicle for researchers and community champions, policy makers, rural residents, and social and economic development practitioners interested in a wide range of rural issues. The podcast is distributed free of charge through a variety of private and NGO partnerships in Canada and abroad. To subscribe go to [www.ruralroutespodcasts.com](http://www.ruralroutespodcasts.com)

## Building Vibrant Rural Futures Conference in Guelph, ON

The 29th annual CRRF/FCRR rural conference was a great success! The conference was held in partnership with the Rural Ontario Institute, Rural Policy Learning Commons, Ontario Agriculture College, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Presentations and online resources from the conference are still available at <http://guelph2016.crrf.ca/>.



## Successful New Researcher Forum at Guelph Conference

Thanks to the generosity of the Brandon University Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University, another successful New Researcher Forum was held at the annual CRRF conference. In Guelph the RDI led in the planning and delivery of a well-attended and informative forum. The New Research Forum provides an opportunity for new researchers, community development practitioners, and policy makers to create networks, discuss research method issues, and build skills and capacities.

## Continued Social Media Presence

CRRF/FCRR continues to share rural knowledge and news from across the country through our social media platforms. CRRF/FCRR continues to build an active social media presence to share information and facilitate discussions on issues of relevance to rural Canada. You can follow CRRF/FCRR through our social media platforms: Twitter ([@CRRF\\_FCRR](#)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/crrf\\_fcrr](#)) and LinkedIn.

## CRRF/FCRR E-Newsletters

The Communications Committee continues to produce monthly CRRF/FCRR e-newsletters that highlight rural and regional development news, new policies and programs, updates on rural research initiatives, and notification of upcoming rural events that reach out to over 2,000 people across the country. We welcome news and stories from our readers. Please email us at [crrf-fcrr@live.com](mailto:crrf-fcrr@live.com).

## Calendar of Rural Events

The CRRF/FCRR website continues to house a listing of events, conferences and workshops of interest to rural and regional development. This past year the online calendar of events has benefitted from the financial support of the Rural Policy Learning Commons to engage a student to assist in its maintenance. The calendar of events can be found at [www.crrf.ca/events](http://www.crrf.ca/events). Additional events can be added by sending the event details to [crrf-fcrr@live.com](mailto:crrf-fcrr@live.com).



# lifetime members

In 2013, the CRRF/FCRR board of directors created a Lifetime Membership policy to recognize individuals who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the betterment of rural Canada. This year the Foundation is honoured to add Robert Annis to the list of distinguished individuals who have received CRRF/FCRR lifetime

## CRRF/FCRR Lifetime Members

The new lifetime member announced in Nelson joins the following group of CRRF/FCRR lifetime members.



**L. Peter  
Apedaile**



**Ken  
Donnelly**



**Ray  
Bollman**



**David  
Douglas**



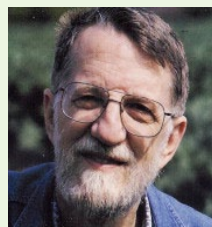
**Heather  
Clemenson**



**Anthony  
(Tony) Fuller**



**Bruno  
Jean**



**William  
(Bill) Reimer**



**Richard  
Rounds**



# Robert C. Annis



Over the past four decades, Bob Annis has profoundly impacted the landscape of rural development in Canada and abroad. He has championed multi-year research initiatives, facilitated local entrepreneurship and economic development initiatives, advanced rural public policy, and mentored a generation of new rural researchers, policy makers, and community practitioners.

In his role as the Director of the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University (1999-2009) Bob worked in partnership with rural and northern communities to advance our collective understanding of community-based development strategies, multi-community collaboration, government-community partnerships, local economic development, and rural quality of life. In partnership with CRRF, Bob hosted the Think Tank on Rural Immigration. This seminal event served as a catalyst for over a decade of research on immigration in small places across Canada.

Bob's commitment to rural Canada is evident through his leadership roles with Community Futures program (past chair of Community Futures Westman, Community Futures Partners of Manitoba, Pan-West Community Futures Network, and current chair of Community Futures British Columbia), Metropolis, Canadian Community Economic Development Network, International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Consortium, and CRRF/FCRR (board member and past president). Bob's outstanding contributions have enhanced the betterment of rural Canada and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.



# join the foundation as a member

Now in its third decade, CRRF/FCRR is a proven rural resource, dedicated to active collaboration, undertaking, facilitating and advocating research for the ongoing development of Canada's rural communities and environments. As an informal, volunteer run organization dedicated to the welfare of rural Canada it provides a host of benefits to an expanding membership.

Being a member of this Canada-wide and international collaborative network brings with it a variety of benefits, which include:

- direct access to Canada's leading researchers, practitioners, policy advisers, professional consultants, community activists, and many others.
- participation in our Annual Conference, exciting, stimulating and informative three-day events.
- access to the New Researchers Forum for tips, coaching, contacts, mentors, and practical information on all aspects of rural development research (e.g. community surveys, workshop facilitation, Census data).
- access to knowledge about rural-relevant information and data for analysis or education purposes.
- contact with international rural development networks in, for example, the European Union, Australia, Japan, the United States, and elsewhere.
- direct access to a variety of published research (e.g. books, reports, papers, surveys).
- opportunities to hear leading authorities on rural development from around the world, at our Annual Conferences and occasional Think Tanks and collaborative Research Workshops.
- opportunities to collaborate on a variety of rural research Proposals which generate short, medium and longer term projects.
- access to our electronic E-newsletter, an informative, current and researcher/ practitioner focused quarterly publication.
- opportunities to interact with a variety of organizations active in rural development

CRRF/FCRR offers both a one-year membership (\$30) and a five-year membership (\$100). Membership runs from January – December. Become a member today by visiting [www.crrf.ca/?page\\_id=31](http://www.crrf.ca/?page_id=31).



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Foundation-Fondation-4104656

# thank you

The work of the Foundation is completed through the generous in-kind contributions of people from across the country. We would like to acknowledge these individuals who have contributed to their time to our activities.

**Communications Committee:** Joshua Barrett, Lori Blore, Laurie Brinklow, Valencia Gaspard, Ryan Gibson

**Finance Committee:** Sarah Breen, Valencia Gaspard, Ruth Mealy

**Membership Committee:** Ryan Gibson, Al Lauzon, Ruth Mealy, Craig Pollett, Verona Thibault

**Networks and Strategic Partnerships Working Group:** David Felker, Rob Greenwood, Heather Hall, Dazawray Landrie Parker, Al Lauzon, Sarah Minnes

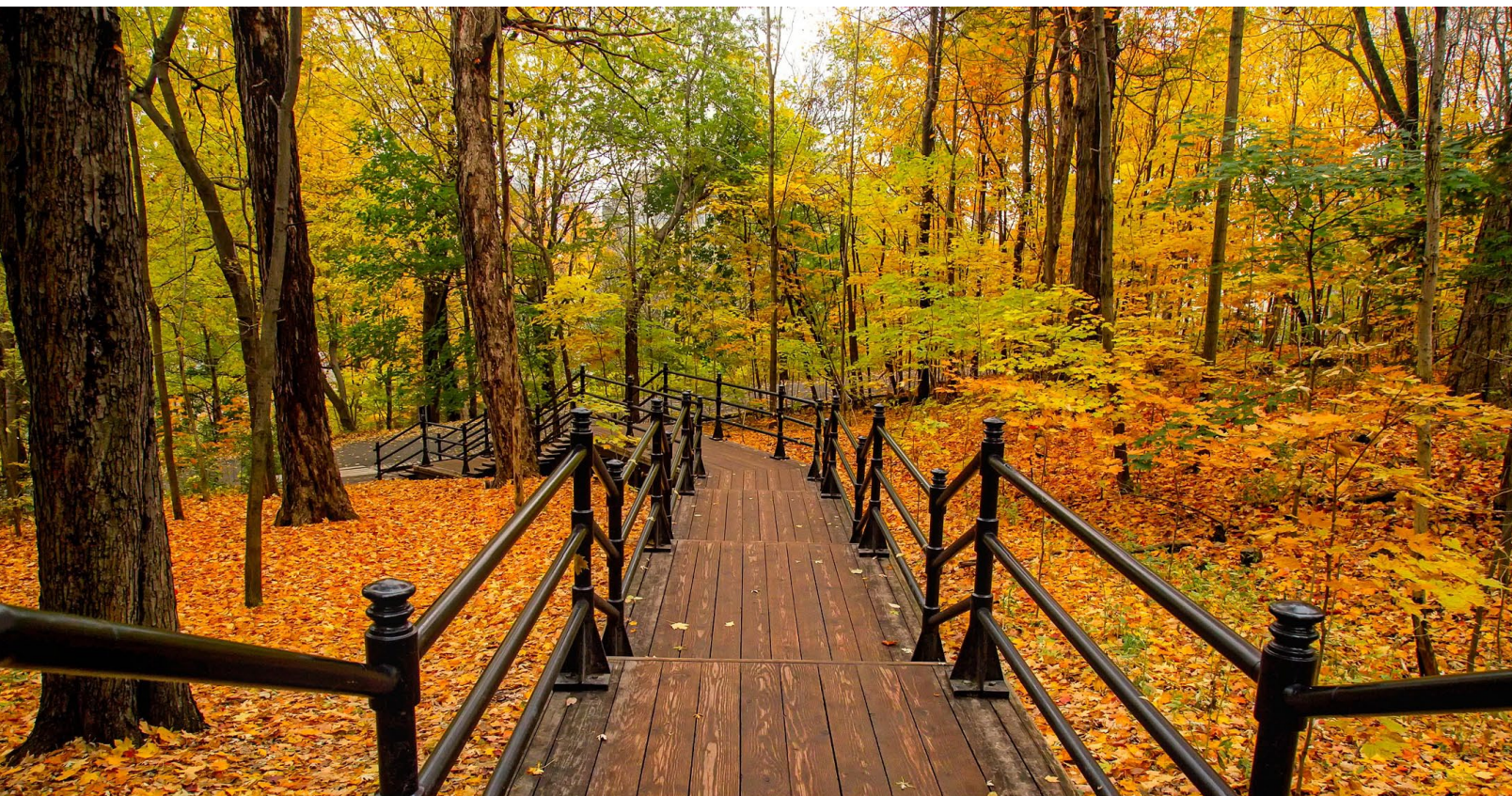
**Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Sarah Breen, Carol Kenny, Angela Pollak, Craig Pollett

**2016 Conference Planning Committee:** Valencia Gaspard, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Wayne Kelly, Al Lauzon, Norm Regatlie, Karla Uliana.

**2017 Conference Planning Committee:** Michael Blatherwick, Deb Borsos, Sarah Breen, Lisa Cannady, Valencia Gaspard, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Kathleen Jackson, Terri MacDonald, Sarah Minnes, Nadine Raynolds, Danielle Robinson, Sharon Stoddart, Gordon Yusko

**2018 Conference Planning Committee:** Heather Exner-Pirot, Valencia Gaspard, Phil Loring, Emmy Neuls, Verona Thibault, Tony Tung

**State of Rural Canada Volume 2 Organizers:** Valencia Gaspard, Bojan Fürst





# looking forward to 2017-2018

## 2018 CRRF Conference

CRRF/FCRR is very excited to announce that next year's conference will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The conference will be hosted in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan's College of Nursing and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association. Details coming soon at: [www.saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/](http://www.saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/)

## State of Rural Canada 2

Over the coming year CRRF/FCRR will be encouraging communities to upload their stories of resilience, sustainability, and revitalization into the second edition of the State of Rural Canada. The interactive map will demonstrate the diversity and commitment of rural Canadians from coast to coast to coast!

## 30th Anniversary

2018 marks the 30th anniversary for the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation! Over the course of the upcoming year, the Foundation will celebrate the achievements of the past 30 years. If you have photographs and/or suggestions of achievements to highlight please email them to [crrf-fcrr@live.com](mailto:crrf-fcrr@live.com).

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