

Touching the lives of many

Sean Nicol Legacy Fund to support organizations, bring hope to people in the community

BY BROOK JONES

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It was an annual gathering that began to bring family and friends together as a way to remember the life of Sean Nicol, but has now turned into a fundraising event in support of the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund.

Family and friends of Sean, who died suddenly Jan. 29, 2007, have continued to gather on his birthday each year after his death to not only remember him, but to also celebrate his life.

"I miss him on a regular basis," exclaimed Sean's father Larry Nicol with emotion in his eyes.

And on the evening of April 13, one day before his birthday, the 2013 Shaw Barbecue for Hope in support of the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund was held at the Selkirk Legion.

"He would have been 52 years old (tomorrow) and today worked out really good for the fundraiser. We've actually been talking about it for a couple of years and it's been in the works for a year and a half," said Sean's mother Arlene Nicol. "We know Sean would be proud. His friends have always been there for us - he had the best friends."

As many as 160 people attended the kickoff event for the legacy fund, which is a perpetual endowment fund, being held and professionally managed by the Selkirk and District Community Foundation.

Long time friend Kris Pellaers, who graduated from the Selkirk Comp in 1998, gave the toast to Sean at the barbecue of hope. He says that he'll remember going fishing with Sean as well as playing street hockey.

"I even had a hard time getting a ticket and I'm happy that it was sold out," said Kris Pellaers, who was friends with Sean since Grade 5. "We did really well and I'm glad to see everyone come together in the community."

Kyle Swystun, 31, is another longtime friend of Sean, who was involved with the planning of the event.

"If Sean could be here I think he would be impressed with everyone coming out,"

said Kyle. "There was fantastic support. We hope it can be an annual event."

Money raised through the endowment fund will be going towards supporting the programs and organizations that bring hope and opportunity to the people that most need them throughout the community of Selkirk - organizations that Sean would be proud to support.

"The fund has been initiated," explained Duane. "All funds that are raised are invested into the fund. It really is a joint effort between family and friends."

What Duane remembers most about his younger brother is the amount that he gave to others and to his community, and says he was a champion of the underdog in life.

"He would do anything for you," said Duane. "There are so many great moments that we shared."

Shaw came on board as a major sponsor for the event as they were the title sponsor. Coming on board as presenter sponsors were George Hacking of Century 21, Centrum Mortgage Choice, and Matt Evans of Team Call J - Rey/Max.

Show sales consultant Chris Rae says he was really touched to see the support for the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund from such a small community and says that family and friends of Sean worked really hard to get the event off the ground.

"It's important for Shaw to give back to the community, not just locally, but nationwide," said Shaw service consultant Chris Rey. "It's important to give back, especially to the rural communities and not just the big centres."

Table sponsors included MLA for Selkirk Greg Dewar, MLA for Gimli Peter Bjornson, Selkirk Ancestry, Kyle Swystun, Jason Langlois, BFI Canada, Lorne Nicol and Family, and Duane Nicol and Family.

For more information visit www.seannicol.org, www.facebook.com/seannicollegacyfund, and on twitter [@seannicollegacy](https://twitter.com/seannicollegacy).



PHOTOS BY BROOK JONES

(Top) A portrait of the late Sean Nicol as well as information about the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund are on display April 13 at the Selkirk Legion. (Bottom) Larry and Arlene Nicol present Leil Malegus with a \$5,000 cheque for the Selkirk and District Community Foundation on the evening of April 13 at the Selkirk Legion. The money raised will be going towards the Sean Nicol Legacy Fund.