

RIVER CITY CLASSICS CAR CLUB COMMUNITY DONATIONS

December 3, 2018 at the Call of the West Museum, High River.

It's always a special occasion when you can give money to deserving groups serving our community.

River City Classics treasurer, Ted Dawson, led the evening off by remarking the annual Show and Shine in September suffered from lousy weather this year. Instead of the usual 1,200 cars showing up, less than 350 were parked on the downtown streets.

If the weather threatens to snow, rain, blow, or all-of-the-above, classic vehicle enthusiasts won't bring their babies out of the garage. They just don't want to risk it.

However, even though the gate receipts were down, River City Classics Car Club still made enough money to give back to an impressive list of local charities.

Here are some interesting tales related to where the money goes:

The Children's Wish Foundation grants wishes large and small to kids who are severely ill. A little girl's wish for a "room full of kittens" was granted when a local animal shelter brought in 24 kittens. The little girl was over the moon with excitement. Her wish was granted! Unfortunately, she passed away only a week later.

The Museum of the Highwood is now also the Information Centre. On the day of the Show and Shine, they also generously let the public and volunteers use their washrooms. So each year, along with a small donation, RCCCC supplies a large bale of toilet paper a couple of days before the big day. The museum presented River City with a black and white photograph from 1919 and "a parade of many cars" on main street High River.

The Lions Club does a big pancake breakfast on the day of the Show and Shine and hot dogs and drinks for the July 1st celebration.

The United Church is right in the middle of the car show...on the Sunday before, during and after their Sunday service. Their representative said they enjoy the cars just as much as River City does. The club makes a small donation to say "thank-you" for their patience and understanding as we disrupt their Sunday.

We all agree the Salvation Army does splendid work for those in need in our town. Their foodbank supplies hampers to over 100 families each month. The Christmas season will see them provide more than 250 hampers and dinner for folks. River City raised the registration fee for the Show and Shine and \$5.00 goes directly to the Salvation Army for them to use as necessary for the Foodbank. They can make that money go farther than we can if we're just bringing food donations.

We all know kids learn better on a full tummy. To that end the Right Honourable Joe Clark School, Spitzee School, and Holy Spirit Academy provide a programme to feed kids breakfast and lunch when they need it. They're very appreciative of the yearly donation from the funds from the Show and Shine.

The Narrow Road Home is a transitional home for women who are recovering from various addictions and are building a new life for themselves. In many cases the women need to relocate to new surroundings to get away from a bad situation. This facility also covers costs through the new Creperie restaurant and the Soul Sisters store of gently used items of clothing, furniture and what-nots for the home.

The Call of the West Museum had already earmarked their donation to upgrade, and add, heat to the back portion of the museum. Al Millard also thanked the folks from the Museum of the Highwood for directing many visitors to his museum.

The High River Handi Bus started 24 years ago in the first week of December. It's run by an all-volunteer crew, except for the full time drivers. They run four busses six days a week, and Sundays during church service hours. In November they logged 600 trips in town.

The High River District Health Care Foundation noted they will be opening the new maternity facility in February. High River is now home to a cataract surgery suite with a state-of-the-art machine to aid in the surgeries. There is only one other machine like it in all of Canada. We have also attracted a top-notch specialist to perform the surgeries.

Flyers Hockey and minor hockey are big in our town. There are 288 registered players on 17 teams. The River City donation helps kids cover the registration costs. They plan to recognize River City Classics Car Club on next year's rink boards.

Rowan House is a shelter for women and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. The facility has beds for 34, a full day care and counselling. Rowan House usually runs at capacity, serving a big area surrounding High River. They have undertaken an extensive "education" programme, reaching out to schools and the community to curb violence before it damages families.

The Eamons Garage Historical Society is an obvious recipient as River City Classics Car Club is responsible for purchasing the garage and undertaking the restoration project. Many volunteer hours and donations-in-kind have brought the iconic garage back to life. But like many restoration projects, there's always more to do. The garage will soon be ready for visitors.

So, although registrations and attendance were down from previous years, the hard working car club was able to contribute in a big way to the life and well-being of our town. River City Classics Car Club is proud to organize, along with our sponsors, the biggest annual car show in Alberta.

Come and bring your vehicle to the River City Classics Car Club Show and Shine Sunday, September 22, 2019

Submitted by Lynne Thornton