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# CAMPUS CONNECTION

Keyano's Bi-Monthly Newsletter

*Happy Holidays*

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## Keyano College proudly welcomes Preston Manning for the Global Address Speaker Series

*"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do and how to do it."*

This quote from Abraham Lincoln will be the basis of Preston Manning's address as he discusses the political future of Alberta, in particular, what the next chapter in Alberta's development will look like during the Global Address on January 21, 2010 on Keyano Theatre's Mainstage.

Mr. Manning is a great Canadian political visionary who has tirelessly championed the cause of democratic and political reform. He founded two political parties - the Reform Party and the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance - both of which became the official Opposition on the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Manning served as the Leader of the Opposition from 1997 to 2000.



Since retirement from Parliament in 2002, he has released a book entitled Think Big, served as a Senior Fellow of the Canada West Foundation, and as a Distinguished Visitor at the University of Calgary and University of Toronto. Mr. Manning is currently a Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute.

As founder, President and CEO of the [Manning Centre for Building Democracy](#), Mr. Manning continues his lifelong commitment to improving Canada's democracy.

During his talk, he will look at Alberta's performance in six crucial areas of development, and will offer his insights into actions that can be taken to improve, or maintain, that performance. The six crucial areas are: handling of public money (fiscal responsibility); balanced economic growth; environmental conservation; health and education; democratic participation and leadership on the national stage.

Excited to return to Fort McMurray and to visit Keyano College for the first time Mr. Manning is looking forward to the event.

"I first visited Fort McMurray in 1962 and have watched its growth and expansion ever since. Today, of course, it is at the centre of oil sands development, and the attendant environmental issues, and I welcome the chance to visit Keyano College and discuss the future of this part of Alberta with all its potential and challenges."

Jim Foote, President, Keyano College says Mr. Manning's visit is very pertinent to the Region.

"His perspective will be very unique because he is not tied with any political party nor is he running for office," explains Foote.

"Our staff, faculty students, and the community will be keenly interested in his discussion of Alberta's political future" Foote added.

The Global Address has a focus to bring about a variety of world-class perspectives and ideas to Wood Buffalo. It has been sponsored in part by the Shell Campus Ambassador Program, Country 93.3, Rock 97.9 and the *Fort McMurray Today*.

Tickets are \$23 available at the Keyano Box Office, 780-791-4990 and can be purchased online at [www.keyano.ca/theatre](http://www.keyano.ca/theatre) (press the "Tickets" tab to begin your purchase)

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## Financial gurus to headline workshops at Keyano

We can't be serious about this stuff - we deal with it! That's Kevin Cork's philosophy about financial planning. To put the fun back in this chore, he's heading to Keyano College on February 6, 2010 for a day-long workshop.

Cork, CFP, is President of TheAbsoluteGroup.com and has 18 years financial planning experience. He has appeared on CBC Newsworld, A-Channel, ROB TV, Global, CTV, QR77, TVOntario, CityTV, and Canada Learning Television. His workshop entitled *Financial Planning for Anyone Who Hates Planning their Finances* will feature his trademark humorous and dynamic style.

The session will cover "some painlessly easy ways to accomplish the minimum work you need to get yourself organized financially, so you can get your spouse off your back and go back to following Jon and Kate get divorced on YouTube," explains Cork.

Additional information, according to Cork, will feature: "organizing, automating and then ignoring your banking, credit cards, cash flow, bills; handling debt, mortgages etc for the near-dead; an apathetic, but successful investment portfolio for your RRSP, RESP, TFSA or pension plan; and insurance made simple: dealing with death, disease or dismemberment for fun and profit."

Participants will leave the workshop with Cork's national bestseller *The Money Book* accompanied by *The Investment Book*, and "at least six quick tricks to save, invest, spend or insure wisely. The presentation will be broken up with time for questions and comments, debates and name calling," says Cork.

But the financial advice doesn't end there. On March 13, Evelyn Jacks, Canada's most prolific and best-selling author of over 40 books on personal taxation will present a workshop at Keyano.

The second workshop featuring Jacks specifically caters to topics pertinent to the Wood Buffalo region such as Living Out Allowance and Northern Living Allowance, as well as self-employment and small business tax essentials.

She has established nationwide acclaim as a national and international award-winning business educator; and was winner of the prestigious Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Rotman School of Business. She was also appointed a Commissioner for the Lower Tax Commission by the Premier of Manitoba.

Participants will leave the workshop with Evelyn's bestseller *Essential Tax Facts for 2010*.

Sarah Imran, Coordinator, Workforce Development, Keyano College, is overseeing the workshops, which as being held in the Doug Schmit Lecture Theatre and is excited to host speakers of such calibre.

"It is great to host celebrities from the world of finance. We've been asked by the community to host financial planning workshops on Saturdays and these events are an effort to meet community demand," explains Imran.

"Keyano College is proud to host these world-class speakers. We've seen them both on television and now's our chance to ask questions without any sales pressure. I encourage everyone to make use of the early bird discount," Imran adds.

**To register, call Sarah Imran at 780-792-5615.**



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### **Winter Lights judges impressed by Keyano's animated light display**

They had been to Fort McMurray before but this was the first winter trip for the Winter Lights judges and they found Keyano's animated light display in the Doug MacRae Park very impressive.

Keyano College was one of the many stops for the judges of the Winter Lights program, the compliment to the summer's Communities in Bloom national beatification program. Fort McMurray did not compete in Winter Lights this year but requested an evaluation, and included Keyano College on their tour on December 17.

"Wow! That's what comes to mind when I saw the animated light component. You hear about it but to see it is just great," said Berta Briggs, one of the judges.

"Fort McMurray is a winter city and to be back here is great," she added. Briggs and Steve Preston met with members of the College staff from a variety of departments the Theatre, Foundation and Executive Office and learned about the many activities going on year-round at the College.

The animated lights at the College are coordinated by Alan Roberts, Production Manager, Keyano Theatre. The component was introduced last year at *The Lights of Christmas*, Keyano's annual winter event and this year featured double the amount of lights - 200,000.

Seville Kwan, Beautification Coordinator with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo arranged the Keyano tour. She said the judges went away impressed with not only the lights display, but the Foundation's community work featuring annual events like the Gala and Golf Tournament.

"They loved seeing our city in the winter. We plan to formally compete next year," Kwan noted.



Volunteers of Santa's Anonymous with Winter Lights judges Berta Briggs and Steve Preston (far right). Photo Courtesy: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

## Conservatory student wins prestigious silver medal



Emely Herle with Peter Ellis at the award ceremony. Photo Submitted.

Emily Herle is an outstanding viola player and the accolades prove it. The Keyano Conservatory student won the prestigious silver medal from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Calgary on November 22.

Herle was honoured in the Grade 6 viola category at the Temple B'nai Tikvah. She says the award certainly caught her by surprise.

"It was amazing to learn I had won. The ceremony was great; I was very happy to be around all the musicians who had worked so hard," recalls Herle, 15.

Herle, who is home-schooled, says she wishes to pursue physiotherapy as a profession and wished to thank her teacher Peter Ellis for everything.

"Mr. Ellis is very supportive and Keyano College is great because of its small class sizes," Herle adds. Peter Ellis, Chair, Visual & Performing Arts, Keyano College, is proud of his student. He accompanied her to the award ceremony in Calgary where the teachers were also honoured with a luncheon.

"It is always exciting to work with students who are both gifted, and eager to practice. Emily's confidence really started developing last spring; she now plays with an authority that will take her a long way," explains Ellis, who has been teaching her for three years now.

Herle is also a pianist. She has played in the string ensembles at the College for a number of years now.

"Emily is a well-rounded musician, and she enjoys ballet as well as her instrumental work. She thoroughly enjoyed the Moscow Ballet's *Nutcracker* last month having taken dance classes. She is also acting and singing in the cast of *High School Musical*, (to open on February 11, 2010), which has started musical rehearsals already at Keyano College," adds Ellis.

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## Of tender family moments, intersections and Celestial objects - Keyanoites featured in *NorthWord's* second issue

In this day and age of text speak, quick messaging on Facebook and Twitter - it is so refreshing to see endeavours which honour the written word. *NorthWord*, A Literary Journal of Canada's North - Wood Buffalo's first literary magazine which made its debut earlier this year has just launched its second issue and once again Keyano staff, faculty and even an alum are featured in the publication.



Founded by the Northern Canada Collective Society for Writers (NCCSW), *NorthWord* features original fiction, non-fiction, poetry and art from a cross-section of community members. The magazine is published twice a year and has received support from Keyano College and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for the second issue.

Featured Keyano writers include David Sabine, Music Instructor, Jeff Hoffman, Drama alum and Russell Thomas, Director, Marketing & Communications. The second issue was edited by Jane Jacques, University Studies Instructor and Blair Hemstock, also a University Studies Instructor is the Managing Editor of *NorthWord*.

"I'm delighted to see fellow staff members interested in *NorthWord*," says Jacques.

"The Keyano community has supported us in so many ways: by submitting material, sponsoring our printing, carrying the magazine at the Bookstore, and buying copies. We're grateful to staff and students for their encouragement and interest. I think the second issue would make a wonderful stocking stuffer for anyone who enjoys reading," she added.

Russell Thomas, Director, Marketing & Communications, Keyano College was excited to be published by the magazine. He wrote about a tender moment with his grandfather.

"Being published in *NorthWord* is a huge honour for me. My submission was a tribute to my grandfather who passed away this year, the day after his 99th birthday. As a writing exercise I tried to capture our last moments together, but expressed through his eyes and heart. It provides a glimpse into the life of a farmer, father, and grandfather in the waning weeks of his life."

Blair Hemstock wished to thank Cindy Amerongen, Vice President, External Division, Keyano College for sponsoring the printing. He says virtually every local cultural event features the Keyano family.

"Scratch the surface of any such event and you will find Keyano people beneath. *NorthWord* is no different. Keyano employees comprise more than half of the Northern Canada Collective Society for

Writers. Getting a magazine from conception to print to newsstands requires a good deal of talent and effort, skills which many people developed during their day-jobs at Keyano," explains Hemstock.

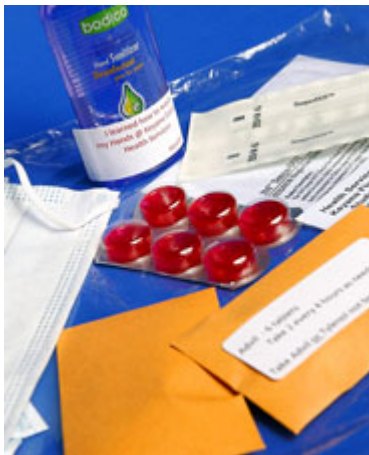
"The artistic side of Keyano people is also no surprise. The creativity found on our campuses is evident to everyone who takes a close look. Since I teach literature for a living, I'm especially proud of the writers we have in our midst. In issue two of *NorthWord*, for example, one in every four contributors works at Keyano, as does the issue's editor, Jane Jacques. The quality of work provided by Jeffrey Hoffman, Kiran Malik-Khan, David Sabine and Russell Thomas makes the magazine well worth reading. Pick up a copy and see for yourself," Hemstock added.

*NorthWord* is available for sale at the Keyano Bookstore, Coles, Frames and More, Chow's and the Airport Gift Shop.

The theme for the third issue is Twist - slated for publication next summer. Please note the new address for submissions: [NorthWord@hushmail.com](mailto:NorthWord@hushmail.com). The editors are looking for short stories or excerpts from current projects, fiction or non-fiction (3,000 words maximum), verse of no more than 50 lines, along with anything surprising, original, evocative or inventive. If it can be published, they are interested.

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## Keyano cares for its own



Isolated students appreciated the flu kits, which contained Advil, Tylenol, and hand sanitizer among other things.

When Krystal Parsons was down with the flu in residence at Keyano College, she wasn't alone. Keyano Health Services was there for her.

"Val Grainger and Vicki Clift were just great," enthuses Parsons, a third-year Nursing student. Grainger is Keyano's Nurse and Health Services Coordinator and Clift is her Administrative Assistant.

"Vicki always had a smile on her face when she brought me food; I could tell despite the mask," recalls Parsons, who was one of the 10 students in isolation last month at Clearwater Hall, due to influenza.

Clift, who delivered meals to the isolated students even on weekends, says it was just a great feeling to be able to help and give them some joy during a difficult time. The 10 students were from out of town with no family to support them through this period.

"The ill students were lonely, a little scared, and they looked forward to a friendly face. I think it's great that Keyano College went above and beyond to provide our students with meals - we added lollipops to the trays to make them smile," recalls Clift.

Keyano College provided 35 breakfasts, 32 lunches and 37 dinners over a period of 22 days for isolated students. A typical breakfast ranged from fruit cups and muffins; while lunch was sandwich, fruit and juice. Dinner featured an impressive menu of turkey dinners, roast beef or fish and chips as well as lasagna.

Val Grainger is proud of Clift and she says went "above and beyond" to help out the students. She

says when she pitched the idea to the Keyano Executive to provide quarantined students with meals, there was no hesitation.

"They said yes right away; there was no question. Ovation Catering (Keyano Cafeteria caterers) was amazing. They would have something available even on short notice. Proper nutrition is very important for patient care and they helped us immensely," says Grainger.

Speaking of patient care, the students were provided with care kits from the College consisting of hand sanitizer, masks, disposable thermometers, Strepisils and Tylenol as well as Advil, with instructions.

"Caring for our students is part of our pandemic planning. We tried to meet individual needs with the meals and daily bed-checks - to ensure they had everything before turning in for the night," Grainger explained.

Parsons, 22, who hails from St. Albert says the experience taught her much.

"As future nurses, we learn about compassion from day one in class, but Val demonstrated it for me, while I was sick," says Parsons.

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## A Winter Affair of the Arts fills theatre

Keyano Theatre was almost filled to capacity as *A Winter Affair of the Arts* put a delightful cap on an incredible day of seasonal celebration at the Keyano College on December 4. A concert featuring all the artistic disciplines taught through the Visual and Performing Arts department, *A Winter Affair of the Arts* has grown into the cultural highlight of the Christmas period.

"The entire evening felt wonderful," said Peter Ellis, Chair, Visual & Performing Arts and Director of the Keyano Community Choir. "This is a great opportunity to feature the many students, young and old, who participate in our programs. A lot of effort goes into the preparation of this concert and based on the response, it was absolutely worth it."

*A Winter Affair of the Arts* opened with the Keyano Community Choir and a medley of selections from *The Phantom of the Opera*. The ensemble's warm and resonant harmonies, combined with their exuberance, set the tone for the entire evening.

David Sabine conducted the spirited members of the Keyano Community Band while Bill Prouten led the Keyano Jazz Band, two musical ensembles comprised of both students and community members.

"We encourage anyone interested in pursuing their artistic passions to join one of our groups," said Ellis. "The mix of college students and community members provides a great environment to rediscover your love of music."

One of the evening's highlights was the ballet performance of *Dance of the Flowers* featuring 39 members of the Keyano Conservatory Dancers, a presentation choreographed by Nola Antony with music by the Keyano Clearwater Quartet. Resplendent in their flowing red dresses, the dancers enchanted the audience, earning thunderous applause.

"This event crystallizes the important role that Keyano College plays as the cultural hub of Wood Buffalo," said Jim Foote, President, Keyano College. "Hearing the positive reaction of the audience to the music and dance, and seeing their delight with the visit from the Grinch, was wonderful."

The evening's entertainment featured some lighter moments including the second year drama students' interpretation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the classic television special that first appeared in 1966. Bathed in a sinister green glow and played by Drama Instructor Misha Albert, the Grinch and residents of Whoville, brought the house down with laughter and appreciation.

While the activities on stage at Keyano Theatre featured the performing arts, down a few steps in Keyano Art Gallery, a visual art show and sale was underway featuring the work of students in the Visual Art & Design program.

As the nearly 600 patrons made their way home in the blowing wind and snow, they were able to get a glimpse at *The Lights of Christmas*, the display featuring 200,000 lights animated to music that was turned on earlier that day.



Visual & Performing Arts students and faculty at the concert.

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### ***The Lights of Christmas* took their breath away**

As night and snow descended on Doug MacRae Park at Keyano College on Friday, December 4, hundreds of people cradled their hot chocolates and counted down to begin the illumination of *The Lights of Christmas* for 2009. When the clock struck five, the music and lights began their interplay as parents and children spun round and round as different parts of the park came alive with light.

What was once a college event for students, staff and their families, has turned into one of the most anticipated community events of the holiday season. Sponsored by the Quality Group of Companies, *The Lights of Christmas* began as a static lighting display of about 100,000 low-energy bulbs in 2007. Last year, an animation component was created in the area surrounding the gazebo. This year, an additional 100,000 lights were added along with more animation technology.

When asked why he looks forward to *The Lights of Christmas*, a six-year old student from Dr. Clark School said it was "because of the hot chocolate and cookies, and to see what the lights are going

to do." What was his reaction this year? "Wow! When the lights and the music came together, especially the rock music, I started dancing around with my friends. It was seriously cool!"

While the large crowd waited in anticipation for the lights to start, they enjoyed holiday treats courtesy of Total E & P Canada and Ovation Catering and Banquets.

"This event happens because of the tremendous support we receive from our sponsors," said coordinator Natasha John-Hurford. "Companies are so generous and quick to assist when it is for the good of the community. We can't thank them enough."

Entertainment was provided by Brennan Conroy and Bill Prouten, Dr. Clark School's senior handbell choir, and Father Turcotte School's choir. Children were also given an opportunity to write their letter to Santa, and thanks to the good folks at Canada Post, have them delivered directly to the North Pole.

The successful event wrapped up with the presentation of the First Gift of Christmas, toques courtesy of Country 93.3, Rock 97.9 and Keyano College.

"This is such a tremendous event that only happens because of the great people at Keyano College who put it together," said Jim Foote, President, Keyano College. "Kudos and thanks to all the organizers and volunteers!"

Denis Levert, representing the Quality Group of Companies, tied their support of *The Lights of Christmas* to their commitment to Wood Buffalo. "The innovation required to create an animated lighting display of this size and complexity, reflects our company's commitment to excellence," he said. "The colours of *The Lights of Christmas* represent the Big Spirit of our region and our company's commitment to the community."

*The Lights of Christmas* will shimmer and dance to the music from now until January 4, 2010. For those who missed the event, it's an opportunity to return to Keyano College any time during the holidays to enjoy a number of different sequences that will happen every 15 minutes.



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## Tim Hurson and productive thinking

Tim Hurson brought his message about the power of productive thinking to Keyano College on Thursday, December 3, as part of The Global Address speaker series. Speaking to an appreciative audience of about 100, Hurson said that "we can't solve 21st century problems with 20th century thinking."

Hurson's productive thinking model, explained in his bestselling book *Think Better*, essentially separates creative thinking from critical thinking.

"The creative thinking phase is declarative," he said. "Much like children who shout out ideas all the time, effective creative thinking is all about making lists and being non-judgmental. Then in the critical thinking phase we shift to analysis and making choices. These are two very different processes that need to be used separately."

Telling stories and sharing simple yet effective tools, Hurson delivered a solid argument for how productive thinking can change our lives at home, in the community and in the workplace.

"Brainstorming sessions are a waste of time," Hurson declared. "Unfortunately, creative and critical thinking get all mixed together and what happens is that great ideas get squashed before they see the light of day. Productive thinking provides a method to go beyond the first third of ideas, into the second third and finally arrive at the third-third, where the best ideas reside."

The method, while simple to understand, is truly transformative. "This is a great tool for anybody seeking to improve productivity," said lecture attendee Claude Giroux. "Using productive thinking will put us in a position to better handle the challenges of the future!"

"Tim Hurson's lecture was very thought provoking," shared participant Pavlina Vaverka. "His passion for 'thinking better' and educating others on the simplicity and the impact of this way of thinking is very motivating. The tools he offered were easy to remember, and applicable no matter which situation you are in, and his knack for teaching the information through storytelling made it that much more engaging."

"This was an incredibly productive day," said Russell Thomas, Director, Marketing & Communications, Keyano College. "A group of 14 college leaders had the good fortune to immerse ourselves in the productive thinking method in advance of the public talk. What we discovered was an easy-to-use method to guide us to those third-third ideas that Tim kept talking about. Tim was kind enough to leave behind some useful worksheets that anyone can use to approach an issue. In these challenging times, great ideas are not a luxury, rather a necessity."

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## Student Awards celebrate access to education



Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Connie Harrison brought greetings and congratulations on behalf of Minister Doug Horner. Photo: Dan Sorenson - PhotoMagic FotoSource.

Over \$200,000 was awarded on November 26, as record numbers turned out for the annual Student Awards celebration. Almost 140 students walked across the stage to accept their award, bursary or scholarship, a sizeable increase from last year and reflective of the increasing enrolment at Keyano.

Nathanial Hom, student representative on the Keyano College Board of Governors, eloquently captured the importance of the event.

"I feel that these scholarships are a way of telling us that we are not alone, that we do matter," he said.

"My words will never be enough, but please leave here knowing that we are thankful."

The event, attended by over 300 guests, filled the space in the Clearwater Cafeteria and Reflections Dining Room and included a number of dignitaries including Keyano College President Jim Foote.

"These awards honour the pillar of *Access & Participation* - providing financial support to help students realize the dream of a post-secondary education," Foote enthused.

"In other cases, these awards honour the pillar of Excellence & Innovation-providing recognition for academic achievement. In all cases, these awards provide a tangible way for individuals, companies and organizations to help pave the way for a new generation of learners and leaders."

Keyano College Foundation Chair Dale Unruh inspired memories of student life and the importance of a robust student awards program that offers close to a half million dollars in bursaries, scholarships and awards annually.

"We remember what it was like in our college days, when juggling a full course load also meant juggling several part time jobs," Unruh recalled.

"When being able to afford a meal in a restaurant was cause for celebration. When receiving a scholarship was the difference between packing up and going home, and getting that diploma."

The celebratory event was also attended by Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Connie Harrison, who brought greetings and congratulations on behalf of Minister Doug Horner.

The Keyano College Student Awards celebration is organized by the staff of the Office of the Registrar in partnership with the Keyano College Foundation. The event has been growing exponentially in recent years, including a 40 per cent increase in student participation over 2008.

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## Keyano on Twitter

We are tweeting and you are invited to join us. Keyano College joined Twitter, the popular social media website on December 9.

According to their official website, Twitter allows you to "share and discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world," and now you can take in what Keyano College is up to right now from anywhere in the world.

Natasha Newman, Student Recruitment Coordinator, Keyano College came up with the idea and said Facebook inspired her to launch the College on Twitter.

"We've been quite active on Facebook for a while, our first social media endeavour. We have 688 followers and Twitter was the next step," explained Newman.

Twitter requires its members to post succinct messages in 140 characters. Newman has posted "tweets" about Keyano's upcoming major event the Global Speaker Series featuring Preston Manning on January 21, 2010 and so far the College has 11 followers.

"I'm trying to get a vast array of topics ranging from Preston Manning to the Theatre and continuing education courses as well as the Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre, on Twitter. I encourage people to let me know what they would they like to see more of," Newman said.

She encourages everyone to follow Keyano and to include the Keyano hashtag: #Keyano on any Keyano "tweets." Inserting hashtag allows for quick searchability to all tweets about Keyano.

Visit [www.twitter.com/Keyano](http://www.twitter.com/Keyano) to join us today.



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### **Editorial Board:**

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**Editor** - Heather Rice

**Writer** - Kiran Malik-Khan

**Photographer** - Sean McLennan

For additional story ideas or to submit a story please contact Kiran at [kiran.malik-khan@keyano.ca](mailto:kiran.malik-khan@keyano.ca).

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