



# Askew Family Fund



*Lloyd & Dorothy Askew*

On November 24, 2004, the Askew Family marked its 75th Anniversary of business in Salmon Arm and area. Truly, a cause for celebration!

And the Shuswap community will celebrate this generous local family for years to come. The Lloyd and Dorothy Askew Family Endowment Fund was established with the Shuswap Community Foundation. The family's gift of \$30,000 will be held in perpetuity and income from the fund will be disbursed annually at the discretion of Foundation Directors, who will award one or more grants to non-profit charitable organizations operating in the Shuswap.

*"This is a true example of a family giving back to their community." Cindy Derkaz*

Foundation president, Cindy Derkaz, says, "It's a real honour to have the Askew family choose the Shuswap Community Foundation to establish a permanent endowment fund. This is a true example of a family giving back to their community."

The Askews were also founding members of the Community Foundation when it started 10 years ago. Karen (Askew) Angove initiated this most recent contribution to the Foundation stating: "It's a great vehicle for keeping money in the community. Dad (Lloyd Askew) would have loved this." Dorothy Askew echoed this sentiment saying, "I couldn't think of a better place to put it. It's a gift that gives forever."

Clyde Tucker, current secretary of the Foundation, recalls a meeting with Lloyd when the new OUC campus was built in 1991. Clyde was Director of the Shuswap-Revelstoke Region of OUC at the time. Clyde says, "Lloyd (who had a long contact with the college, even taking economics classes there in the late 1970s) came around to my office, and asked if he might tour the new facility. I walked him around and enjoyed his always genial company for 20 minutes or so. He thanked me; reached into his pocket, and handed me a \$5,000 cheque for the scholarship fund. He was like that. The whole family, even the kids who live elsewhere now, are so much a part of the Shuswap."

## FUTURE & PAST

While disbursements from this fund are in the hands of the Foundation, Dorothy has a wish for the future and that would be the establishment of a kidney dialysis unit at our local hospital. A close call with renal problems last year made her aware of the need for such a unit in the Shuswap. "If a dialysis unit came here it would be my focus," she says.

The Askew family has a proud tradition of community involvement. Karen says her Dad had a philosophy about the communities he was involved in. "He was in there for the long term," she states. In addition to his roles, at one time, as Rotary and Chamber-of-Commerce president, Lloyd was involved with founding the DIA (Downtown Improvement Association) along with Kelly Flynn. They had the foresight to plan for downtown re-vitalization so, when money came available from the provincial government, Salmon Arm was first in line. Karen feels this move to re-vitalize the downtown kept it strong and able to withstand the pressures other town centres felt from shopping malls.

Community remains a focus with the Askew family. Considerable donations have been made to the building of the upcoming Armstrong arena, plus the new Seniors Resource Centre and the Sunwave Centre in Salmon Arm to name just a few.



They contribute to the arts through such non-profit groups as the Shuswap Film Society, Shuswap District Arts Council, Shuswap Theatre and Haney Heritage Park.

The Family has also contributed to high school scholarships plus significant donations to Okanagan University College as well as donations to SAFE Houses in both Salmon Arm and Armstrong.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Askews Foods, as it is known today, was started by R.B. "Dick" Askew in 1929. Under Dick's management, in the 1930's, the business grew to acquire other stores and an abattoir, overcame a destructive fire, adopted the name Salmon Arm Meat & Produce Company Ltd, bought out another meat business and established premises on Alexander Street.



*Don Askew in early 1950s*

After military service in WWII, Lloyd returned to Salmon Arm to marry Dorothy Brown in 1945. In 1948, Dick opened another store in Vernon which was managed by Lloyd. When Dick Askew died in 1951, Lloyd returned to Salmon Arm and assumed overall charge of the retail, abattoir and meat-packing operation. Business quarters on Alexander Street became cramped so in 1967 the firm took the bold step of opening Askew's Shop Easy in Shuswap Mall. Since that time, two more expansions have taken place. Askews Foods now boasts a 16,500 square foot store in Salmon Arm.

A branch store opened in Armstrong in 1975. Lloyd passed away in 1997 shortly before the opening of the Sicamous Askews store.

In 1988, Lloyd and Dorothy's youngest daughter, Karen Angove, left her career as a forestry ecologist to work with her Dad who was in failing health. She began as his administrative assistant and gradually took over duties as general manager.

*(by Marg Shand)*

*(Photos courtesy the Askew Family)*