

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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## **CONTRACTORS GOLF TOURNAMENT CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Fund will help train Golden's future contractors*

(Golden) – The Future Contractors' Scholarship was created this month as a result of the second annual Golden contractors' golf tournament which was held at the Golden Golf and Country Club on July 31, 2009. The annual tournament recognizes the hard work that many individuals contribute to the construction industry in the community.

Organized by Doug Birnie from Home Hardware, the first Building contractors' golf tournament was held in 2008. This year the tournament organization was taken over by local contractors David and Andrew Ratzlaff, owners of HR Pacific Homes, Bill Braisher, owner of Choice Ventures Ltd., and Mike Burns, owner of Dogtooth Log and Timber Products.

"Doug (Birnie) did an outstanding job of starting the idea for the local trades, it was time for some of us to help continue the tradition that Doug began" said Ratzlaff recently. He continued, "We knew it was a terrific idea, enjoyed by all and we hoped that we could expand on the idea and take it to a new level".

The tournament exceeded all expectations. Close to 132 golfers participated in the event on a warm Friday afternoon in July. The events of the day were highlighted by many humorous occurrences.

"The group had fun; there is no doubt about it. This event shows the friendship that many of the participants have developed over the years," said Mike Burns, chuckling at some of the memories of the night. "The event could not have been the success, if it wasn't for the valuable prizes that our industry suppliers contributed."

In all, the tournament raised over \$5,000. The challenge for the organizers was to do something productive with the funds. After much discussion, the group decided to create a scholarship fund to promote learning in their field.

An excited Bill Braisher said, "We are thrilled with our decision. The Future Contractor Scholarship Fund will be awarded yearly to a grade 12 student who is entering a college level trade program geared towards the construction industry." Bill added, "We want to create a league of young entrepreneurs that will strengthen Golden's construction industry in the years to come."

Braisher added, "We met with the Foundation Directors and we immediately realized that our Funds would be managed professionally and with care. We are delighted to be working with the group. In June 2010 we will be awarding \$1000 to a deserving Golden Secondary School graduate."

Glen Ewan, Chairman of the Community Foundation added, "The Contractors play an integral role in the economic and social well being of our community. When the group made the decision

to start a Scholarship Fund, we could see that they cared about the future of the community.” Ewan added, “We’re happy that the Community Foundation would help them achieve this goal.”

The Future Contractor Scholarship Fund will be managed by The Golden & District Community Foundation.

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**PHOTO OUTLINE:** Bill Braisher, Mike Burns, Andrew Ratzlaff of the Contractors Golf Tournament present a cheque to Ryan Watmough of the Golden & District Community Foundation with Golden Secondary School Principal, Iris Trask and Student Counselor, Ron Ainslie looking on.

The Golden & District Community Foundation attracts and effectively grows permanent funds; provides leadership and administration that helps in addressing significant community needs; and help donors fulfill their philanthropic interests.

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