



FALL 2023

Rossbrook House



# Rossbrook House Circle

"No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be" -Sister Geraldine MacNamara

## A Look at the Past Year

One year ago, Rossbrook House welcomed the return of Patty Mainville. As the new Executive Director Patty has had a busy year.

"The job is so diverse that every day brings something new with so much to learn. The learning that occurred with the children and youth at Rossbrook House has afforded me the opportunity to look at programming and spaces to move the Rossbrook House community forward," she said.

Her smiling face greets participants, students, staff, and visitors. Rossbrook House is lucky to have a devoted leader who can relate to so many children and youth because she is a former participant herself.

"We all strive to make connections and relationships in our lives. It is even more important for our participants to have that champion to help guide, mentor, and just be there. Our staff are amazing at building these connections with our youth. I am so proud to be a part of this team effort. **This team also includes our board of directors, funders, supporters, donors, and friends,**" she said.

Patty was also one of the first Junior Staff members at Rossbrook House and she graduated from Rising Sun High School. She went on to become a teacher and principal but was never far away from Rossbrook House. She was a volunteer Rossbrook House Board Director and taught Pow Wow dancing to the participants.

"Looking back to when we were kids searching for a safe space to belong, is still much needed today. More so now as our communities face many challenges with the negative impacts of intergenerational



effects. Our community is not always a safe one, we strive to support our community to ensure that **we have a nurturing haven to welcome our children.**"

Patty and Rossbrook House staff have plans for programming, and events, including celebrating the 50th anniversary in less than three years.

"I look around the main hall with children playing and others resting, and I am flooded with ideas and excited about what the future will look like for Rossbrook House," Patty said. "I have a vested interest in making sure that we implement steps of

Reconciliation in everything we do. **The reclaiming of culture, traditions, languages, and implementing experiences in land-based learning will be beneficial for all.** We have such a rich beautiful culture and traditions that need to be celebrated and valued. My hope is to program with purpose and impact to address the needs of our participants while giving them a safe place to belong, learn, play and become..."

"We could not do the work we do without YOU! With this I say Miigwetch."

Read more of Patty's message: [rossbrookhouse.ca/pattys-first-year/](https://rossbrookhouse.ca/pattys-first-year/)

## Join us for the Rossbrook House OPEN HOUSE: NOVEMBER 2

We'd love to see you at our Open House, Nov 2 at 11am. Come by to purchase craft items from the three school programs and celebrate our scholarship recipients.





# Making a Difference

For over 47 years, Rossbrook House has been a safe place for children and youth. Open 365 days each year, providing programs, activities and daily meals.

*"Rossbrook House is there to help participants with growing and becoming and to be able to express themselves," said Valerie, Senior Staff. "Rossbrook House allows them to be a child and to enjoy everything that comes with being a child."*

While the participants are busy taking part in programs or hanging out with their friends, they're also making an impact on the community.

*"Our children and youth are precious and beautiful sacred spirits that are eager to connect and take part in activities with their friends and staff", Patty Mainville said. "Their smiles are infectious and contagious; one cannot help but smile when you interact with them."*

One former participant and staff member, Chantel, spent many hours at Rossbrook House with her siblings. Two of her daughters have taken part in programs including Camp Maskwa, music lessons and Pow Wow.

*"I talk lots to my children about Rossbrook House and what it meant to me as child", Chantel said. "It was safe, it was fun. I want them to experience the same things; making new friends, attending the adventurous outings, and having opportunities that sometimes I can't offer them."*

**Making memories** for participants include learning to play pool or special activities like beach trips, van rides, or catching your first fish.

*"I recently joined Rossbrook House and made new friends and got to hang out with new people. I really liked the activities we did and liked how I spent time outdoors a lot", said Anika, participant.*

Providing programs, meals, and safe space is what Rossbrook House is all about.

*"When I'm at Rossbrook House I get to be me", said Tristian, participant and Junior Staff. "Ever since I came to Rossbrook House I've become friends with almost everyone there. They make me laugh and I have a really good time while I'm with them."*

**We're thrilled to be able to be a part of the lives of so many children and youth**, whether they drop in once or every day. We're happy and humbled to be their special place.



If you have been following Rossbrook House on our social channels you'll have seen the photos of happy participants taking part in a variety of summer programs—from beach outings and camp to crafts and delicious daily meals!

Purchase a *Belonging, Becoming, Together* necklace from Hilary Druxman's Good Works Collection in support of Rossbrook House online or in store today. [hilarydruxman.com/products/53n1-ross](https://hilarydruxman.com/products/53n1-ross) Makes a great gift.

Summer is capped off each year with the Summer Games. Children and youth take part in games, sports and races for prizes and glory! It's a hectic, wonderful week filled with smiles and laughter!

## Q&A with Larry McIntosh

### Chair, Rossbrook House Foundation Board of Directors

**What inspired you to get involved with Rossbrook House through the Foundation?**

*I was inspired to get involved with Rossbrook House Foundation when I realized how important the Foundation is in supporting Rossbrook House's programs and operations as well as helping fund its scholarships.*

**Why do you feel it's important to support Rossbrook House and the Foundation through volunteering and/or donating?**

*I am proud to support Rossbrook House Foundation by volunteering on the Board and committees. Shelley, my wife, and I also donate monthly to the Foundation. Rossbrook House is very important to both of us as we know the need and value of supporting these wonderful programs for children and youth.*

**What would you say to others who are considering giving back to the community through volunteering and/or donating? What would you say to others who are considering getting involved?**

*There is no question in my mind that giving back to our community through volunteering not only assisted a few charities, it helped me*

*become the person I am today. The old saying couldn't be truer, "You get back a lot more than you give".*

**What is something you are excited about during your tenure as chair of the Rossbrook House Foundation Board of Directors?**

*I was honoured to be elected Chair of Rossbrook House Foundation in June 2023. I've found that the people who know about Rossbrook House are huge fans and great supporters, and how couldn't you be? However, there are many people in Winnipeg who don't know what Rossbrook House does. I'm very excited to share the amazing programs that Rossbrook House has and how they benefit the children and youth in our community every day.*

Read the full interview with Larry on our website: [rossbrookhouse.ca/foundation-chair-larry-mcintosh/](https://rossbrookhouse.ca/foundation-chair-larry-mcintosh/)



After positive reviews from 2023 attendees **PAINT DAY WITH KISA MACISAAC**, from Power of Painting, is returning, **Sunday January 28, 2024**. We hope you'll join us.