

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Banner Year for Community Foundation

St. Catharines, July 12, 2007 – The Niagara Community Foundation celebrated a remarkable year of growth and accomplishments at its recent annual meeting. The value of its **endowments grew from \$3.8 million to more than \$5.4 million** during 2006. “Support from individuals, service clubs and businesses across the region accounted for this growth,” commented Betty-Lou Souter, chair of the foundation’s board of directors. “Gifts are made **to** the community **through** the foundation enabling our donors to realize their dreams through philanthropy.”

The foundation’s impact continues to grow across Niagara through its granting programs, awarding more than **\$480,000 in grants** in 2006 to 131 organizations. This represents a **63% increase** from the previous year. “Our growth is remarkable considering that in 2001 we awarded only \$9,500 to six groups,” said Liz Palmieri, executive director of the foundation. **“Every community in Niagara benefited.”**

Community groups interested in applying to the foundation for a grant should go to the grants section of its website at www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org. The **next grant deadline is July 27th**. The foundation’s 2006 annual report is also available on the website or by calling 905-684-8688.

New directors joining the board include Paul Jones from Fort Erie, John Armstrong from Beamsville and Jody Lycett from St. Catharines.

The Niagara Community Foundation builds and manages income earning endowment funds to support charitable activities. Since 2000, the Foundation has received over \$5.7 million in permanently held endowment funds. The foundation has awarded over \$1.75 million in grants during this time.

-30-

Contact: Liz Palmieri, Niagara Community Foundation 905-684-8688