

Media Release

Arts & Heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake

April 27, 2007

Val McLeod moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake more than 25 years ago. Since then, she has been very involved in many community groups in a number of sectors. But what drew her and many others to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and what continues to keep her engaged is the local arts and heritage scene. “These have always been important in my life and I wanted to find a way that I could give back to my community because the community has been very good to me.”

Val approached the Niagara Community Foundation last year to discuss how she could create an endowment to serve her interests. As a result, a new fund was created called the **Arts & Heritage Community Development Fund for the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Village of Queenston**. While this new fund certainly has the longest name of any fund at the Foundation, it's a name that also clearly spells out the fund's purpose. The capital in the fund will be held forever and each year a portion of the annual earnings will be used to support groups providing arts and heritage programs in the two communities.

Val also made a donation to create the **Valentina McLeod Fund** held within the arts and heritage fund. Her goal is to see others in Niagara-on-the-Lake create named funds like she has within the larger fund. “We believe that this fund will appeal to residents born and raised in the town or who have moved here because of their attraction to the arts and heritage in the community,” said Liz Palmieri, the foundation's Executive Director. “Creating a legacy such as this will have a long term benefit and impact on the community.”

The Niagara Community Foundation builds and manages income earning endowment funds to support charitable activities. Since 2000, the Foundation has received over \$5 million to establish more than 100 permanently held endowment funds. The foundation has awarded over \$1.2 million in grants from all its funds during this time. For more information on how to support the fund, call the Niagara Community Foundation at 905-684-8688.

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