



We're here for good...**forever.**

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ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

The Niagara Community Foundation serves the people of the Niagara Peninsula by building permanently endowed charitable funds for the changing needs and opportunities of the community, making grants, and providing leadership that contributes to the health and vitality of the community.

Who We Are and What We Do

- We are a public charitable foundation.
- Our donor endowments provide perpetual gifts.
- We are a resource for philanthropy in Niagara.
- We have no vested interest in any one charitable sector.
- Only the earnings on endowed funds are disbursed each year.
- We offer individually tailored fund options to suit different donor needs.
- We provide a means of keeping donations within the community.
- We facilitate charitable giving in accordance with donor wishes.

We're here for good –
to help donors realize
their charitable dreams,
to promote philanthropy,
and to build a
better community –
today, tomorrow and forever.

We're here for
Good...Forever.

2002 in Review

The act of philanthropy is a spiritual act, an expression of caring for one's fellow human beings. It is a belief in the future and that the future can be good. It is investing in that future. It is helping to make the dream come true.

-- Arthur Frantzreb

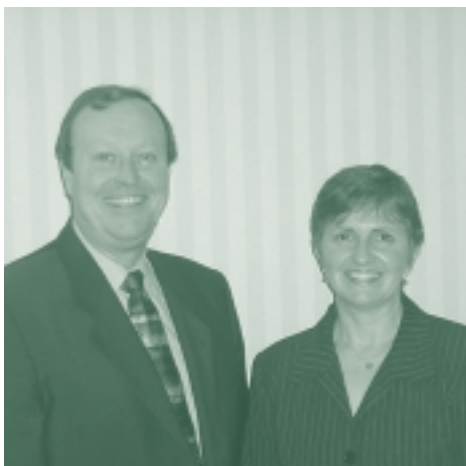
We don't know Arthur Frantzreb's claim to fame, but his words nicely capture the essence of the work of the foundation since its creation three years ago.

In 2002 we were fortunate to experience several "expressions of caring" through the gifts of donors to the endowment fund. Ten new named funds were opened bringing the foundation's endowment to over \$1.2 million. An additional \$800,000 was also received in pledges to the endowment. We invite you to take a few moments to read some of our donor stories featured in this report. These donors believe in the future impact their gifts will have on making dreams come true.

And those dreams came true for more than 65 children who were able to attend summer camp in 2002 through the generosity of the Niagara Newspaper Network and donors from across Niagara. You will read elsewhere in this report about some of the great grant stories from 2002.

We couldn't have made this journey without the support of our volunteers and donors. Their investment of time, energy, expertise and resources are the pillars upon which the foundation continues to build.

Thank you all for making the dreams of our founding supporters come true.



John Potts

President

Liz Palmieri

Executive Director

Bill Ford



“Celebrate our Donors”

Bill is a longtime member of the Church of the Transfiguration in St. Catharines. Over the last couple of years he has grown very close to the new pastors and their family and enjoys spending time with them. In conversations, he expressed his concern that resources at his church were dwindling to support education initiatives, especially for young people. They spoke about the on-going challenges of finding resources to support church operations and facilities. The solution for Bill was to create the Church of the Transfiguration Education Fund through a gift to be made over the next five years as well as through a bequest. The church, at its discretion, will use the earnings on this fund provided that at least 50% will support Christian Education initiatives. This is an open fund so that other parishioners can add their gifts to support the fund objectives.

Bill helped the foundation shortly after he opened his fund by sharing his story at our 2002 Professional Advisors Conference. David Morgan, his investment advisor, Pastor Nissa Basbaum, and the foundation's Executive Director, joined Bill in a panel discussion. The discussion focused on the motivation for his gift and the different role each panelist took in helping Bill fulfill his charitable intent. This session proved to be one of the most well-received sessions at the conference. We believe that the more estate planners learn first hand about philanthropy, the better equipped they will be to discuss charitable giving with their clients.

Sullivan Mahoney

Adapting to changing needs has helped keep Sullivan Mahoney in business for 50 years. In honour of this anniversary, the law firm established the Sullivan Mahoney Endowment Fund.

The fund builds on a relationship which started with the firm's contribution towards the start-up costs of the foundation. Managing partner, Victor Muratori, who sits as a member of the foundation's board, has contributed his and the firm's expertise for many of the donor agreements.

To build the fund, the partners and staff have agreed to make weekly contributions by earmarking Friday as a Dress Down Day (thank heaven for the robes they can wear in court that day!). This fund is a donor-advised fund and once the fund reaches \$25,000, the firm will recommend how the earnings will be disbursed.

Sullivan Mahoney will also be making other donations that will flow through its fund towards specific major projects the firm would like to support in Niagara.

As the firm has adapted to changing needs for 50 years, so too will its fund be able to support changing needs for the next 50 years.



Casino Niagara Cares Fund



Early in October, Casino Niagara announced a \$750,000 donation to the foundation for the creation of a permanent endowment fund. “The Casino Niagara Cares Fund will be used for the long-term benefit of the Niagara community,” said Ron D. Barbaro, chairman and CEO of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. “Since the very beginning the OLG has been committed to ensuring that the casino has a positive and lasting impact on the region – an impact that goes beyond the obvious tourism and business opportunities to support and nurture the region’s unique communities and institutions.”

This fund, which will be built over five years, will be an advised fund. The foundation’s grants committee will work with the Casino annually to select projects to support.

“The Niagara Community Foundation fits perfectly with the Casino Niagara Cares program,” said Jay Meilstrup, the casino’s general manager. “Both have a mandate to strengthen the communities of the Niagara region and to improve the quality of life for as many of its citizens as possible.”

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Donor Funds

Community Funds

Alice Helen Downie Bacon Fund
Branscombe Families Fund
Crawford, Smith and Swallow Fund
Jan and John Potts Fund
Niagara Credit Union Fund
Waters & Meredith Fund

Donor Designated Funds

Alice Helen Downie Bacon
Education Fund
Anita Skinner Fund
Church of the Transfiguration
Education Fund
Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund
Luigi and Amalia Setacci Fund
Mayholme Foundation Fund
Morabito Family Fund

Donor Advised Funds

Casino Niagara Cares Fund
Donald and Barbara Fraser Family Fund

Morgan Funeral Home Community Fund
Niagara Road Supervisors Fund
Sullivan Mahoney Endowment Fund
Sunday in the Parks Fund

Field of Interest Funds

Environmental Legacy Fund
Ontario Endowment for Children and
Youth in Recreation Fund

Charitable Endowment Funds

Niagara-on-the-Lake Library –
Michael Dietsch Family Fund
Niagara Survivor Services Fund

Local Community Funds

St. Catharines Community Fund
Welland Community Fund

Teen Esteem: The Lunch Bunch

"Celebrate our Grants"

Not all girls have role models from whom to learn, or the encouragement and financial resources to reach for a dream. If young women do not realize the scope of careers available to them, they do not aim for goals that make those jobs possible.

This program, supported in part by a grant from the foundation, unites girls pondering their future with successful Niagara women. Run by the Business Education Council over a six-week period, girls in grades 6, 7 and 8 at four Niagara schools participate in a series of lunch-time workshops. The girls enjoy hearing the personal stories of the workshop presenters and realize that for every woman's success story, there have been challenges to overcome and years of hard work invested.

If young women do not realize the scope of careers available to them, they do not aim for goals that make those jobs possible.

Niagara Newspaper Network Summer Camp Grants

The Niagara Newspaper Network is committed to investing in tomorrow through the youth of today. Through its Children's Summer Camp Fund, the Network helps send Niagara children in financial need to a variety of camping experiences. An opportunity to go to summer camp not only helps our children develop new skills, make new friends and raise their self esteem, it also gives them the chance to get their hands dirty and have lots of fun.

The Niagara Community Foundation, on behalf of the Network, administers the Summer Camp Fund. This year 22 groups received grants from the fund to send over 65 children to camps throughout Niagara. Grants were also available to cover the cost of a caregiver to attend camp with a special needs child.

The following newspapers are part of the Niagara Newspaper Network: St. Catharines Standard, Welland Tribune, Niagara Falls Review, Lincoln Post Express, Grimsby Independent, West Lincoln Review, Niagara Advance and the Fort Erie Times Review.



Osteoporosis Society of Canada, Niagara Chapter

We now have an Osteoporosis Society Chapter in Niagara! It has been several years in the making, beginning with information sessions at local hospital sites to document the need. Community leaders came together with a vision for a local chapter to bring awareness of osteoporosis to Niagara residents. Official chapter status was received June 15, 2002 and after establishing the local office, a Bone China Tea was held November 3, 2002 to officially launch the chapter and provide start up funds.

All members have completed a 7 week Health Knowledge Training program, presented by local health professionals, which has equipped them to handle a number of speaking engagements. Members have been invited to participate in many health fairs, senior events, school and church activities. The \$500 grant from the foundation was for the acquisition and use of a portable health awareness display, which will be customized, providing prevention, diagnosis and treatment messaging. The display will also enhance the ability of the Society to recruit volunteers to support its local capacity to deliver community-based programs.

2002 Grants

This year the foundation awarded 38 grants totalling \$31,442. The following organizations received a grant from either the Children's Summer Camp Fund (SCF), our Community Fund (CF) or one of our donor advised funds (identified beside organization).

Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region (Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund)
Autism Society of Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter (SCF)
Brain Injury Association of Niagara (SCF)
Brock University (Anita Skinner Fund)
Business Education Council of Niagara (CF)
Carousel Players (SCF)
Carousel Players (CF)
Community Living - Fort Erie (SCF)
Community Living - St. Catharines (SCF)
Fort Erie Community YMCA (SCF)
Fort Erie Public Library (CF)
Grimsby Lincoln and District Assoc. For Community Living (SCF)
Grimsby Lincoln, West Lincoln Big Brothers (SCF)
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund)
Information Niagara (CF)
Lincoln County Humane Society (Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund)
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund)
Niagara Centre for Youth Care (SCF)
Niagara Child Development Centre (SCF)
Niagara Foundation for Family and Children's Services (SCF)
Niagara Foundation for Family and Children's Services (CF)
Niagara Historical Society & Museum (CF)
Niagara Pumphouse Visual Arts Centre (SCF)
Niagara Symphony (SCF)
Osteoporosis Society of Canada (Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund)
Osteoporosis Society of Canada, Niagara Chapter (CF)
Port Colborne Association for Community Living (SCF)
Project S.H.A.R.E. of Niagara Falls Inc. (CF)
Regional Municipality of Niagara - Community Services Dept.
- Pro-Kids Initiative (SCF)
Rodman Hall Arts Centre (SCF)
Rodman Hall Arts Centre (CF)
St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation (Morabito Family Fund)
The Easter Seals Society, Ontario (SCF)
Thorold Community Activities Group (SCF)
Welland District Association for Community Living (SCF)
YMCA of Niagara (SCF)
YWCA of Niagara Falls (SCF)
YWCA of St. Catharines (SCF)

Thank You to our Donors, Volunteers and Staff

As was mentioned at the beginning of this report, we couldn't have made this journey without the support of our volunteers, donors and staff. Their investment of time, energy, expertise and resources are the 'intangible wealth' of the foundation.

Board of Directors

Brian Babcock, Ann-Louise Branscombe (Vice-Chair), Pat Darte (Secretary), Brad Hutchings, Sean Jackson, Andrea Kriluck (Treasurer), Paul Leon, Shirley Martin (resigned September), Victor Muratori, Robert Neill, Eugene Oatley (resigned October), John Palumbo, Stan Pettit, John Potts (Chair), Betty-Lou Souter, Norris Walker, Frank Branscombe – Honorary Chair, Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman – Honorary Patron

St. Catharines Community Fund Advisory Board and Volunteers

Rosemary Auld, Linda Bramble, Roy Cairns, Frank Caplan (Secretary), Harry Daniel, Rosalyn Hatch, David Howes (Vice-Chair), Vicki Little, Ron Matsushita, Peter Partridge Jr., Bob Ruttan, Mark Sherk, Paul Speck, Doug Whyte (Chair), Don Wiley

Welland Community Fund Advisors

Gordon Burnett, Albert Iannantuono, Paul Leon, Allan Root

Staff

Liz Palmieri (Executive Director), Donna Vandecoevering (Bookkeeper), Darcy Ewanchuk (contract office support)

Volunteers

Martha Abra, Frank Adamson, Dr. David Atkinson, Bill Amadio, Ed Arnold, Jocelyn Baker, Dean Bell, Dennis Bell, Chris Blake, Randy Boyce, Peter Brown, Jason Burgess, Steve Butz, Rebecca Cann, Christine Clark, Bernadette Corbin, Greg de Prinse, Sande Farrauto, Manfred Fast, Bill Finley, Tim Foster, Derek Fretz, Mel Groom, Rick Hatt, Laura Hills, Yvonne Hopkins, Steve Hudson, Anne Kemp, Bill King, Kathleen and Tim Lohnes, Dan McDonell, Rosanne Marsh, Rick Mauro, Terry McDougall, Jay Merrin, Paul Montgomery, Dave Morgan, Ernie Morgan, Darrell Neufeld, Gary Niven, Larry Oates, Steve O'Brien, Ted Palmer, Dr. Andy Panko, Peter Papp, Andrew Paterson, Dan Patterson, Michael Philbrick, John Rednall, Jennifer Ricci, Andrea Sinclair, Sandra Skog, Sonya Smith, Wade Stayzer, Laura Stones, Carol Stymiest, Donald J. Taliano

Sponsors

Durward Jones Barkwell & Co., Niagara Credit Union, Royal Bank of Canada, The Pen Centre

Welland Community Fund Advisors

Gordon Burnett, Albert Iannantuono, Paul Leon, Allan Root

Never respect men
merely for their
riches, but rather
for their philanthropy;
we do not value the
sun for its height,
but for its use.

- Gamaliel Bailey

2002 Donors

Sharon Abbey
Alderson, Caters & Hardy
Janet Allan
Michael Allen
American Water Services
Canada Corp.
Anna Angelone
Norm Armitage
Gloria Armstrong
Brian Babcock
Wayne Becken
John Beyer
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Stewart Branscombe
Branscombe Family Foundation
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Joan Brunner
Wayne Burdon
Claire Burnett
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Jonathon Janzen
Ann Johnston
Marion Johnston
Sylvia Kadlick
Diane Keenan
Anne Kemp
Paul Kent
Robert Kerr
Kerry T. Howe Engineering
Limited
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Lucy Klingender
John Kozik

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Eleanor Lancaster
Anne Lemon
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Keith Lindberg
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Liz Palmieri
Mark Palumbi
Betsy Partington
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Neil Stickles
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Babe Taylor
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The Hard Rock Group
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The Waste Management
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Norma Weaver
Rob Weier
Welland Hospital Foundation
Westminster Savings Credit Union
Alma Whiteman
Moyra Whittet
Judy Wiens
Sybil Wilson
Gina Marie Wilson
Jim Wincott
Ellen Wodchis
Ron Zimmerman

*Please see Financials for information
about Memorial and Deferred gifts.*

Summarized Financial Information

For Years Ended December 31, 2001 and 2002

Balance Sheet

	2002	2001
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	382,634	217,861
Investments	938,387	533,530
Other assets	6,311	6,207
Total Assets	1,327,332	757,598
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	11,716	3,417
Deferred revenue	35,470	18,750
Total Liabilities	47,186	22,167
Fund Balances	1,280,146	735,431
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	1,327,332	757,598

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balances

Revenue	Operating Fund	Endowment Fund	2002	2001
Donations	41,779	562,772	604,551	465,000
Investment income (loss)	1,154	(28,725)	(27,571)	23,591
Sundry and Special Events	42,405		42,405	4,975
Grants and other income	22,046	45,590	67,636	35,000
Total Revenue	107,384	579,637	687,021	528,566
Expenses				
Advertising and promotion	4,991		4,991	10,429
Depreciation	694		694	874
Education services	2,909		2,909	3,615
Grants		31,442	31,442	9,500
Investment counsel fees		7,845	7,845	1,327
Office and administration	30,622		30,622	18,654
Salaries and benefits	63,803		63,803	60,923
Total Expenses	103,019	39,287	142,306	105,322
Excess of Revenue over Expenses for the Year	4,365	540,350	544,715	423,244
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	95,762	639,669	735,431	312,187
Transfers				
Administration Fee	5,287	(5,287)		
Other	(9,500)	9,500		
Fund Balances, End of Year	95,914	1,184,232	1,280,146	735,431

- The summarized financial information presented here was extracted from the audited financial statements of the Niagara Community Foundation. The firm of Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP performed the audit and issued an auditor's report on the financial statements. Complete audited financial statements, with accompanying notes, are available from the Foundation upon request.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Organization: Niagara Community Foundation was incorporated without share capital in April, 2000 as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Canada. The Foundation is a public foundation registered under the Income Tax Act (Canada) and, as such, is exempt from income taxes and able to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes. Niagara Community Foundation services the Niagara Peninsula by building permanently endowed charitable funds for the changing needs and opportunities in the community.

Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements have, in management's opinion, been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting policies summarized below:

Fund Accounting – The operating fund reports resources available for the foundation's general operating activities including fixed assets. The endowment fund reports resources that are required to be maintained by the foundation on a permanent basis.

Investments – Investments are recorded at year-end market values.

Memorial Gifts

This year we received donations in memory of the following people:

Frank Ciccarelli, Lillian Christina Hulls, Cathy Ireland, Henry Scharer, Elvi Vicary

Deferred Gifts

By remembering the Foundation in your estate plan you can make a real difference in our community's future. We would like to thank the following people who have named the Niagara Community Foundation in their will, donated a life insurance policy or will be donating the proceeds from their RRSPs: Norm Bradshaw, F. William Ford, Anne Kemp, Liz Palmieri, Helen Pietersen

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in our listing of donors. However, if your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly placed, please accept our apology and let us know.

Thanks to the sponsors
of our 2002 Annual Report



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