

## Our Founding Supporters

Thanks to the following for their generosity in supporting our first three years of operating support: Alderson, Caters & Hardy; Bank of Montreal; Beatties Basics; Bob Gale; The Branscombe Family Foundation; Casino Niagara; The Kenneth A. Fowler Foundation; Kenmore Developments Inc.; KPMG; Niagara Parks Commission; The Ontario Trillium Foundation; Peninsula Press Ltd; Regional Chair's 2000 Charity Golf Tournament; Region of Niagara; River Realty Development (1975) Inc.; Scotiabank; Sheraton Fallsview; The Standard; Sullivan Mahoney; and, Walker Industries Holdings Limited.

## Thanks to our Board and volunteers for making our first year such a success.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## 175 years of service... and still going strong

In 2001, Morse and Son Funeral Home celebrated 175 years of service, making it the oldest funeral service provider in the country.

Owners Jeff and Ernie Morgan launched their anniversary with an open house where they featured one of their treasures – a fully restored 1870s horse-drawn hearse.

However, they also wanted to create a legacy to celebrate the achievements of their business. The Morgans were aware of a donor-advised fund established by another funeral service provider with the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation, and approached Niagara's board member, Eugene Oatley, about establishing a similar fund at the Niagara Community Foundation.

The Morgan Funeral Home Community Fund was approved this past fall. The fund is a donor-advised fund and each year the fund's advisors will meet with the foundation to determine which particular charities they would like to support.

"The concept of creating the Morgan Funeral Home Community Fund came from our family's desire to do something special to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of our Morse & Son Chapel," said Ernie Morgan. "Our family has always been involved within the community, and the creation of a donor-advised fund within the Niagara Community Foundation allowed us to expand and continue our ongoing commitment for many years to come."

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Board President, John Potts

Welcome to Communiqué – the newsletter of the Niagara Community Foundation.

Our first year has been truly amazing. Through the support of our donors, volunteers and staff we've accomplished so much in such a short period of time.

Some of the highlights from 2001 include:

- Raising in excess of \$700,000 in endowed gifts and pledges
- Awarding our first grants
- Launching the St. Catharines Community Fund
- Presenting a half-day conference to over 65 professional advisors and development staff

We are now into year two of our three-year strategic plan and the Foundation will be undertaking a number of exciting initiatives in 2002.

We plan to:

- Implement a fund development plan to have \$6 million in endowed funds by the end of 2003
- Offer a series of information meetings to professional advisors throughout Niagara
- Determine priorities for 2002 grants program
- Work with the business community to promote benefits of strategic corporate giving programs

On behalf of the Board, thanks to all our volunteers from across Niagara for their support in 2001. They have truly made a difference.

John Potts

NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# COMMUNIQUÉ

A publication of Niagara Community Foundation – January 2002

## St. Catharines Community Fund Board Members Appointed

During the fall, members of the Steering Committee of the St. Catharines Community Fund were actively recruiting future members of the fund's advisory board. As a result, an illustrious group of individuals has agreed to serve on the first board.

The Fund's mission statement is:

To enrich the quality of life in St. Catharines through a community-based affiliate fund that assists the Niagara Community Foundation with the collection and disbursement of permanent endowment funds for the benefit of the St. Catharines community

Inaugural members include:

Roy Cairns	Frank Caplan	Harry Daniel
Abbas Hamdani	Rosalyn Hatch	David Howes
Vicki Little	Peter Partridge	Bob Ruttan
Mark Sherk	Paul Speck	Doug Whyte
	Don Wiley	

Individuals who have agreed to be Honorary Patrons to the Fund include:

Dr. David Atkinson	Jim Bradley, M.P.P.
Councillor Judy Casselman	Walt Lastewka, M.P.
Betty Oliphant, OC	Dan Patterson
	Mayor Tim Rigby

The St. Catharines Community Fund operates as an affiliate of the Niagara Community Foundation with the Foundation providing administrative, investment, financial and fund development support to the Fund.

We are very excited about the creation of this affiliate, which will provide both donors and charities the opportunity to increase philanthropy and improve the quality of life in St. Catharines.

Kudos to the hard working volunteers on the Fund's Steering Committee!

## TAX ADVANTAGES TO BE MADE PERMANENT ...FOR GIFTS OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES

On October 12, 2001, the federal government announced its intention to make permanent the 1997 budget measure that provides special tax assistance for donations of certain securities to public charities.

Generally for 2001, 50% of the appreciation on capital gains is subject to tax. This is the case whether the assets are sold or gifted to charity. However, for qualifying gifts of marketable securities, the taxable portion of the capital gains has been reduced from 50% to 25%. This measure was originally scheduled to expire on December 31, 2001 but will now be made permanent.

Only gifts of qualifying securities are eligible which include: shares, bonds, warrants, options listed on a prescribed stock exchange, mutual fund shares/units, segregated fund units, and prescribed debt obligations.

The actual securities must be transferred to the charity. The gift will not qualify for favourable tax treatment if the securities are sold and the proceeds gifted to a charity.

## GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

The use of life insurance in planned giving is gaining popularity. Life insurance provides an effective way to make a considerable gift at a moderate cost. In addition, by using insurance in planned giving, donors have the ability to determine how they want the resulting tax credits structured. A gift of life insurance can provide an annual tax credit or a tax credit in the year of death. How donors structure this type of gift will depend on where they determine the greatest need for tax relief.

If you are interested in making this type of gift to the Niagara Community Foundation, there are a number of options to consider. You could:

- Assign ownership of a new or existing life insurance policy to the Niagara Community Foundation and name the Foundation as irrevocable beneficiary
- Name the Donor's Estate as Beneficiary with Bequest of Proceeds to the Niagara Community Foundation
- Name the Niagara Community Foundation as Beneficiary of the Life Insurance Policy

Call the Foundation offices at (905) 684-8688 and we will send you some detailed information on these options. The information is also available on the Foundation's website at [www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/donors](http://www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org/donors)

# FUNDS OPENED IN 2001

Since our launch, 17 named funds were created at the Foundation. We met with each donor to determine the type of fund most appropriate to his or her philanthropic intent. Thanks to our donors for creating a fund with the Foundation as a permanent legacy. The funds raised to date total \$708,000.

### Community Fund

A donation to this fund gives the Foundation the greatest flexibility. The earnings on this fund enable our Board of Directors to respond to current community needs through the provision of grants to charities throughout the Niagara Region. Donors can establish a named fund within our Community Fund with a \$5,000 gift.

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

### Donor Designated Funds

This type of fund gives donors the opportunity to specify, at the time the fund is established, which particular charities they would like to support in perpetuity. If unexpectedly, an organization

ceases to exist, we can redirect the funds to a similar cause. The minimum donation to open a designated fund is \$10,000 per beneficiary.

- Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund
- Luigi and Amalia Setacci Fund
- Morabito Family Fund

### Donor Advised Funds

This fund enables donors to have ongoing participation in the selection of charities that will benefit from their gift. Donors may choose this type of fund instead of creating a family trust or private foundation. The minimum donation to open a donor-advised fund is \$25,000

- Anita Skinner Fund
- Donald and Barbara Fraser Family Fund
- Sunday in the Parks Fund
- Morgan Funeral Home Community Fund

### Field of Interest Funds

These funds work much like our Community Fund, except that donors identify an area of interest that they would like to target their support. The minimum donation to open a donor-advised fund is \$25,000



Niagara Action for Animals received a grant of \$1,300 to build a moveable enclosure at Women's Place in St. Catharines

## GRANTS ANNOUNCED First Grants Announced

The Foundation launched its first grants program in November, on the eve of our first anniversary.

In announcing the six recipients, Betty-Lou Souter, Grant Making Advisory Committee Chair, said "We've made \$9,500 look like a million dollars. It is unprecedented that a new community foundation is able to have a grants program up and operational so quickly. It really is a testament to the expertise of the volunteers, who put in many hours during the year, drafting the grant criteria and review process."

**Canadian Hearing Society** received a \$2,000 grant to deliver support groups for older adults who have a hearing loss of a gradual nature. Participants will learn to cope with hearing loss within a supportive and information based environment amongst their peers.

Three groups will take place over a six-month period at seniors residences located throughout Niagara (Port Colborne, Niagara Falls and Beamsville).

**Hospice Niagara** received a grant of \$1,000 to develop a strategic plan that will enable them to successfully implement their vision to provide a ten-bed Hospice Palliative Care Resource Centre serving Niagara. Currently Hospice Niagara provides supportive, integrated care to terminally ill individuals and their loved ones in a residential setting and/or through a home-based program.

**Niagara Action for Animals** received a grant of \$1,300 to build a moveable enclosure at Women's Place in St. Catharines to shelter their clients' companion animals. Many women wishing to leave abusive situations are hesitant to leave their companion animals behind in fear of the animal's safety. This project would provide women the option of immediately seeking safe shelter for themselves, their children and their animals.

**Niagara Artists' Company** received a \$1,200 grant to organize and present a series of board development workshops and strategic planning sessions for up to five arts organizations from around Niagara.

**Niagara Region Children's Safety Village** received a \$1,000 grant to purchase a mini-battery-operated car for the children's safety village educational program. The village, currently under construction at the Welland campus of Niagara College, will provide classroom instruction and hands-on age-appropriate learning activities on safety issues.

**Niagara Symphony Association** received a \$3,000 grant towards the costs of purchasing banners and a portable display unit to support a series of symphony tours throughout Niagara in 2002. They want to develop an awareness campaign to promote not only the Niagara Symphony's activity around the region, but also the 'linkages' between each of their partners (i.e. the festivals and historic forts).

- Ontario Endowment for Children and Youth in Recreation to support charities across Niagara serving children and youth in recreation The \$65,000 donation to create this fund came from the 2001 Regional Chair's Charity Golf Tournament.

### Charitable Endowment Funds

These funds are created and administered by the Foundation on behalf of registered charities. This allows the organization freedom from investment responsibility and gives donors the confidence of knowing that a permanent foundation is in place to professionally administer the charity's endowment. Once established, the charity can encourage their donors to contribute to their endowment fund.

A donation of \$10,000 opens this fund.

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

### Local Community Funds or Affiliates

These funds support the work of charities operating within a particular Niagara municipality and operate much like our Community Fund identified above. The minimum donation to open this type of fund is \$25,000.

- St. Catharines Community Fund
- Welland Community Fund

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

For my wife and myself, the words "donations may be made to a charity of your choice" in an obituary, signal another opportunity to both honour the memory of a relative or friend but also to support a multi-faceted foundation that funds a number of charitable organizations. Indeed, there is a certain 'feel good' sensation that one achieves by making a contribution to the Niagara Community Foundation since one is assured that the assets will be used to keep on giving from its earnings and the professionals, who are responsible for distributing the grants, will have the pulse on the needs of the community.

Birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions, especially those of our friends and relatives who are older, present more opportunities to donate to community foundations. Not only is the event commemorated, but the quandary over gift selection, particularly for 'those who have everything', is solved.

Furthermore, it has been our experience that the families of the deceased and those individuals who have been so honoured, appreciate the choice that we have made.

Frank Caplan, Member  
St. Catharines Community Fund Advisory Board

For further information on the Foundation, please call Liz Palmieri, Executive Director at (905) 684-8688 or visit our website at [www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org](http://www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org)  
17 Queen Street, 2nd Flr, St. Catharines, ON L2R 5G5  
email: [nfc@becon.org](mailto:nfc@becon.org)