



COMMUNIQUE

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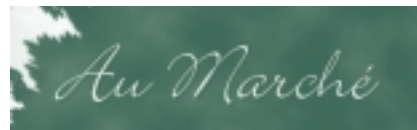
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New Initiative Invests in St. Catharines Youth



During the summer Mayor Tim Rigby led a group of volunteers with the St. Catharines Community Fund in launching a new initiative to invest in recreation and cultural

programs throughout St. Catharines targeted specifically for young people. A golf tournament and the *Au Marché* event at Market Square generated proceeds to support a new *Investing in St. Catharines Youth Fund*. *Au Marché*, which was attended by over 250 guests, saw the Market Square transformed for an evening of dining, wining and dancing under the stars.

"Kids in our community may be prevented from taking part in quality recreation and cultural activities by family financial constraints, transportation and equipment costs," said Mayor Rigby. "We want to create a program where community organizations can access financial support to provide bursaries – whether it's for music classes, sports equipment or swimming lessons."

Graham Keene, chair of the *Au Marché* fundraising committee, came on board because he believes that quality recreation plays a significant role in the healthy development of children and youth. "My business sponsors a number of organizations working with kids and I've seen the benefits of active participation, both from a health and a well-being perspective."

Building on this year's success, plans are underway to repeat both the golf tournament and *Au Marché* next summer.

Niagara Falls Centennial Community Fund

At a recent meeting of the Niagara Falls City Council, agreement was reached for council and the Mayor to work with the Community Foundation to create a new fund in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Niagara Falls. This new endowment fund will be supporting the work of charities providing services in Niagara Falls. We'll keep you posted as plans unfold.

Safety Starts at an Early Age

Traffic related injuries are the leading cause of death for children between one and 12 years. To deal with this, municipal fire departments, Niagara Regional Police and the Niagara Paramedic Association worked together to develop a strategy to reduce these alarming statistics. One outcome of the plan was the fall 2003 opening of the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village, created to provide an increased level of safety instruction for local school-aged children. Located on the Welland Campus of Niagara College, the village includes classrooms, pint-sized streets, shops and battery operated vehicles and bicycles. During its inaugural year, over 21,000 Niagara children came through the Village. The Foundation awarded the Village a grant in 2001 to fund the cost of one of the motorized vehicles. Kudos to all the volunteers and staff working on this project.



Photo credit Denis Cahill

Neighbourhood Group Makes a Difference

The Walker's Creek Community Association was formed in the fall of 2002 to respond to vandalism and tree damage in Walker's Creek Park in St. Catharines. The group is also working on rehabilitating the creek which flows through the park.

In partnership with the City of St. Catharines, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, volunteers are working to create a better designed flood plain, clear out debris along the creek and plant two riverbank buffers to help protect a stretch of this waterway.

"One step at a time" is how a member of the group described their rehabilitation work. The buffers help to filter polluted runoff and slow erosion, which causes sediment to cloud the water and in turn harms animals living in the creek. A grant from the Foundation covered the cost of the material planted in the buffers, including native trees, shrubs and grasses. "We want to get this project going, show it's successful and speak to people in area houses about environmental stewardship," said Susan Keeler, the neighbourhood association co-chair.

The Foundation couldn't agree more. We echo the comments made by the city's environmental co-ordinator, Cindy Toth, that "this is just a wonderful effort by this community group."

This grant was one of three grants totaling \$7,500 awarded earlier in the year from the Foundation's Environmental Grants Program. The Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority also received grants.

The Foundation is currently working with volunteers to raise \$500,000 for our Environmental Legacy Fund, an endowment to support similar projects. You'll be able to read more on this in the next issue of this newsletter.

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Excerpt from article written by Don Fraser.*

A Way to Remember...

When a loved one passes away you want to be comforted by their memory. What better way to remember someone forever than to set up a fund in his or her name to support a charitable cause in the community? You can have the name of your loved one live in perpetuity by building an endowment fund with Niagara Community Foundation.

Each year income from your fund will go to support the good work of many charitable organizations throughout Niagara or you can support a particular cause or charity that was important to the person you are memorializing. You can have the name of your loved one live in perpetuity by building an endowment fund with Niagara Community Foundation.

Your greatest fear as a parent is that your child will be forgotten – that they haven't left their mark. Opening a fund at the Niagara Community Foundation in Stephen's memory allowed our family the opportunity to keep his memory alive. This fund ensures that his memory will live long after our lifetimes.

– Betty-Lou Souter, St. Catharines

If you do not wish to establish a named fund, you can still give a donation of any amount to any of our existing funds or to our general community fund, which supports many non-profit groups through Niagara. Simply make your donation payable to the Niagara Community Foundation and indicate that you wish your gift to be directed to the community fund, or any other named fund and provide the name of the person you wish to memorialize with your gift. The person's name will appear in our annual report, the family will be informed of your gift with a letter and you will receive a charitable receipt suitable for income tax purposes.

in lieu of presents and gifts

Can't think of that perfect gift for your 80-year-old grandmother or for your parents' 50th wedding anniversary? Consider making a donation to their favourite charity in honour of this milestone. Many people find this a meaningful way to acknowledge a friend or family member.



Knowledge is Power

Living with a parent who has a disability can be a very stressful experience for a child. During this past March Break, a grant from the Community Foundation helped the Multiple Sclerosis Society launch a pilot *Knowledge Is Power Camp*. While facts are needed, addressing the emotions and fears associated with MS and strengthening children's coping skills are regarded as being even more important. This five-day camp focused on innovative and educational activities to improve the health and wellness of children 8 to 12 years old. There were also opportunities for the children to make new friendships and receive emotional support. Based on the success of this program, other MS chapters are interested in piloting a similar program and the local chapter has plans to continue to offer the program next March Break.

CUVÉE weekend

a red carpet wine and food experience

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO

Proceeds to Niagara Community Foundation

Cuvée Weekend, consisting of the Cuvée Gala, the Cuvée Awards, and Cuvée en Route, is a red carpet celebration of the best of Ontario wine and food in the heart of Niagara wine country. Join us for the "Oscars" of the Ontario wine industry at the black tie gala where the winemakers select the winners, mingle with the stars of the Ontario wine and culinary scene, and travel the wine route for special tastings as our wineries roll out the red carpet.

www.cuvee.ca

march 5 and 6, 2005

CUVÉE weekend

march 5 and 6, 2005

CUVÉE GALA

SATURDAY EVENING
WHITE OAKS RESORT AND SPA

Celebrate the best of the Ontario wine industry in red carpet style. This black tie optional gala is known as the not-to-be-missed event of the wine and food enthusiast's calendar. Taste specially selected wines from over forty wineries, including the winners of the Cuvée Awards, chosen by the winemakers themselves. Sample the creations of Canada's leading chefs and culinary institutes who prepare their delicacies before your eyes.

CUVÉE EN ROUTE

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Tour and taste along the wine route throughout the weekend, when the wineries roll out the red carpet to feature specially chosen tasting flights embodying the best of the best of Ontario wines. On Sunday, Cuvée en Route guests have the exclusive opportunity to shop for highly prized Cuvée award winning wines direct from the wineries.

Cuvée en Route only \$20. per person

Cuvée Weekend \$200. per person includes Cuvée Gala and en Route

FRIEND OF CUVÉE

As a Friend of Cuvée, you will receive four Cuvée Weekend tickets (admission to Gala and Cuvée en Route) and a portion of the price will be donated to the Niagara Community Foundation. You will receive a charitable donation receipt for \$1,000. and we will include your name in our Gala program.

\$1,500. for package of four tickets

FIRST IN LINE TICKETS

This year, First in Line Tickets are available at a reduced rate. Purchase your ticket before January 1, 2005 for \$175. per person. Ticket price includes Gala admission and Cuvée en Route privileges.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

White Oaks Resort and Spa, home to the Cuvée Gala, is Ontario's only four diamond, five star Resort Hotel. As the official host hotel of Cuvée, they are offering exceptional accommodations at special rates. For reservations call 1-800-263-5766 and mention Cuvée.



DETACH HERE

name _____

company _____

address _____

city _____ province _____ postal code _____

business phone _____ home phone _____

CHEQUE _____ (amount), made payable to Niagara Community Foundation.

VISA # _____ expiry date _____

MASTERCARD # _____ expiry date _____

signature _____

EVENT	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Cuvée Weekend (before Jan. 1/2005)		\$175.		Rec'd _____
Cuvée Weekend (after Jan. 1/2005)		\$200.		Pay <input type="checkbox"/> CHQ <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC
Cuvée en Route		\$20.		Ticket Sent _____
Friend of Cuvée (package of 4 tickets)		\$1500.		By _____
GRAND TOTAL				Receipt _____
				Note _____

*A tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price. Proceeds to the Niagara Community Foundation.

Please mail this Response Form and payment to:



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ATTENTION!

Estate Planning Professionals

Our third Journeys in Charitable Giving Conference takes place the morning of Wednesday, November 17th. The cost is \$100 per person and 3.5 CE credits are available for members of ADVOCIS.

Here is an opportunity for professionals working with clients on their estate plans to receive timely information and strategies on incorporating charitable giving into the planning process. Experts in the field will be presenting sessions on Trends in Individual Philanthropy in Canada, Current CRA Issues with Charitable Gifts, Raising the Subject of Charitable Giving with Clients, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Charities and Advisors, Case Studies Using Insurance Products as Charitable Gifts, Is a Private Foundation the Best Solution for Your Client?, Legal Liability in Fundraising (focusing on testamentary gifts) and Advanced Gift Planning Strategies. For further information or to register call the Foundation offices at (905) 684-8688.

Niagara West Team in Place

A group of volunteers are now in place to help raise the level of awareness about the Foundation throughout Grimsby and Lincoln. Led by board member Eric Gilbert, we welcome Margaret Andrewes, Ray Konkle, Wayne Fertich, Chris Knapp and Jim Merritt. Plans are currently underway to speak to local groups, work with local estate planning professionals and meet with interested supporters. Thanks for lending a hand.

Thanks to our Board and Advisors for their ongoing support.

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