

Media Release

Regional Partners in Philanthropy

It's not often that you hear of groups from Niagara on the Lake, Welland, and Niagara Falls working together with the Region of Niagara. Well the Niagara Community Foundation has found a way to bring four disparate groups together in a way that will benefit their communities and Niagara as a whole for a long time to come.

At Thursday's Regional Council meeting gifts totaling over \$115,000 were given to the foundation by the Niagara on the Lake Public Library, the Welland Community Fund, a group of volunteers who organized Sunday in the Parks and Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman.

Niagara-on-the-Lake **Library Board Chair Amalie Enns** presented a cheque for \$15,000 to launch the **Niagara on the Lake – Michael Dietsch Family Fund**. The fund was named to honor Mike Dietsch's efforts on behalf of the library and the community. This gift creates a **permanent endowment fund** for the **library** at the foundation. The library first heard about how they could work with the foundation at a Rotary lunch last spring. After learning more about the foundation, they liked what the foundation could offer: an opportunity to pool their funds and enjoy greater financial returns as well as the freedom of the board to focus on library business and leave the management of the fund to the foundation's expertise. The library was also looking for an opportunity to have a fund where their patrons could make a gift that would benefit the library in perpetuity. The capital in the fund will not be spent – it's just the earnings that will be available annually to the library.

Welland resident Albert Iannantuono handed over a cheque for \$28,481 to the foundation to **launch the Welland Community Fund**. The source of the donation were funds held by the now dormant Welland Community Foundation. The Welland Community Fund is a permanent endowment **fund** that will **benefit charities serving Welland** – now and in the future. The earnings on the capital in the fund will be distributed annually to charities serving Welland. A group of advisors who live and work in Welland will select the recipients from amongst those who apply to the foundation. Other advisors to the fund are **Gordon Burnett, Allan Root and Paul Leon**.

Niagara Falls resident **Karen Stearne** was on hand to present a cheque for \$11,500 to the foundation to **launch the Sunday in the Parks Fund**. Ann-Louise Branscombe, co-chair of the event that raised the funds, joined her at the podium. Earlier this year Stearne was counting her blessings regarding her good fortune, professionally and personally, due in large part to the women in her life. She spoke with one of her mentors, Ann-Louise Branscombe, and together with a team of volunteers they organized an event, which they believed would make a difference in the community. Inspired by the recent launch of the Niagara Community Foundation, Co-chairs Branscombe and Stearne agreed that the proceeds from the event would be used to create a permanently endowed fund. The earnings on the **fund will support projects throughout Niagara that meet the community's most pressing challenges and opportunities**.

Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman also handed over **\$65,000**, which are the proceeds from her annual golf tournament. More than doubling last year's proceeds, this donation will go into a **fund** to support **recreation projects for children and youth** throughout Niagara. The Province of Ontario adds an additional \$10,000 in matching dollars to this fund.

With these gifts the foundation has nearly \$600,000 in gifts and pledges. The Niagara Community Foundation is a public foundation serving the people of Niagara 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.

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