
MEDIA RELEASE

Niagara West Team in Place

A group of volunteers have stepped up to the plate to help raise the level of awareness about the Niagara Community Foundation throughout Niagara West. Lead by board member Eric Gilbert, the team includes Margaret Andrewes, Wayne Fertich, Jim Merritt, Chris Knapp and Ray Konkle. Additional volunteers are still be recruited.

One of their first activities is the hosting of an information breakfast on Thursday, November 25th for interested estate planning professionals. Rob Neill from Durward, Jones, Barkwell and Company LLP, the Foundation's Executive Director, Liz Palmieri, and local Foundation supporter Corlene Taylor will be on hand to provide background and information on the professional resources and services available from the Foundation.

Plans are also underway to arrange speaking engagements to service groups and community boards and to meet interested supporters. A display about the work of the Foundation is making its way throughout Niagara West and most recently was stationed at the Grimsby Art Gallery and Public Library and the Vineland branch of the Niagara Credit Union.

Established in November 2000 through the vision and support of former regional chair Debbie Zimmerman and the late Niagara Falls philanthropist Frank Branscombe, the Niagara Community Foundation is a collection of endowed funds held in perpetuity given by caring citizens who have chosen to make their community a better place to live and work. To date more than \$2,300,000 has been raised in permanently endowed funds.

A portion of the earnings on the funds are granted back annually to charities. Local charities that have received support from the Foundation's granting programs include the Literacy Council of Niagara West, Women's Resource Centre, Community Living – Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln, Town of Grimsby Summer Camp Program and a program at the Albright Manor organized by the Canadian Hearing Society.

Call 905-684-8688 for further information on the Foundation or to sign up for the breakfast.

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