

Newsletter Winter 2018



OCF Executive Director
Louise Wardrop outside
our new location

WE HAVE A NEW LOCATION WITH GREAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our new address and phone number: 447 Hunter St, Woodstock ON, N4S 4G7, 226-667-6404

No changes were made to our digital contacts: info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org
oxfordcommunityfoundation.org facebook.com/oxfordcf

This year, grants from your community and personal legacy funds supported senior leaders in mentoring and inspiring youth through art, made it possible for more youth to participate in drama programs, helped to preserve the historical Grand Trunk Railway Station, ensured the longevity of one of our greatest local historical collections, supported 10 students with scholarships, purchased vital equipment for our hospital's maternal child unit and so much more.

In Oxford County we have much to be grateful for, but we know that our community is only as strong as its most vulnerable person. With this in mind, we are asking for your support towards the foundation's operations so that the important work of building a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community for everyone continues through the Foundation now and forever.

When you make a donation to Oxford Community Foundation, you aren't just giving money—you're making a difference in our community now and for the future. Please consider completing and returning the enclosed donation slip or visit our website at www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org to donate now.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter. In it, we share a fundholder story, an article about our annual general meeting, news about our office move, and give thanks to our golf tournament sponsors.

A very Merry Christmas to you and your family and heartfelt wishes for peace and joy this Holiday Season from Louise Wardrop, Executive Director and your volunteer Board of Directors, Liz Lessif (chair), Neil Dolson, Richard Fanning, Rosemary George, Mary Holmes, Bill Mackesy, Steve Robb, Don Ross, Karen Sample, Keith Stevens, David Truscott.



A diverse network of like-minded community builders and philanthropists came together on April 25, 2018 for our annual general meeting. Guests heard about how funds are invested in a pool with other donors to maximize growth and minimize costs. They also heard about the many impacts foundation grants are making and how we're responding to current needs and helping ensure a brighter future for our community. To top off the evening, guests were treated to an enchanting performance by Aladdin and Jasmine from Woodstock Little Theatre, a recipient of one of last year's grants.



Fran & Ross McElroy at their farm north of Woodstock

FUNDHOLDER FOCUS: ROSS & FRAN MCELROY



As early OCF fundholders, Fran and Ross McElroy have seen the Foundation grow into what it is today. They wanted to give back to the community that has given them so much, and the Oxford Community Foundation provided them the chance to do so, now and after they're gone.

Ross and Fran are not originally from Oxford County. However, Ross does remember a time earlier in his life when he visited a farm just north of Barrie and because of that visit, he envisioned living in a smaller community. After graduating from Medical School in Toronto, Ross got a job at Woodstock General Hospital, while Fran, with a PhD in biochemistry, found work doing research at Western University in the Medical School's Pharmacology Department. What's more, they found a beautiful farm in 1972 that convinced them that Oxford County was where they needed to be.

Fran and Ross were struck by the abundant kindness of those around them and the generous welcome they received. They remember one neighbor in particular who came over, shook their hands, and said, "Georges, retired Jersey farmer. Welcome to Woodstock." Fran laughs when remembering and says, "Makes you feel good." After they moved from Toronto, Fran and Ross used to joke that by moving from the big city and plunking themselves on a farm, their main function was to provide comic relief for the local farmers.

Fran and Ross hope that Oxford County doesn't lose its character. Fran says, "When we have guests stay over, we're always so proud because Oxford has such a wonderful feel, and we hope it doesn't lose that charm." Woodstock feels so small and intimate – they want it to keep that sense of community. With the help of the Oxford Community Foundation, Fran and Ross are able to leave a legacy of community, and support initiatives and organizations where they believe Oxford can grow – now and in the future.



OXFORD COUNTY WARDEN'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Warden David Mayberry with OCF Board Chair Liz Lessif -->

On June 8, 2018, supporters came out in full force to Craigowan Golf Club where Warden David Mayberry challenged participants to an exciting putting contest at his annual charity golf tournament.

The event was a great success, attracting nearly 100 golfers and raising over \$20,000 to support the operating costs of the Oxford Community Foundation.

A sincere thanks to our key sponsors shown on the right as well as our many generous hole and gift sponsors. Your ongoing support of our community is much appreciated.

