



OC Footprints

As snow begins to fall, it brings a sense of anticipation of the holidays, of attending a gathering or two safely with family and friends. While we are still in COVID-19, we're moving slowly to recovery. These past few years, we've missed community, we've missed coming together to support each other, and we've missed celebrating special milestones, events and people no longer with us.



This year, we were fortunate to be able to come together for our annual meeting where we celebrated donors, volunteers and the 40 local charities who received grants. During this event, we heard stories of how grants from Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) are making Oxford better across all aspects of our community including arts and culture, heritage, the environment, education, recreation, health and wellness. Guest speakers shared how grants provided children in care with Chromebooks and bursaries, kept more food from waste and into the hands of those who need it, protected sensitive land and improved nature trails, and trained volunteers crucial to food delivery and other programs. We also enjoyed performances by four talented youth from K2K Productions who shared pieces from their Sound of Music production. One attendee, who is also one of our newest fundholders, George Klosler, shared, "This was the best local event I've ever attended. It was informative, interesting and fun. The young performers were so professional."



In early fall, we were thrilled to host the Oxford County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament. Immense gratitude to generous sponsors and golfers who helped raise crucial funds to support the foundation's operations. You help OCF **keep money in Oxford** with the creation of permanent legacy funds and you help OCF **bring new money to Oxford** through government and corporate partnerships.



For more photos of our annual meeting and the golf tournament, please visit our Facebook page.

We are excited to announce a partnership with the Federal Government on the distribution of the Community Services Recovery Fund. This fund will support local charities and not-for-profits to adapt and modernize. Granting criteria will be shared closer to the January 6th application launch date.

Year-end grants from OCF funds established by local donors are being distributed now. The grants committee, as well as a few donor-advised fundholders, had to make some difficult decisions as requests were five times the funds available. The fact that we had to decline so many worthy asks confirms the needs are great and are increasing in our community. A better Oxford is built together, and we ask that you give what and where you can. If you are considering starting your own legacy fund, supporting an existing fund or OCF operations, please donate by using the enclosed donation slip or by going to our website. If you are looking for alternative ways, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We make it easy for you to set up a fund to support causes important to you.

On behalf of everyone at Oxford Community Foundation, I extend a heartfelt thanks to you, our donors, sponsors and community partners. Together we are making Oxford better – now and forever. We wish you peace, joy, and prosperity throughout the holiday season and the coming year.



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Fundholder spotlight

Oxford County Youth Fund



Growing up on a dairy farm in Oxford County, I sure didn't know anyone who called themselves a philanthropist. But I was always surrounded by generosity. People who didn't have much, always gave as much as they could, whenever it was needed. People shared what they had because that's how we took care of each other.

This story is of an anonymous donor honouring such a person, a neighbour who has left an everlasting impression on him. This donor also grew up on a farm in Oxford County and he fondly remembers the simple everyday acts of kindness shared by an elder neighbour. He shared, "Sometimes we come across a person who changes our life for better. She made a real difference in my life. I will forever remember her quiet, extraordinary examples of how to look after each other and our community."

This anonymous humble donor established the **Oxford County Youth Fund** at Oxford Community Foundation. He believes that one of the best ways we can look after our children and show them how much we care, is to support organizations that will create a better world for them and their children. With the establishment of this fund, this donor is expressing his gratitude for the love and support offered by his neighbour and he is contributing to a better future for the youth in our community. Grants from the fund will support youth initiatives in the areas of community building, mental health, recreation and education each and every year – forever.

Important Dates

Community Services Recovery Fund

Purpose: support local charities and not-for-profits adapt and modernize their systems and processes.

- Jan 6, 2023: Grant criteria available
- Jan 6 to Feb 21, 2023: Applications open
- Feb 21 to May 1, 2023: Reviews, agreements and payments
- May 1, 2023 to Jun 30, 2024: Project timeline and final reporting

Maple Leaf Community Fund

in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty

Purpose: support capital-related needs of food security programs promoting dignity and building individual and community capacity.

- Feb 1, 2023: Grant criteria available
- Feb 1 to Apr 5, 2023: Applications open
- May 1 to Jul 15: Reviews, agreements and payments
- Jul 15, 2023 to Jul 15, 2024: Project timeline and final reporting

Information about our fundholders and grant programs can be found on our website:
www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org

Follow our Facebook page for information on granting opportunities, as well as fundholder and grant stories.



OCF Volunteer Board of Directors: Keith Stevens (Chair), Rosemary George (Vice-chair), Neil Dolson (Treasurer), Bill Mackesy (Past Chair), Brian Hadley, Heather Haldane, Don Hilborn, Jessica Jauernig, John MacDonald, Kim Parker, Karen Sample, Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way)

OCF Staff: Louise Wardrop (Executive Director), Rosaline Bruyns (Office & Grants Administrator)