

OCFootprints

Looking Forward...Giving Back!



Grant recipients, The Woodstock Navy League Cadets did a knot demonstration with audience volunteers at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Fall Grant Applications are now available

With bursaries, Maple Leaf Fund granting and two successful events, the Annual General Meeting and the Warden's Charity Golf Tournament, now behind us for this year, we are now focused on our fall granting cycle. More than \$16,000 is available from our donor legacy and community funds to support activities in Oxford County in the areas of arts & culture, education, environment, health & wellness, recreation and social services. Grant application deadline is September 30th.

And new this year, OCF joined the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge, making \$15,000 available to youth-led projects in Oxford County that will respond to one central question: What is your boldest idea to respond to an urgent local need? Application deadline is September 18th. By applying for a grant and bringing a local project to life, youth will have opportunities to lead, learn new skills, gain experience, and build relationships in their local communities – all things that will help them prepare for the future of work. We are excited to see what initiatives our youth bring forward. Stay tuned!

You'll notice that our logo now includes the tag line "Looking Forward.... Giving Back." When you donate to OCF you are supporting Oxford County community, now and forever. And, there are many ways to give. Including a charitable bequest in your Will is a simple way to make a lasting gift to your community. Setting up a Fund through a bequest becomes your personal legacy of giving. Call us and we'll make it easy, working with your timelines and directing grants to your areas of interests.

- Louise Wardrop, Executive Director

2019 Oxford County Warden's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

This year's event, hosted by the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF), was a huge success, raising almost \$27,000.

"The Warden's Charity Golf Tournament is our largest, annual fundraiser, and we value the support from our municipal and community partners," says Bill Mackesy, Chair of the Board at OCF.

The golf tournament held on June 21st was hosted at The Bridges at Tillsonburg. Much of the day's success is thanks to the tournament's major sponsors, including the Van Haeren Group, 31st Line Strategic Communications, Holmes & Lee Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities, Frank Cowan Company, Sierra Construction Group and ERTH Corporation.

Golfers played the 18-hole course and competed in a "hockey-style" putting contest against the event's guest of honour – the Oxford County Warden, Larry Martin. The Warden strongly supports OCF efforts to give back to the community. "The Oxford Community Foundation is very beneficial to Oxford County. They do so much to support local charities. It is organizations like this that make our community a better place," he says.









LEGACY



SPOTLIGHT



On July 17th, in the crowded entrance of the Woodstock Art Gallery, Brian and Rosemary George eagerly awaited the unveiling of "Up From Below." The art show, which features a collection of recent works by Laura Bydlowska, was made possible by the Oxford Community Foundation B & R George Cultural Fund. Both Brian and Rosemary have been actively involved in the arts throughout their lives. From their experiences, they recognized a need for funding of arts and culture in the Oxford community.

"Arts organizations kind of work from a shoestring," says Brian. "Therefore, if there's any money around, they're always looking for a helping hand, and we're happy to be able to provide some of that by starting a fund."

Brian also emphasizes that every person in the community needs the arts, just as they need sports or academia. He believes that we live as complete people with many interests, not as individuals involved in just one activity.

Brian and Rosemary started the fund in 2006 in hopes of giving people the opportunity to enjoy the arts, whether it be funding someone's first theatrical production or sending a child who holds great potential to music lessons.

"There's just so much talent in Oxford County that it'd be a shame not to support this work," voiced Rosemary.

Laura Bydlowska is the most recent recipient of a grant from the fund established by the Georges. Laura went to high school in Woodstock and received a scholarship from the Friends of the Woodstock Art Gallery. The Georges were proud to fund this show so that her work could come back to the community where her passion started.

During the unveiling, Brian spoke about the Oxford Community Foundation, as well as the B & R George Cultural Fund, and how they helped to make the art show possible. He described how the Oxford Community Foundation makes it easy to start a fund. "We've been very fortunate. We started this fund very small, and over time we were able to add more



Laura Bydlowska (artist), Rosemary and Brian George

money to it," said Brian, adding, "There's a wide variety of things that people can give to. Whether it be education or the environment or whatever your particular interest is, there's a great opportunity to have your own legacy go forward for years to come."





Oxford Community Foundation 447 Hunter St., Woodstock ON N4S 4G7 226-667-6404

info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org





OCF Volunteer Board of Directors: Bill Mackesy (Chair), Keith Stevens (Vice-chair), Richard Fanning (Treasurer), Liz Lessif (ex-officio Past Chair), Neil Dolson, Rosemary George, Don Hillborn, Mary Holmes, Steve Robb, Karen Sample, Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way)