

Annual Report 2007



Message from Board President

"The strength of a community is people helping people. By giving of time, talents and resources this generation will leave a legacy for those who follow."

2007 was a year of challenges, triumphs and personal loss for Oxford Community Foundation. Our good friend and Executive Director, Patricia Joanne Smith, had to step down from her position at Oxford Community Foundation due to health reasons, however her impact and influence was a guiding light to the Board and volunteers, as we pressed ahead with ambitious plans for our first annual fundraising event, "Celebrate Oxford".

"Celebrate Oxford", was a successful event where we celebrated the wonderful County where we live and call home, and the partnerships that have contributed to making the Foundation a valuable asset in the community.

We were thrilled to have Evan Soloman, a two-time Gemini award winning writer and broadcaster. Evan is also the co-host of the two weekly news and current affairs shows CBC News: Sunday and CBC News: Sunday Night. Evan presented unique and challenging views of where we stand now, and where we may be headed in the future. To our partners and sponsors, thank you for your commitment and support.

The Board of Directors and committee volunteers continue to forge new partnerships to promote philanthropy. Community development actively remained the focus of the Foundation. It involved partnerships with the cultural community, Oxford Youth Strategy Committee along with champions of the environment and agencies who support volunteers.

The Foundation has been able to attract new donations and through strong investment returns a solid financial base is being created. Oxford Community Foundation is a member of Community Foundations of Canada, a national network of local foundations where grants are directed to assist urban and rural organizations. In 2007 the Foundation awarded seven grants throughout the county.

The Foundation is truly indebted to our Board, our volunteers, our community partners and our friends of the Foundation for their tireless efforts in making Oxford Community Foundation a worthy and contributing organization in Oxford.

When we all work together, we can make a lasting difference in our community.

Diane M. Stuart
President



THE LATE PATRICIA JOANNE SMITH

December 11, 1948- January 27, 2008



In the fall of 2007, Pat stepped back from her daily activities at Oxford Community Foundation, as she had another battle to fight. Pat always tackled issues head on and this was the case as she faced the biggest battle of her life. Although she was not in the office every day, she continued her efforts from home to promote the Foundation and help in whatever way she could.

Pat had always been an active participant in her community. She had been a role model all of her life, from her role as a wife, mother, educator in the community, her active service in the church and local community, ever pressing the concerns and issues forward in the agricultural and political field, making her county and the world, a better place in which to live.

Pat was an original member of the steering committee, the first Chair of the Board for Oxford Community Foundation, and the first Executive Director. Pat's enthusiasm, drive to succeed, commitment and 110% passion for the Foundation is the reason the Foundation exists today.

At our first Annual Fundraiser, "Celebrate Oxford" on October 30, 2007, the Board of Directors publicly bestowed the honour to Pat as "Honourary Chair, Oxford Community Foundation". Pat challenged us that evening, to make a difference in the lives of our neighbours, the place where we live and to become involved in community philanthropy.

We will miss our dear friend, our teacher, and our motivator. Patricia Joanne Smith has truly left Oxford County, and the world, a better place in which to live.

Vision

To enhance the quality of life throughout Oxford County by fostering community philanthropy.

What is Oxford Community Foundation (OCF)?

Oxford Community Foundation is one of 158 community foundations across Canada established to be:

- the steward of funds, which are pooled in a permanent endowment to serve the Oxford community in perpetuity;
- the administrator of grants to a wide range of interests through registered charities committed to making a difference in the quality of life in the county;
- a leader in identifying needs and working with other community agencies to assist organizations and communities of interest. The Foundation acts as a catalyst for innovative approaches to connect people and causes to make a difference in Oxford.

Types of Funds within OCF

- **Community Fund** – This unrestricted endowment fund allows the Foundation to identify and respond to ever-changing needs by focusing dollars on creative and effective grants. These may be awarded to an extensive range of needs such as: arts and culture; health; education; recreation; environment and social services. This fund can become active at the \$10,000 level.
- **Field of Interest Fund** - The donor decides which area of need the fund should help. Grants will be given which will impact that field of interest. The fund level for this type of fund is \$25,000.
- **Donor Designated Fund** - Donors can ensure that grants will be awarded to their chosen organization(s). Donors have the opportunity to specify, at the time the fund is established, which particular charities/activities they would like to participate in perpetuity. Donors may wish to identify an alternative recipient to support, should the chosen charity cease to exist. Donors can establish a Named Donor Designated Fund with a minimum donation of \$25,000.
- **Agency Endowment Fund** – Charitable agencies may establish permanent endowment funds, the income of which will provide operating support forever.
- **Donor Advised Funds** – The donor recommends specific grants from the fund, based on his/her interests, on a yearly basis. This enables donors to have ongoing participation in the selection of charities that will benefit from their gift. Donors may choose this type of fund instead of creating a family trust or private foundation. Donors may establish a Named Donor Advised Fund with a minimum donation of \$50,000.

Service to Donors

The Foundation works with donors to make it easy to give back to the community by creating a named fund or contributing to an existing fund. Donors who endow their gifts can make a difference in the community during their lifetime, and at the same time, provide a gift that lasts forever.

Why choose OCF?

- We build permanent endowments that will benefit Oxford forever.
- We help donors create legacies, thereby promoting philanthropy in our community.
- We are a local organization with knowledge in a wide variety of local needs.
- We provide flexible giving options.
- We can maintain donor intent even when community needs and organizations change.
- We multiply the impact of gifted dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.
- We assist donors with options, which may provide significant tax benefit.
- We look after the administration and required reporting related to your legacy.

There are a variety of ways to create a legacy:

- cash
- securities
- life insurance
- bequests
- other more complex asset transfers such as property and remainder trusts

Investment

Stewardship is one of Oxford Community Foundation's most important responsibilities, requiring strict oversight and intelligent investment. Management of the Community Foundation's investment portfolio is vested with the Board of Directors through the Investment Committee.

With an investment policy developed jointly by the Investment Committee and our investment consultant at RBC Dominion Securities, the Community Foundation delivers excellent risk adjusted returns. OCF is fortunate to have the experience of these individuals to establish performance benchmarks and continuously monitor portfolio effectiveness. The Investment Committee adheres to a disciplined process, regardless of market fluctuations, to ensure the integrity of the Foundation and the preservation of donor intent in perpetuity.



Our Funds

Community Fund

As OCF continues to grow, the unrestricted Community Fund provides the underlying heart of the Foundation. Donations of all sizes are combined to provide the means to operate the Foundation and provide the Grants Committee with the most flexibility in meeting community needs.

Current Funds

Albastine-Wilkinson Fund

This fund was our first endowment fund that was established to honour the late Matthew Alabastine, a former principal of Tillson Avenue Public School. To ensure that his legacy will continue to support charitable causes, his daughter, Janet Wilkinson along with her family has established the Alabastine-Wilkinson Fund. This is an Unrestricted Fund within the Community Endowment Fund. The grants, which will be made from this fund, will ensure that the Alabastine name and influence will continue to support the community in perpetuity.

Douglas and Yvonne Eckel Fund

Doug and Yvonne chose to create a named fund within the unrestricted Community Fund. As a past treasurer, Doug recognized the importance of building a stable base to support the Foundation.

Yvonne and Doug have been significant contributors to many worthwhile causes over the years. They believe the Foundation is the best way to benefit others for generations to come. The variety of activities supported makes any donation to a community foundation appealing.

Field of Interest

Brian and Rosemary George Cultural Fund

Brian and Rosemary have both been very active in the community providing and supporting musical and theatrical productions, the Rotary Music Festival and providing leadership on various volunteer boards and in the church. Brian and Rosemary were two of the first donors to step forward in order to give back. This fund commitment has been completed and the very first grants will be granted to the community in 2008.

Oxford Environmental Legacy Fund

This fund is valued at over \$10,000. The fund was made possible through the generous support of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and the County of Oxford as a matching contributor. Our first grant from this fund was made in 2007 to WDDS, for a greenhouse to nurture trees, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Fund Held for Others

Children's Aid Society of Oxford County

Oxford Community Foundation assists the Children's Aid Society of Oxford County (CAS) by investing an independent agency fund along side our pooled investments. CAS determines how the earning from that fund are used on an annual basis. They may be spent for specific purposes, or a portion may be added back to help the capital investment grow.

New Funds in 2007

Donor Advised Named Fund

Lessif Family Fund

John and Liz Lessif have been very supportive of children and youth in Tillsonburg and throughout Oxford over many years. Having success during their business careers John and Liz wanted to leave a legacy, which would continue this support into the future.

The Lessifs employed many youth over the years and both are lifetime members of the Children's Aid Society of Oxford. John also served on the Board of Ronald McDonald House Children Charities. The Lessif Family Fund, which is a Donor Advised Named Fund, has been initiated with a commitment of \$50,000.00, with the proceeds being directed to the children and youth in Tillsonburg and throughout the County of Oxford.



"John and I have been very fortunate and we strongly believe in helping our youth to become contributors to our communities now and in the future. We want to help make a difference", said Liz Lessif.

Our Donors

Founders Circle

Donors who contribute \$2,000 to the Foundation will be identified as members of the FOUNDERS CIRCLE. They will be listed as such on our website and historical records forever. The confidence and financial commitment of these donors will provide a significant base from which to grow. Our goal is to welcome at least 100 donors to the Founders Circle.

Please join the following to make our circle grow:

Alabastine - Wilkinson Family
Brian and Rosemary George
Douglas and Yvonne Eckel
John B. Finlay and Mary Anne Silverthorn
Barry and Pat Smith
Bill and Jane Paquette
Michael Harding and Terry Chisholm
William and Mary Mackesy
David and Lynda MacKenzie
anonymous donor
Ernie Hardeman
Wingate Raiders IODE
Evan Solomon and Tammy Quinn
David and Helen Ness-Jack
Dr. Ross McElroy and Frances McElroy

David and Sherry Lowes
Grant Smith
The Joland Family
Shirley Julian
George Klosler
Mark and Barbara Seaton
Don Post
Gene and Phyllis Lawrence
Pow Laboratories Inc
Ted and Mary Thorn
Jeff and Kelly Cole
Scotiabank
John and Elizabeth Lessif
James and Louise Stewart
James Palmer

Contributors

Grants from:
The County of Oxford
The Ontario Trillium Foundation



In Memoriums

Many donations were received in 2007 in memory of family members and friends who passed away. Oxford Community Foundation wishes to express our gratitude to the donors who chose to honour their loved ones by contributing to the Foundation. Your donation In Memory of a loved one provides support to the community in perpetuity and is a lasting tribute.

2007 Grants - \$5,200

1. Canadian Harvard Aircraft – \$750 to assist with light fixtures and radiant heater
2. Drumbo Opportunity Centre - \$1000 for educational books and materials for children
3. St. John Ambulance - \$700 for uniforms for the junior cadet troop (40 children)
4. Station Arts Centre - \$800 for promotion of the Oxford Studio Tour in 2008
5. WDDS - \$500 for a greenhouse to nurture trees, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources.
6. Woodstock Art Gallery - \$1000 for production of a video, to promote the Art Gallery
7. Thames Valley Museum School - \$450 for a room addition to the log school.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT - OXFORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES** Year ended December 31, 2007

	Endowment Funds						Operating Fund	
	Funds Held for Others		Non Designated Funds		Designated Funds			
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Revenues								
Contributions			68,586	37,011	20,308	15,532	56,782	72,738
Investment Income-net	1,102	2,234	5,161	4,799	967	999	3,130	6,194
Services and other							34,244	145
	1,102	2,234	73,747	41,810	21,275	16,531	94,156	79,077
Expenditures								
Grants / draws made							5,200	6,000
Grants, etc. to be made			3,815	3,829	677	745		
Office costs							73,593	65,000
			3,815	3,829	677	745	78,793	71,000
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	1,102	2,234	69,932	37,981	20,598	15,786	15,363	8,077
Fund Balances								
Beginning of year	22,399	20,165	63,409	25,428	15,786		42,755	34,678
Fund Balances								
End of year	23,501	22,399	133,341	63,409	36,384	15,786	58,118	42,755

The above statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balances should be read in conjunction with the annual audited financial statements of Oxford Community Foundation.

Building Community Capacity

Oxford Community Foundation forged ahead with new partnerships in the community and strengthened existing partnerships as well. We partnered with the United Way of Oxford County, Oxford Small Business Support Centre, and OMAFRA to present a grant-writing workshop, and a Volunteer Recruitment Workshop.

The Foundation partnered with Oxford Youth Strategy Committee to facilitate getting a bus to transport 27 youth and 10 leaders to a TORC Youth Forum in Belleville, where our youth made a presentation regarding good things happening in parts of Oxford.

We partnered with Oxford Small Business Support Centre and Tourism Oxford on the Creative Connections project. We also hosted 3 Funders' Forums in May, October 2006 and January 2007. There was also a Funders' Fair held at the Elmhurst on May 29th, which we participated in.

Celebrate Oxford

On October 30, 2007, Oxford Community Foundation presented the first annual Celebrate Oxford fundraiser at the Quality Hotel and Suites, which was hosted by the County of Oxford. Our guest speaker was Evan Soloman, considered one of the top 100 people to watch by Macleans Magazine. Evan challenged the guests with his thoughts on creative approaches to managing and solving the complex challenges of sustainability in the 21st century.

The evening was a celebration, which highlighted the best of Oxford County where we live and call home, and the partnerships that have contributed in making the Foundation a worthy and contributing asset of the community.

Without the hard work, dedication of our many volunteers, Sharon McDonald, Executive Director, the generous support of our partners, the County of Oxford, and all the municipalities within the County, this event would not have been the success it was.

Words cannot express our sincere gratitude and our appreciation to all of our friends of the Foundation with the creation of the first of our annual fundraising events.

Please mark your calendar for October 29, 2008, for the second Celebrate Oxford event and we look forward to seeing you there!

2007 Board

2007 Committees

Executive Committee

Diane Stuart-President
Mark Seaton – Vice President
Pat Smith - Secretary
Ted Thorn – Treasurer

Grants Committee

Elizabeth Lessif – Chair
Janet Wilkinson
Dr. Barry Hunt

Jim Magee -environmental resource

Fund Development and Marketing

Rosemary George – Chair
Tanya Murray
George Klosler
Mark Seaton
Kelly Cole
Don Taylor

Nominating Committee

Warden of Oxford County - Paul Holbrough -Chair
Pres. Oxford Law Society – Robert Stewart
Pres. United Way of Oxford –Mary Anne Silverthorn
Dean Fanshawe College – Chris Fliesser
Pres. Oxford Labour Council – Broderick Carey

Investment Committee

Ted Thorn, Chair
Rosemary George
Gene Lawrence, CPF

Finance and Audit Committee

Ted Thorn, Chair
Mark Seaton
Patricia Smith, Executive Director





Acknowledgment

*So much can be accomplished when we work together.
The Foundation is indebted to our many committee volunteers
and the following for their “in kind” support:*

*WDDS –office space and administrative equipment
VanParys, Micacchi, Shippey & Warnick LLP – auditors
Bill Paquette – design and layout*

Retiring Board Members

In 2007, two Board members retired from the Board of Directors.

George Klosler had been involved with Oxford Community Foundation from the beginning, and his input and valuable expertise was invaluable to the growth of the Foundation.

Kelly Cole brought extensive fund raising experience to our Board, and her expertise and experience was a valuable contribution for Oxford Community Foundation.

Oxford Community Foundation wishes both George and Kelly the very best in their new endeavours!

STAFF MEMBERS

The Late Pat Smith, Executive Director

Sharon McDonald, Executive Director

Sharon joined our team in the fall of 2007, and helped guide us through our very first annual fundraiser.

Best wishes to Sharon in her new endeavours, and thank you for your commitment and support!



*For further information about the Foundation,
including how you can become involved or
support the Foundation, please contact:*

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Registered Charities Number:
89481 8103 RR0001



The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

Member of



Community
Foundations
of Canada

Fondations
communautaires
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