



OCFootprints

POWER OF COMMUNITY

Even in times of uncertainty and fear, one thing has remained constant: our unwavering commitment to the people and communities we serve. At Oxford Community Foundation, we stay focused on what truly matters—building a stronger, more compassionate Oxford, for everyone.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, the Foundation granted \$216,203 to 54 community partners and 20 students pursuing post-secondary education. These numbers are more than just statistics—they represent real lives impacted and hope renewed.

But the challenges we are facing are growing. Core funding sources are shrinking, while community needs are rising sharply. The frontline organizations supported by our 40 legacy funds are under immense pressure, many grappling with staff and volunteer burnout as they work tirelessly to serve others. We hear their stories every day. And we know the road ahead won't be easy.

There's no quick fix to the complex issues confronting our community — homelessness, mental health, addiction, housing and food insecurity. But we believe in bold hope. The kind of hope that gets to work. The kind that brings people together, rolls up their sleeves, and stays the course. Together, we must keep moving forward: expanding access to care, creating deeply affordable housing, empowering youth and seniors,

supporting the arts, and building a community where everyone belongs.

That's why your support matters now more than ever. Create your own legacy fund or contribute to an existing community fund. Every **donation** helps sustain the essential work happening across Oxford County. Even the smallest contribution can spark lasting impact when it's part of something bigger.

To our donors, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners—thank you. Your commitment inspires us every day. We invite you to join us at our **Annual Community Impact Event** on Wednesday, June 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Woodstock Legion. Together, we'll look back on the impact made in 2024 and look ahead to what's possible when we face uncertainty with courage and turn hope into action. This year, we're honoured to welcome Andrew Chunilall, CEO of Community Foundations of Canada, as our guest speaker. He'll share powerful insights on how community foundations across the country are rising to today's challenges through collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to local impact. By Monday, May 26th click here to **Register**.

Together, we are stronger.

Together, we make a difference.



With gratitude,

Louise Wardrop, Executive Director

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IMPORTANT DATES

Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan
invites you to attend

The Oxford County Warden's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Proceeds support OCF Operations

Monday, September 22nd

Craigowan Golf Club, Hwy 59, Woodstock

Registration will be available on our website mid May.



Community Impact Event

Join us to celebrate 2024 achievements and look ahead to what's possible when we meet uncertainty with bold hope and action.

Guest speaker Andrew Chunilall, CEO of Community Foundations of Canada will share how local foundations are stepping up in this moment.

Let's come together to connect, be inspired, and commit to building a stronger Oxford.

Wednesday, June 4th, 4 – 6 p.m.

Woodstock Legion, 462 Dundas Street, Woodstock

Register by Monday, May 26th



New fundholder spotlight

Cheryle & Peter Evans Community Fund



We are truly honoured to have such forward-thinking and generous supporters, who are building a stronger community for everyone, today and always. Fundholders have established funds for various reasons, to leave a legacy, to make a difference in their community, or to ensure that an area of their interest or charity they care about receives ongoing support. Often there is a shared sentiment – the desire to give back to the community that has given them so much.

Cheryle and Peter's dedication to making a positive change in their community and their compassion for humans and animals in need lives on through the Cheryle and Peter Evans Fund. A generous donation of \$675,000 was made through a bequest in Peter's will. Annual grants from this legacy fund will support their passion - animal and human welfare.

Cheryle was born on June 24, 1944, and began her Hydro One career at 18, where she eventually became a Design Construction Branch executive and led a team of 130. After retiring in 1993, she and her husband Peter moved to Woodstock, where Cheryle liked to spend her time golfing and curling. Whether it was at the Craigowan Golf Club or in Florida during the winter months, Cheryle loved to be on the greens. She was also known for her impeccable fashion taste in and out of the office.

Born on December 18, 1948, in the United Kingdom, Peter immigrated to Canada in 1957 and led a creative career as a photographer and graphic designer with Ontario Hydro. His attention to detail captured beauty in architectural design.

The Evans, who passed away in July of 2023, shared a deep affection for their Woodstock community, which they embraced wholeheartedly after moving here upon their retirement. Cheryle and Peter were known for their generous, kind, and welcoming personalities, as well as their love of giving back and spending time with their cherished pugs Jasmine and Calla. After the Evans passed, the pugs were taken care of by Mattie's Place, a very small rescue organization who take on costly medical cases province-wide. Cheryle's nephew John and his wife Denise shared, "They were amazing in helping us in finding a wonderful foster, and then a great forever home with another senior pug."

Cheryle and Peter's generosity will have a lasting impact with grants supporting Oxford County charities each year. Their lives were marked by care and dedication, and this fund is a beautiful reflection of their commitment to making the world a better place.