

For immediate release

Guelph Community Foundation Looks Back on a Decade of Gifts and Grants

April 22, 2011 (Guelph) – At its Annual General Meeting last week, volunteer board members for The Guelph Community Foundation looked back on a decade of community granting and leadership with intense pride.

“Over the past ten years, we’ve grown from one to one hundred funds and have granted over \$1.9 Million dollars to 500 organisations in Guelph,” says Executive Director, Andrea Olson. “It’s a testament to our founders’ vision. They believed that anyone can build a legacy – a permanent and timeless gift to the community. It’s like planting a tree today so future generations can enjoy the shade.”

Unlike most charities, The Guelph Community Foundation does not conduct annual fundraising. Instead, it pools gifts into endowment funds which are invested to create an income stream for generations to come. It offers donors a number of ways to leave a lasting community legacy, from gifts of stock to bequests to life insurance and to target their donation to an area of interest, be it the arts, the environment or urgent community needs.

“With over \$8 Million in assets under management, the past several years have been a real roller coaster,” says Peter Kastner, Chair of the Investment Committee. He adds “Despite the market fluctuations, prudent stewardship and sound investing have translated into a solid average ROI of 6.5% over the past nine years. That return, and the continued generosity and confidence of our donors, mean we were able to keep granting when the community needed it the most.”

A look back over the past year included celebrating: The Foundation’s 10th anniversary; an exceptional year of endowment growth of \$1.3 Million; Guelph’s First Random Act of Kindness Day; over \$325,000 in grants to community organisations; and a revamped www.guelphcf.ca thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The AGM was also a time for goodbyes to two Board members who have completed the maximum of three, three-year terms and who have also both served as Board Chairperson. Despite stepping off the Board, both pursue service to the Guelph Community Foundation. Pauline Curtis, will go on to chair Guelph’s second Random Act of Kindness Day scheduled for November 4, 2011; and, Dan Cremasco, will maintain his seat on The Foundation’s Investment Committee.

About The Guelph Community Foundation

The Guelph Community Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable foundation whose purpose is to provide leadership in promoting

community philanthropy and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Guelph and of Wellington County. The Foundation pools the charitable gifts of many donors into permanent, income-earning endowments. Income from the endowments supports a wide range of charitable programs and activities. The Foundation manages over \$8 Million in capital assets and has disbursed over \$1.9 Million in grants to over 500 community initiatives since its inception in 2000.

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