



News Release – Guelph

For October 20th, 2010 Release

Guelph Community Foundation Celebrates 10 Years of Community Granting & Giving

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 (Guelph) – It was a jam-packed agenda to celebrate 10 Years of community granting and giving for the Guelph Community Foundation. There was a celebration of its history and its founders; in particular, a special tribute to Hugh Guthrie Q.C., a founding member of The Foundation and its past chair who died after a brief illness in June of this year.

Founding Board Chair, Ken Hammill, said: *“The Guelph Community Foundation brought something new to the community: the ability for an individual or organisation to create an endowment fund – a gift that grows and gives to the community in perpetuity - with the flexibility to direct the funds to an interest the donor cares about. It’s the opportunity to leave a legacy forever. That was the vision that Hugh and others shared a decade ago.”*

Current Chair, Jay Elinesky looked back on The Foundation’s growth from one fund and \$13,000 in donations in 2000 to 100 funds, a pool of \$7.1 million and over \$1.7 million allocated to almost 500 charitable initiatives in Guelph and Wellington in the past decade. Beyond the numbers, past grant recipients in the fields of the arts, youth and education and social services performed, spoke and reported on the impacts those grants have had. From the Suzuki Strings and the Guelph Youth Singers performances, to a heartfelt testimonial from a scholarship recipient, to Erin Harvey’s summary of the Family and Children’s Services Food Project, it was easy to see how important The Foundation’s support has become to many diverse community initiatives.

Turning her attention from the past to the present, Susan Brown announced The Guelph Community Foundation’s 2010 Fall Grants which included Building Vital Community grants, Musagetes arts and culture grants, an Environmental Legacy grant and the Guelph Arts Council Jane Graham Memorial Award to support local artists. The grants which totalled over \$50,000 reflect just *some* of The Foundation’s grant making breadth – from arts and culture, to community vitality and social services, to the environment.

“Diversity in the areas of funding and support is one of the things that sets the Guelph Community Foundation apart from other organisations, because our donors can identify a specific area of focus and personal interest”, said Susan Brown, Chair of the Grants Committee. *“In addition, our 2008 and 2009 Vital Signs reports which gauged the health of our community and identified significant trends, revealed a growing gap between rich and poor, increased issues related to food and housing security, and also pointed to other pressure points in our community – many of them stemming from poverty. So, the Building Vital Communities grants specifically target this issue area.”*

With an eye to the future, Past Chair, Pauline Curtis shared the vision for The Foundation’s next ten years and warmly thanked the founders, fund holders and agencies who tirelessly serve the community.

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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 \$7.1 million in assets and has disbursed over \$1.7 million in grants to almost 500 community initiatives since its inception in 2000.

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