

New Fund to Help Children and Families in Need

On the heels of the Social Justice Forum and the Poverty Report, *The Hidden Face of Poverty in Perth County*, which documents the many different faces of poverty in Perth County, the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation is pleased to announce a fund to help families and children in need. The George and Edna Hislop Family Fund was initiated by daughter, Sarah Hislop Proudlove, and grand-daughter, Jane Proudlove, to honour the lives of their parents and grandparents, George and Edna Hislop.

Jane Proudlove is not new to the world of community foundations. She is Chair of the Board of the Red Deer and District Community Foundation in Red Deer, Alberta. There are more than 155 community foundations across Canada. Together, these community foundations were able to put more than \$115 million back into their communities last year.

George and Edna (Richardson) Hislop were both born in Downie Township and raised their family on a farm on the Embro Road. As with many families both then and now, there were some stressful times. "I remember my grandmother saying on many occasions that she wished she could have done more for her family," reminisces Jane. "As a result, throughout her life she always tried to help others when she was able."

In addition to their main reason for starting the fund – to help families and children in need – Jane Proudlove wants potential donors to the community foundation to know that you don't have to be Bill Gates or Ken Thomson to make a difference in the community.

"It's important for everyday citizens in Perth County to realize that philanthropy lives everywhere," says Jane. "A person's dream for their community – whether it be helping those less fortunate or saving a stream – is within their reach and their financial means to do. You don't need a fortune to initiate a fund only a cause that's important to you."

With an initial investment the Proudlove's started the fund. As an endowment fund, the principal will continue to grow through donations and sound investing. It is their hope that others in the community who want to help make a difference in the lives of families and children in need will also consider contributing to the George and Edna Hislop Family Fund.