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## A Tribute to Peter Donaldson



**Peter Donaldson**

Peter Donaldson was one of Canada's most beloved and versatile actors. He could move from drama to tragedy to comedy with equal agility and finesse. His untimely death from cancer in January 2011 at the age of 57 was an enormous loss for his extended theatre family, for Canadian audiences and for the many aspiring young actors who turned to him for advice.

Peter was one of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's most admired actors and leading men, performing there for 24 seasons, on occasion opposite his wife, actor Sheila McCarthy. He also performed at Toronto's Soulpepper Theatre, the Canadian Stage Company, as well as The Grand Theatre in London. Peter won a Genie for his supporting role in the film version of *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and he appeared in Atom Egoyan's film *The Sweet Hereafter*. He also portrayed Ian Bowles in the popular, award-winning television series *Emily of New Moon*, again, alongside his wife Sheila.

But despite a demanding acting career and a busy family life, Peter always took an interest in young, up-and-coming actors. To many, he was a mentor.

As a lasting tribute to his tremendous talent and generosity of spirit, the Peter Donaldson Fund has been established, initiated by CBC news anchor Peter Mansbridge and some of the actor's other close friends.

Every year, through the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation, a scholarship will be awarded to a promising Stratford or Perth County high school student going on to a drama/theatre arts program at a post-secondary Canadian educational institution.

The Peter Donaldson Memorial Fund becomes part of the family of endowment funds held in perpetuity by the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. Created in 2004 through the vision of local business and political leaders, the Foundation has raised more than \$1 million in community assets and has granted in excess of \$140,000 to charities working in the arts, culture and heritage, children & youth, education, environment, health, sports & recreation, seniors and social services. The Foundation works with donors wanting to create permanent legacies to support causes important to them during their lifetime. The donations to the endowments are never spent, but held in perpetuity with a portion of the annual earnings given to charities. To find out ways of making a donation to this Fund, please visit our website [www.spcfc.ca](http://www.spcfc.ca).

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