

Community Foundation achieves excellence with award at Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala

An open letter to the Community from Elizabeth Hachborn, Executive Director, Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation

Last evening was a special evening for the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. We were awarded the *Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award* in the *Community Service Category*. This award would not have been possible without the dedication of our board and committee members, volunteers, donors, grant recipients, associates and friends. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our board members – from the beginning until now – have worked tirelessly to build awareness for the work we do in the community and to find donors who want to invest in making Stratford, St. Marys and the communities in North Perth, West Perth, Perth South and Perth East vital communities in which to live, work and play. A special thank you to Tim MacDonald, Board Chair, for his perseverance and belief in what our Community Foundation has to offer. His determination was instrumental in achieving an important milestone last fall - \$1 million in community assets which form a perpetual source of funding for organizations in our community.



Our committee members, office volunteers and staff associates have given countless hours to help with the planning and execution of the many tasks that have contributed to our growth. Thank you.

Our donors, funding partners, sponsors, and in-kind contributors – those who have initiated and contributed to endowed funds and those who have helped us with funding our operations – have been instrumental in this achievement. These are the individuals, organizations and businesses many of who in the beginning, in spite of our untested track record, took a chance on us. Thank you.

Our grant recipients have made us look good through the projects we have funded. These projects have touched every part of our community and have supported people's most basic needs – sustenance, shelter, health care and safety – to those that give quality to life, like care for the environment, arts and culture, and recreational opportunities. Thank you.

Thank you to the mayors and staff members of the six municipalities that we serve. You have been important partners in our work. A special thank you to Mayor Dan Mathieson for his ongoing encouragement and support. Without his help The Mayor's Gala would not have been possible, an event which has contributed tremendously in raising our profile in the community and raising operations funding. Thank you, Dan.

Also a special thank you to Peter Maranger who believed in us and in the work we do and nominated us for this award. Thank you, Peter.

Last – but not least – thank you to Community Foundations of Canada whose competent, helpful staff make our job easier and to my community foundation peers across Canada.

The Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce deserves its own 'excellence award' for providing this wonderful opportunity for local businesses, organizations and individuals to build awareness for what they do and to be recognized for their service to the community.

Thanks again and congratulations, one and all.